

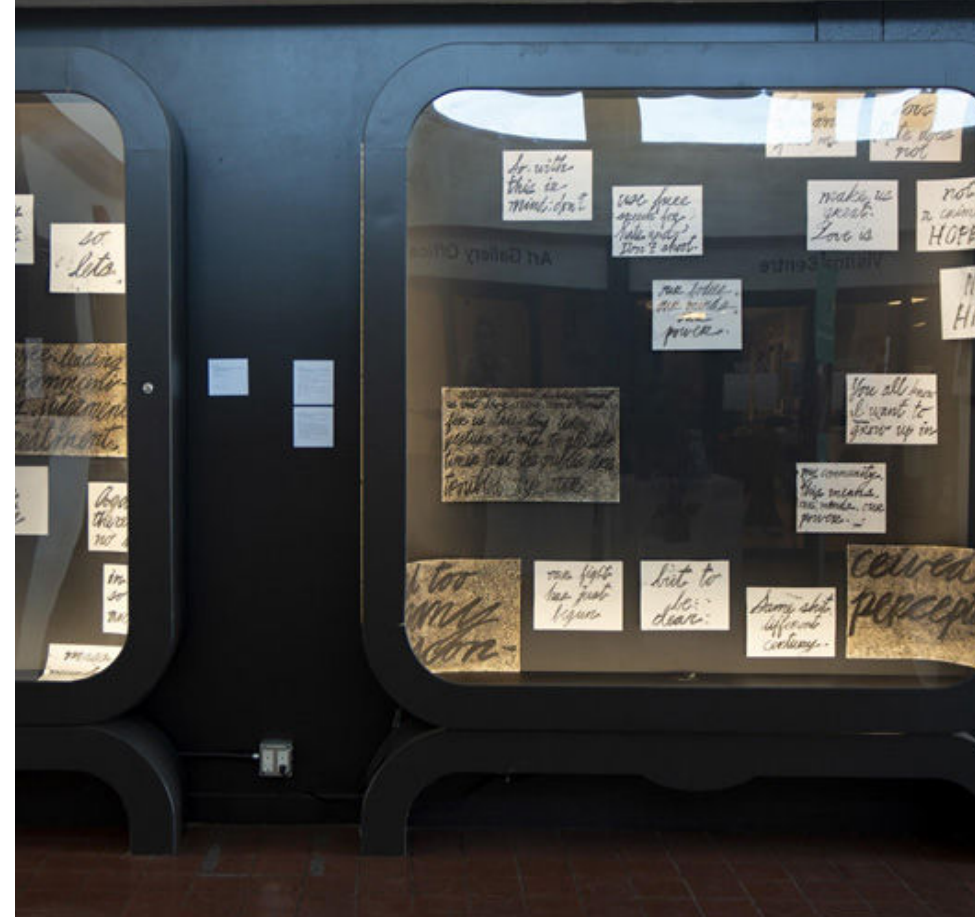
# THE PERIPHERY

MESSAGES OF ART AND SOCIAL JUSTICE  
FROM THE EDGE OF THE WORLD



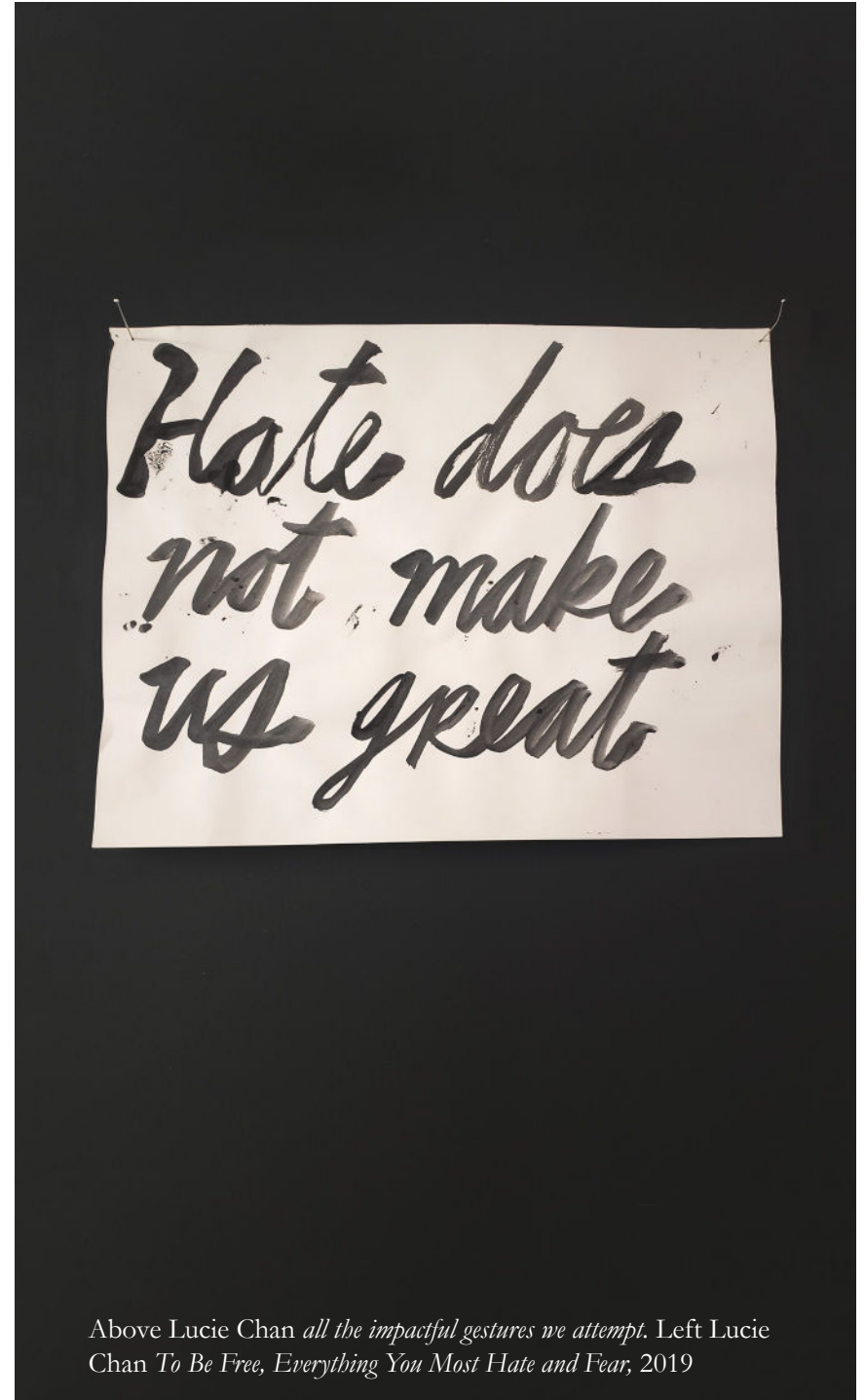
The two part exhibition *How We Lead* sought to break open the concept of leadership and connect our community to new models for activism through Lucie Chan and Justin Langlois's engaged and socially conscious art practices.

