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

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

7 Hart House Circle
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H3
artmuseum.utoronto.ca

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

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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.

**Works by**

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

Curated by Dallas Fellini

**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.


