

Presented by  
the Art Museum in  
conjunction with the  
Jackman Humanities  
Institute's 2023–24  
research theme  
*Absence*

Art Museum  
University of Toronto  
—  
Justina M. Barnicke Gallery  
University of Toronto Art Centre

7 Hart House Circle  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H3  
[artmuseum.utoronto.ca](http://artmuseum.utoronto.ca)

Mnemonic silences,  
disappearing acts  
September 13, 2023–  
June 21, 2024

Art  
Museum



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## Works by

Kasra Jalilipour, Jordan King,  
Kama La Mackerel, Hazel Meyer and  
Cait McKinney, Lan "Florence" Yee

Curated by Dallas Fellini

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## Venue

Jackman Humanities Institute  
170 St. George Street, 10th floor

The exhibition is open to the public during regular business hours: Monday to Friday, 9am–4pm. Please call 416-978-7415 ahead of your visit to make sure that all works are accessible. Since the JHI is a working space, some rooms may be in use.

**Cover:** Hazel Meyer and Cait McKinney, *Tape Condition: degraded*, 2016. Mixed-media installation on pegboard, dimensions variable. Installed at the ArQuives: Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives. Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid.

**Centre Flap:** Lan "Florence" Yee, *Leaving Space*, 2019. Hand-embroidered nylon thread, tulle, and galvanized steel wire, 10" x 7.5" x 15", set of three boxes. Photo: Alexis Bellavance.

**Inside Flap:** Kasra Jalilipour, *Gut Feelings: Fragments of Fiction*, 2021. Video, 3:04 minutes. Courtesy of the artist.

**Right Flap:** Jordan King, *Untitled*, 2020. Polaroid, 3.5" x 4.5" Courtesy of the artist.

The archive has long been theorized as a structuring force that informs public memory, state narratives, and the making of official history. When trans and queer histories enter the archive, the conditions upon which they are absorbed are often those of surveillance, criminalization, coloniality, and degradation.

More commonly, however, these histories do not make their way into official archives at all, which leads to a fragmented remembering of queer and trans pasts.

*Mnemonic silences, disappearing acts* grapples with the absences, erasures, and censorships that colour the queer and trans archive,

seeking forms of documentation, storytelling, and memory-keeping that serve marginalized communities. Responding to the Jackman Humanities Institute's 2023-24 research theme *Absence*, this exhibition interrogates the gaps that puncture the queer and trans archive, making visible their political nature and proposing

strategies for a future of queer and trans history-making that refuses the lens of the oppressor. Through fiction-making, critical imagining, and revisionism, the artists in *Mnemonic silences, disappearing acts* gesture at and supplement histories of queer and trans people that are insufficient, compromised, colonial, or simply absent.



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