Each artist contributed a body of work that built the exhibition over the course of the summer and fall. Beginning with Lucie Chan, *all the impactful gestures we attempt* (July to September 2020), Part I culminated with artwork that was inspired by Lucie's conversations with local Campbell River youth. Justin Langlois' text-based installation *Questions Worth Asking* (September to November 2020) then served as an open call for public participation.



Satellite Gallery install: Left Justin Langlois - *Questions Worth Asking*. Above Lucie Chan *all the impactful gestures we attempt*

Originally conceived before the pandemic as a way to engage youth in conversations surrounding civic leadership, the two-part exhibition *How We Lead* became a call for young folks to share their experiences of leadership and hopes for change and connection amidst a rapidly changing environment. Questions and listening became more important than ever, and answers were not so easily attained even by those in positions of power, or that we considered to be leaders. New leaders arose, some young folks or previously overlooked voices, with the community-mindedness and care needed helped find the light in dark times.



Above Lucie Chan *all the impactful gestures we attempt*. Left Lucie Chan *To Be Free, Everything You Most Hate and Fear*, 2019



# LUCIE CHAN

The exhibition, *all the impactful gestures we attempt*, by artist Lucie Chan was on view at the Campbell River Art Gallery from July 20 to September 20, 2020. It grew from a text-based installation of words taken from protest signs of the Trump era that include: the METOO movement, Black Lives Matter, the Dakota Access Pipeline Protests and other environmental resistance. Displayed during a summer when the US was inflamed over the wrongful killings of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, and the fires of advocacy for the Black Lives Matter movement were stoked across North America and the world, Lucie's works of gathered words came to resonate in the CRAG's Satellite Gallery. With her generosity of spirit and the presence of a real need to connect, the CRAG team gathered young adults to share their hopes and ideas for the future and their experience thus far in unprecedented times. In response to their passion and optimism Lucie created an artwork with images and poetry reflective of each unique outlook and personality.

*To Be Free: Everything You Most Hate and Fear*

Within the overarching theme of how one leads, Chan has chosen the everyday wisdom gathered from protesters' signs found while conducting online research. The entire text based piece is a joint portrait, representative of others' personal and individual forms of communication that become public. Lucie's chosen sentiments are written into a poem based on the words written on protest posters across North America. Her work *To Be Free: Everything You Most Hate and Fear* reflects on their multiple and wide reaching, civic concerns.



Strong  
women  
will  
change  
the  
world

**Process:**

Lucie Chan makes her work by conducting informal research and gathering evidence of lives lived through gestures of care and listening: she collects accounts from numerous sources such as one-on-one interviews with strangers, conversations with taxi drivers, or when in isolation, simply notes the repetition of trauma by following the news.

Even from a distance we felt the impact of genuine care and listening as Lucie reached out to youth in our area, and listened to their wisdom and calls for change, returning their gestures of trust with unique mementos of their experience. They showed bravery meeting strangers and sharing their hopes to

Lucie Chan *To Be Free, Everything You Most Hate and Fear*, 2019



## To Be Free: Everything You Most Hate and Fear

So with this in mind: don't use free speech for hate and  
**DON'T SHOOT.**

our bodies, our minds, our power.

You all know I want to grow up in my community.

this means our minds, our power...

but to be clear:

Same shit, different century.

We all know that Canada 150 is a celebration of White  
Supremacy.

there is no honor in killing. Hate does not make us great.

So let's hope, not hate.

I'd call him a c\*nt but he lacks both in depth and  
warmth.

