

Infinite Wanderings

The story of humanity is one of nomadism, dispersion, navigation, sporadic trajectories of beings and universal elements, all journeying to/from one space to another.

In this recent series of textile works, multidisciplinary artist Rose Williams (Canada – Trinidad & Tobago) engages us on an intimate journey of care and healing through a restorative, life affirming, non-exploitative relationship with our natural environment. Every textile presents a story about place, a way to remember a landscape, the people within it and mark specific moments. In terraria.

Organic materials found, plants foraged patiently by hand, textiles repurposed: everything is transformed in a way that reminds us of the limitless capacity for regeneration, survival and growth for us human beings as in the natural world.

From “the leaf there that good for you”, “to coconut water an’ a sea bath”, to green seasoning, to a runaway up Sans Souci side...Williams invites us to remember ways of healing and ways of surviving known to our forefathers, foremothers and knowledge systems of the Indigenous, Amerindian, African, East Indian, Asian, Aboriginal frameworks.

These civilisations all placed interconnectedness of the visible and invisible worlds, the synchronicity of the natural universe and a circular vision at the centre. The forests, the Bush, rivers, oceans and mountains were revered as sacred, spiritual, vital places of refuge.

As a BIPOC woman, a survivor of medical malpractice, multiple medical interventions throughout her life, navigating her own hybridity in-between worlds: her island home Trinidad & Tobago and the city of Vancouver, Canada, Williams’ exhibition asks us a few questions: What does/ could the traumatic experience look like? the historical, physical, psychological, intergenerational? How do we heal? How do we find our way back to ourselves? To well-being, to safety, back home...Rose L. Williams explains that there must be acceptance and coexistence; a perfect

symbiosis of the shamanic, ritualistic and scientific within our ecosystems; a more organic, circular and life sustaining approach to how we treat, how we care and restore, as we endlessly seek to find our way back to ourselves and to each other.

Curatorial Statement by Adeline Gregoire, Exhibition Curator

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