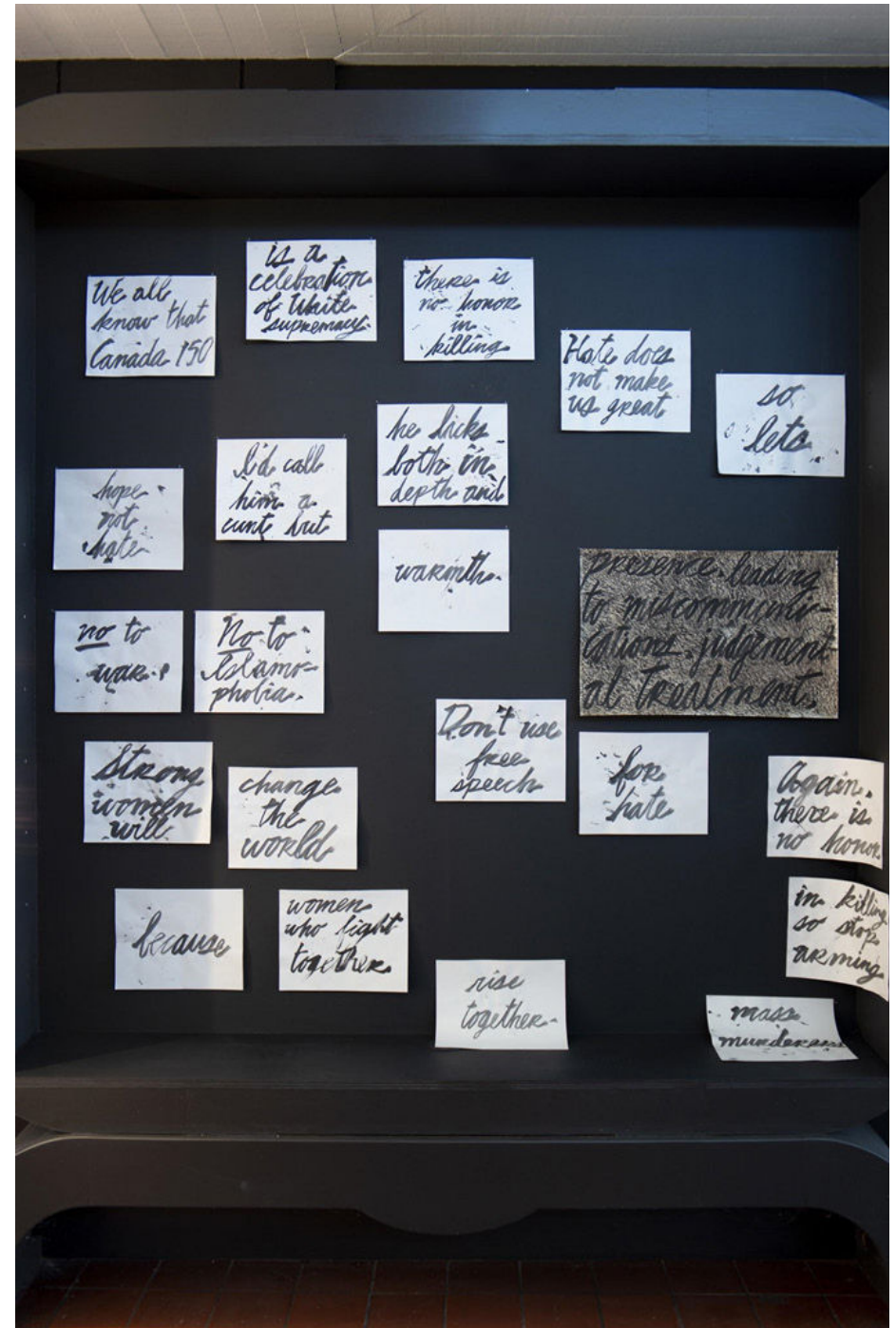
No to war. No to Islamophobia,

Don't use free speech for hate. Again, there is no honor  
in killing so stop arming mass murderers.

Strong women will change the world because women who  
fight together rise together. I am a woman, feel me  
love. Hate does not make us great. Love is not a crime.

**HOPE NOT HATE** and then there's this: Where are  
our stolen sisters?

They are our bodies, our minds, our power.

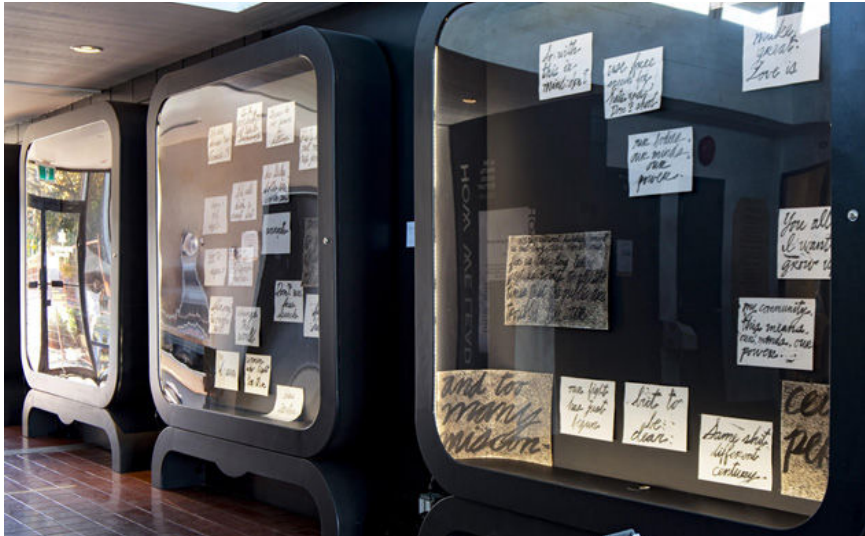


Lucie Chan *all the impactful gestures we attempt*



all the cultural divides remind us that being there won't work for us: this long lasting gesture points to the times that the public are troubled by our presence, leading to miscommunications, judgemental treatment, and too many misconceived perceptions.

-Lucie Chan



Lucie Chan all the impactful gestures we attempt

*our bodies  
our minds  
our  
power.*

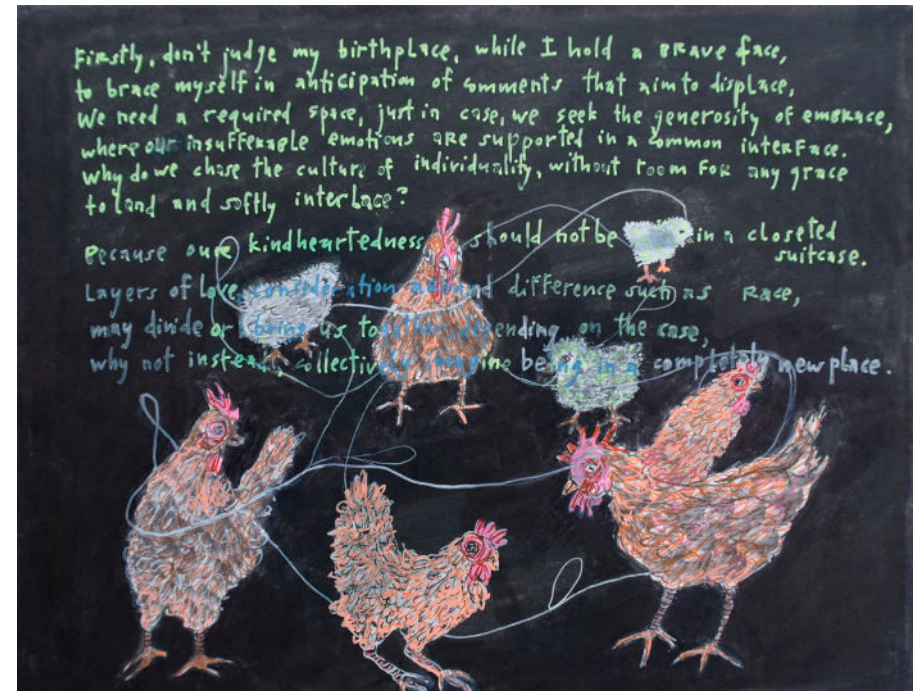
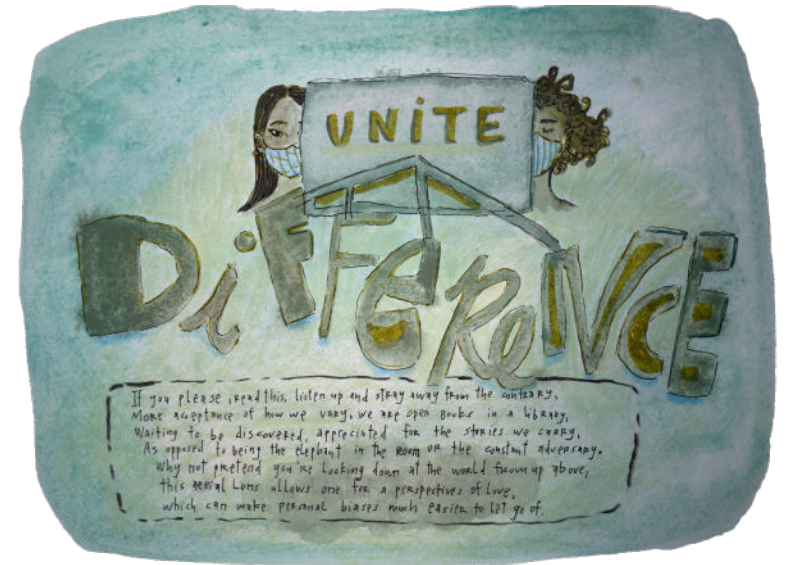
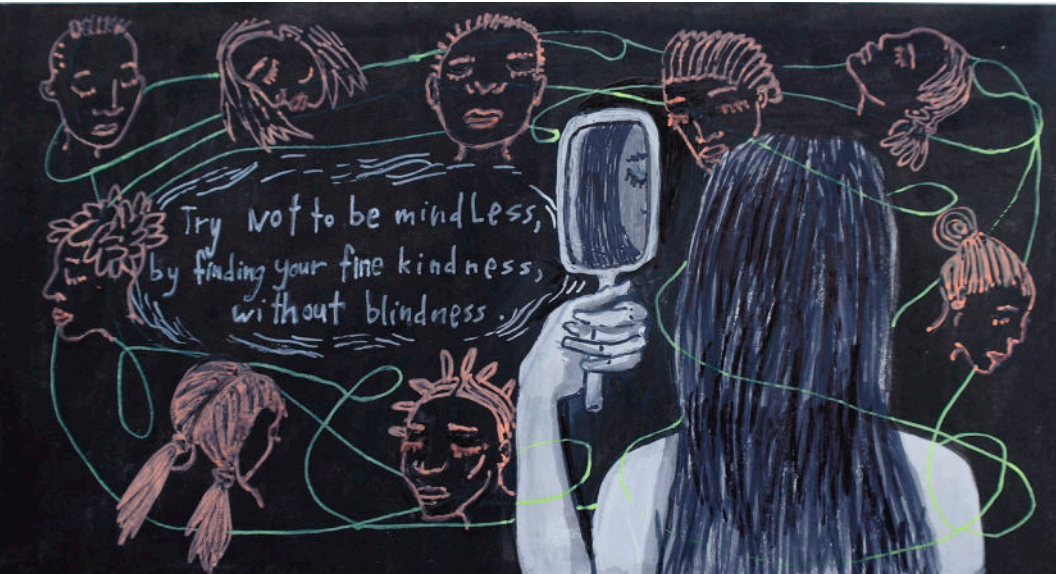
All the impactful gestures we attempt,  
To see how we have forgotten to clean away the dust in order to discover ourselves again.  
We are providers of tests which we want someone else to take.

How can we ask a stranger for something outside of the social norms of acceptability?  
To listen instead of solve problems.  
Our selves embody trouble and we are left to wonder...  
Self-described caregivers, protectors, and closeted misunderstood people.  
Tell me more about how you felt.

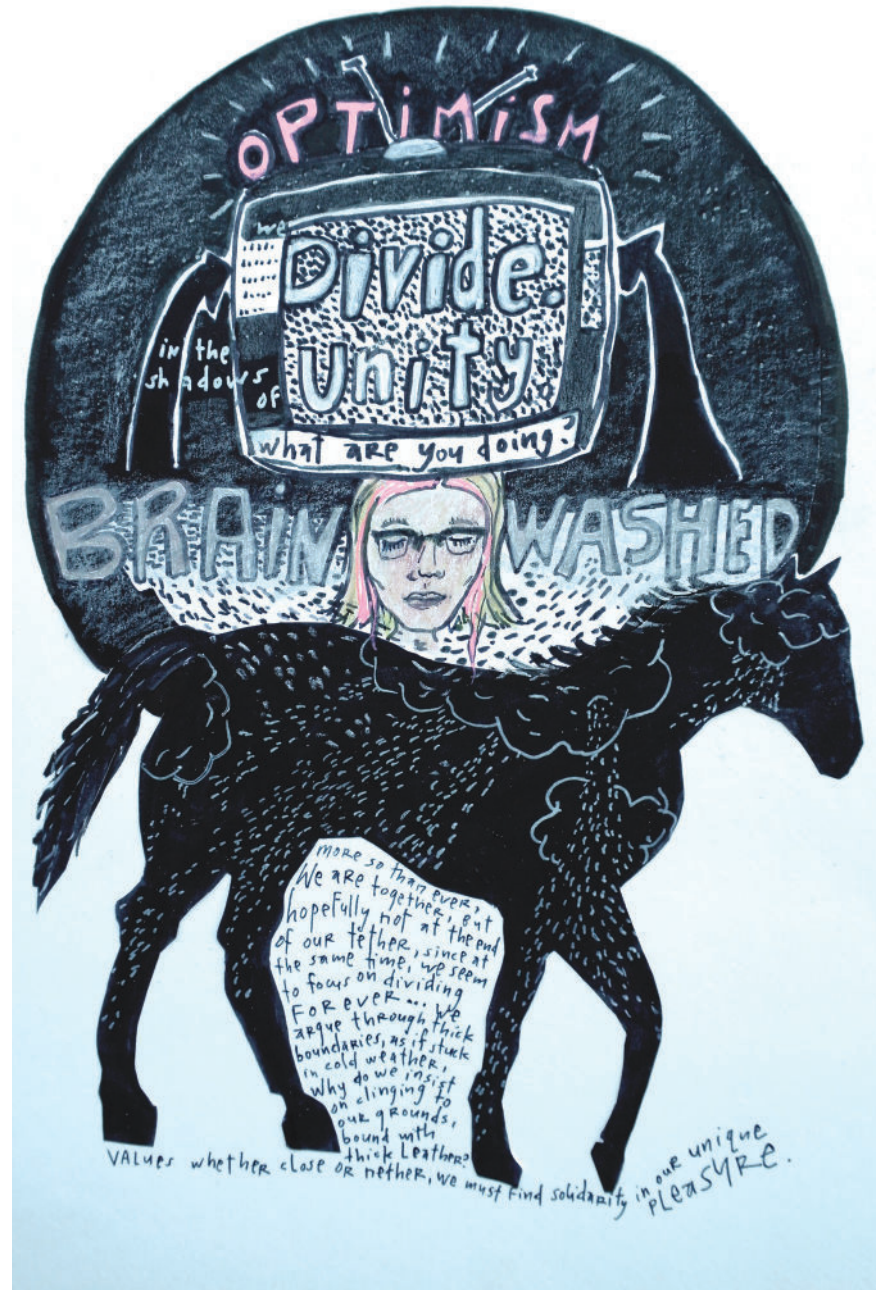
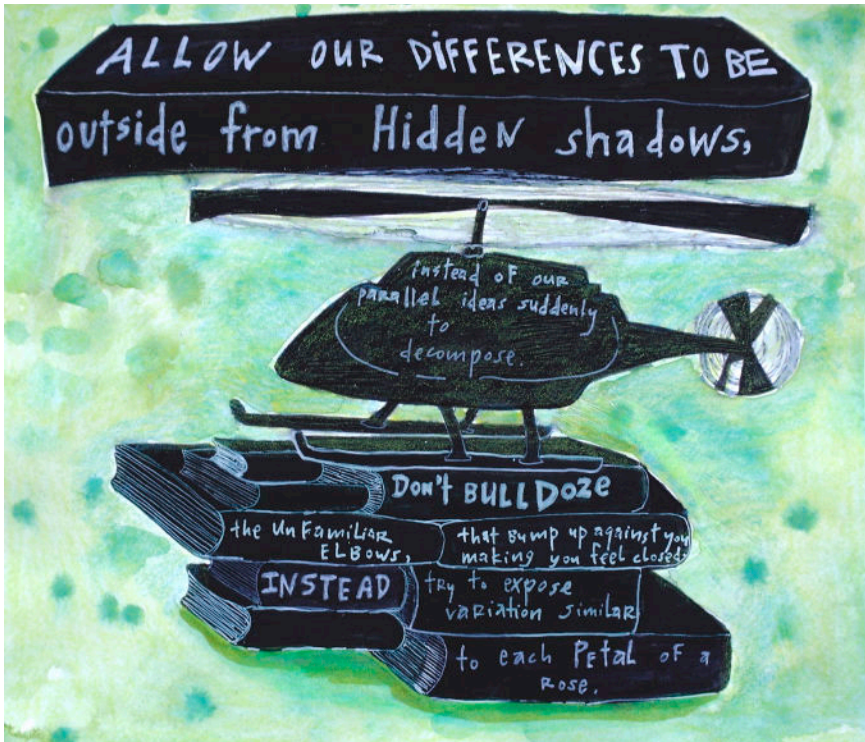
You all are our unexpected teachers who've made us shift and we've come to adapt.  
We stop holding our breath where we are pushed to move fast.  
Our most difficult realization of not being able to see eye to eye.  
It's impossible for us to pass this examination.  
Home, not one place but a mapped out self in relation to certain points in landscapes.

-Lucie Chan

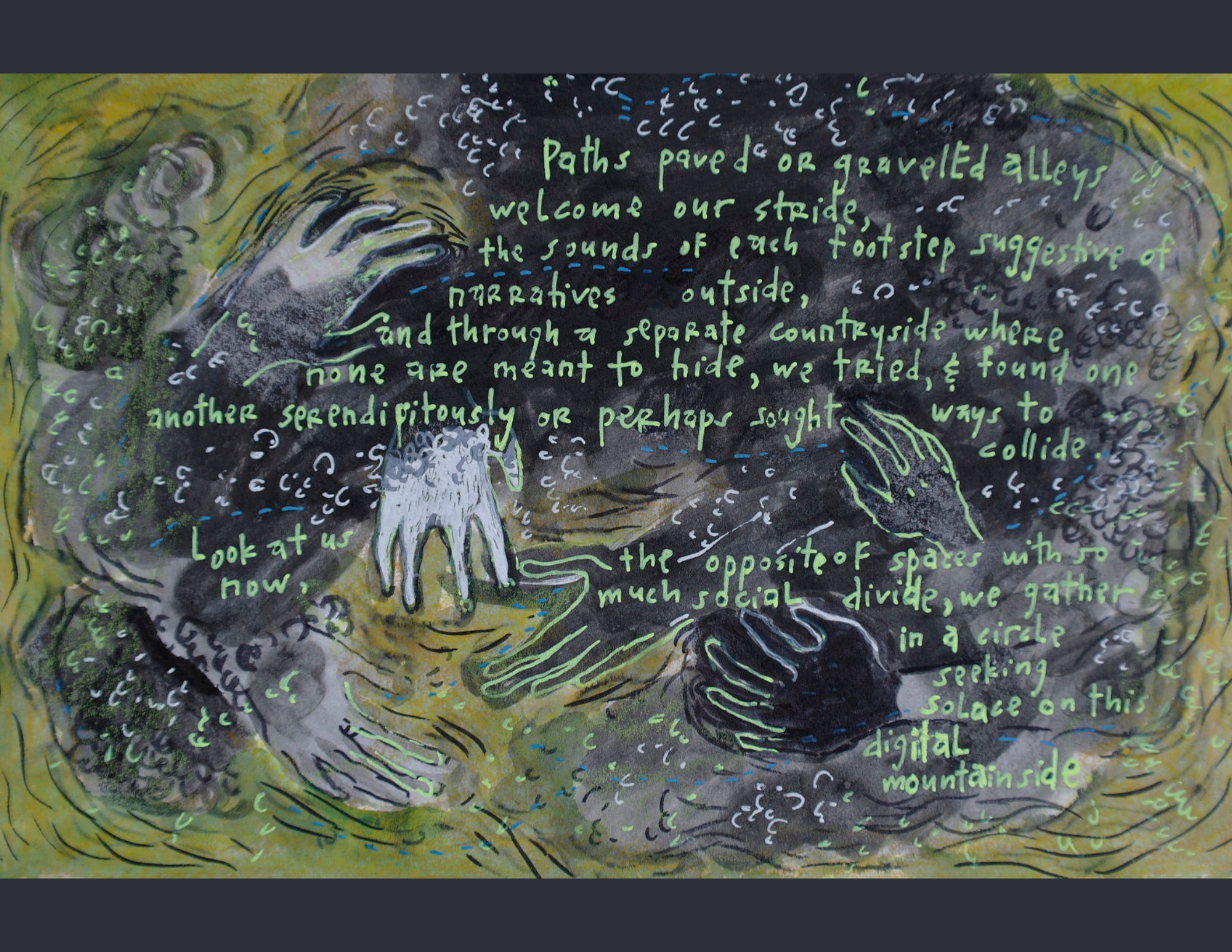
Work made in response to Lucie Chan's interactions with local CR youth











Paths paved or gravelled alleys of  
welcome our stride,  
the sounds of each footstep suggestive of  
narratives outside,  
and through a separate countryside where  
none are meant to hide, we tried, & found one  
another serendipitously or perhaps sought ways to  
collide.

Look at us  
now,

the opposite of spaces with so  
much social divide, we gather  
in a circle  
seeking  
solace on this  
digital  
mountainside.

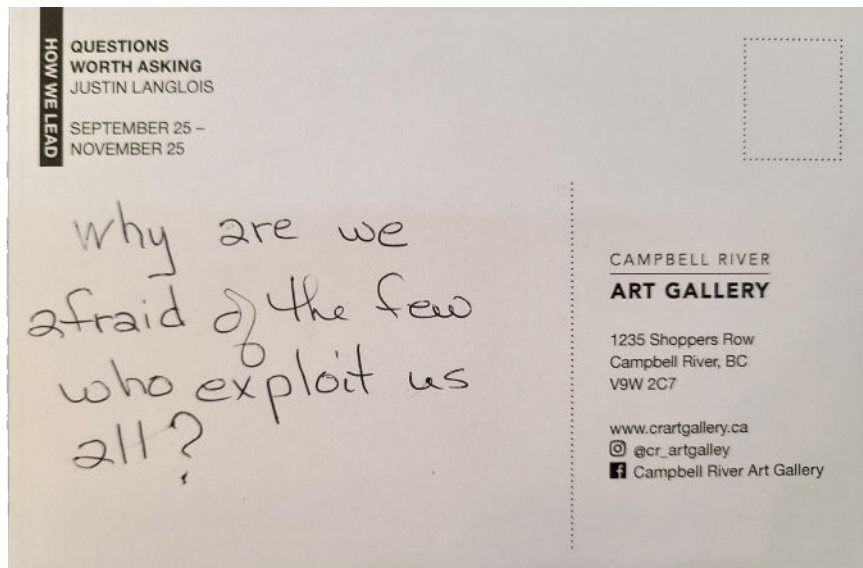


# JUSTIN LANGLOIS

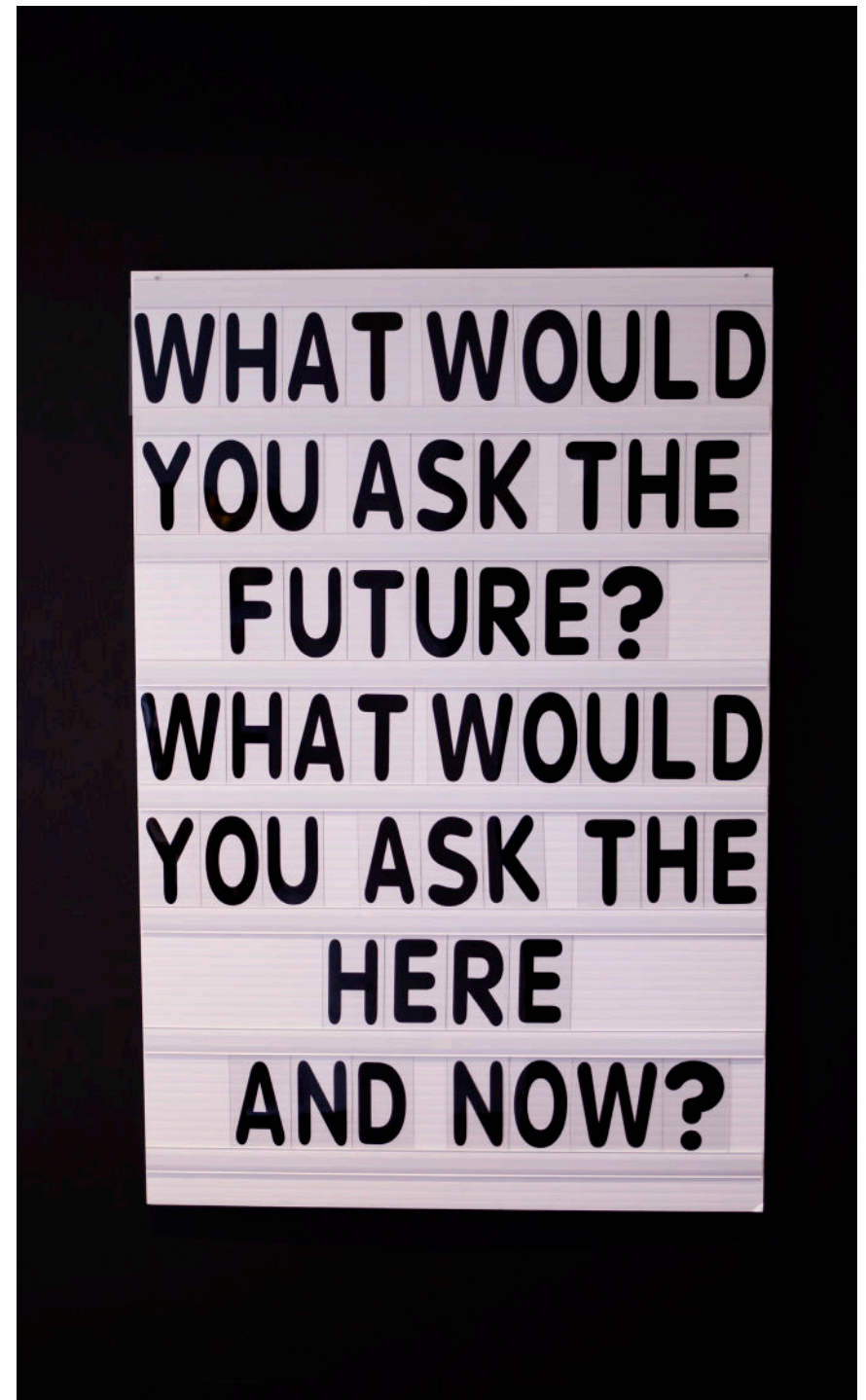


# JUSTIN LANGLOIS

Justin Langlois is an artist, educator, and organizer. He is curious about what art can do in everyday and civic life. The artist's installation *Questions Worth Asking* on display at the CRAG from September 25 to November 25 2020, included the works *Endless Inquiries* and *Questions for the Times (past, present, future)*; participatory artworks that welcomed the involvement of all visitors. *Endless Inquiries* posed questions to the public through sign boards. The boards rotated as they displayed new questions drawn from the public submission of postcards that ask: What would you ask the future? The here and now? The past?



Previous: Should I Be Worried?, Above Questions for the Times (past, present, future), postcards, 2020, Right Endless Inquiries

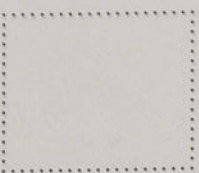




**HOW WE LEAD**

**QUESTIONS  
WORTH ASKING**  
JUSTIN LANGLOIS  
SEPTEMBER 25 -  
NOVEMBER 25

Where did we go  
wrong?



**CAMPBELL RIVER  
ART GALLERY**

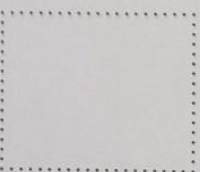
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V9W 2C7

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@cr\_artgallery  
Campbell River Art Gallery

**HOW WE LEAD**

**QUESTIONS  
WORTH ASKING**  
JUSTIN LANGLOIS  
SEPTEMBER 25 -  
NOVEMBER 25

What would you  
keep with you into  
the future?



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Questions for the Times (past, present, future), postcards, 2020

In Justin's practice, words, texts, and questions take the central role of exploring our hopes, worries, and imaginations. Through socially-engaged projects, public art installations, publications, exhibitions, and interventions, Justin creates access points to seeing what we have in common and how we can create change in our communities.

*I consider leadership to be about the imaginations we set for the future, what we will do, who we will become, and how we will get there. Those imaginations are built on questions, asking how else the world could be, and how else we could be in the world together.*

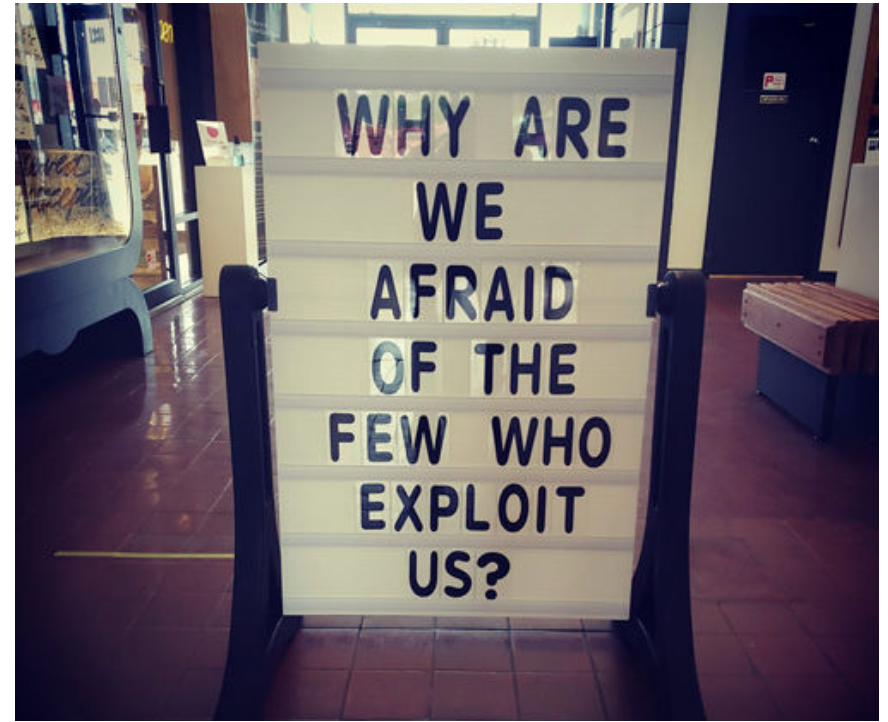
— Justin Langlois



Justin Langlois Cross-border Communication Text-projects along the US/Canada Border



Justin Langlois' opportunities to connect with youth came in the fall when he delivered some of the CRAG's first all-digital programming with our team. Classrooms of Grade 6 and 7 students from Southgate Middle School in Campbell River learned about his professional artistic practice, the ways artists speak to larger social and societal issues with their work, asked some big questions of each other, and turned their answers into collage.



The sounds of the classroom so perfectly encapsulated the excitement of the kids' fresh knowledge of the possibilities of art, and their desire to illustrate their hopes and the things they hold dear in layered compositions of paper and glue. The unmistakable soundtrack came in low tones with the buzz of ideas and sharing, the gentle and vigorous flipping of pages as they sought out the perfect images, call and response as they worked collaboratively to find the right images, and the snip-snipping once the words and pictures were located. As we went around the room at the end of the session the youth shared what they had put together, showcasing all the ways in which they honor what is important to them, share their dreams for the future, exhibit the ability to see the world differently, and laugh even in times of difficulty and confusion. We could feel their energy even though we were in different rooms and cities. The groups of young folks had restorative qualities that helped us adults feel good at the end of a long day, and feel excited for the next, even if it comes with uncertainty.

Above, right, & next: Justin Langlois *Endless Inquiries*



## Workshop testimonials

*"I loved the depth and openness of the workshop. In the group calls, the atmosphere was inviting and safe; everyone felt comfortable sharing their ideas and discussing issues that they could see happening, in person and on social media. The timing of the workshop was actually perfect, as recent events had led to the Black Lives Matter movement that had become global, and it was interesting and very needed to discuss the polarization and division going on. The one-on-one conversation with Lucie was genuine and wise, and it was a whole new experience to see my own words transformed into a piece of artwork. I am honoured to have had the opportunity to take part in the workshop, and I can say with certainty that it served as a catalyst, allowing me to question my values and views on certain issues, realizing that open mindedness and hearing people out is way more important than being "right"."*

— Lokwing Wong

*"Lucie's workshop opened my eyes to the intersectional nature of art and activism and encouraged me to view current social justice issues through an artist's perspective. Amidst the chaos of the world, she created a safe space where I could think on and discuss ideas. I thoroughly enjoyed hearing her perspective and creative process behind her pieces and still reflect on the ideas that were discussed during the workshop."*

— Lokman Wong



The Campbell River Art Gallery acknowledges that it is located on the unceded traditional territory of the Ligwílda'xw people; the We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, and Kwiakah First Nations, whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. As uninvited guests to this territory, we use this acknowledgement in our gallery to highlight the enduring relationships Indigenous communities have with this land.

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The Campbell River Art Gallery exhibits the work of professional visual and media artists from across Canada in our Main Gallery and Satellite Gallery. Our specific focus is on supporting artistic projects from under-represented positions within contemporary art practice.

The Gallery's commitment to education is enacted through our public programming and outreach activities: workshops for adults and youth; school and community gallery tours (followed by an art activity); artist in the school programs, Super Saturday free art-making sessions, and other special events.



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