



PHI

The PHI Foundation for Contemporary Art is pleased to present

# PHI MONTRÉAL Residencies

## ... AND ROOM IN THE BAG OF STARS

KIMURA BYOL-NATHALIE LEMOINE  
SALIMA PUNJANI  
DOMINIQUE SIROIS  
SANTIAGO TAMAYO SOLER  
KAREN TRASK  
CURATED BY: DANIEL FISET

EXHIBITION  
22.09.21 — 09.01.22

PHI Foundation,  
451 Saint-Jean Street

Free admission ·  
Reservations required

PRESS TOUR  
September 22, 2021,  
from 9 AM to 11 AM,  
in the presence of the  
artists and curator  
Daniel Fiset.

... *and room in the bag of stars* is a group exhibition that presents works produced in the context of the inaugural PHI MONTRÉAL residency, launched by PHI and carried out in the summer of 2021. The five laureates of this edition of the residency, kimura byol-nathalie lemoine, Salima Punjani, Dominique Sirois, Santiago Tamayo Soler and Karen Trask, proposed projects in response to a prompt inspired by the work of science-fiction author Ursula K. Le Guin: an invitation, after a moment of prolonged social isolation, to imagine spaces, temporalities, conditions, or systems where we can all get together, again.

The resulting exhibition engages with these themes while encompassing a wide range of formal and conceptual approaches, offering insight into the ways in which artists are grappling with the urgency of this question, and how it can resonate both on individual and collective levels. The exhibition's title stems from *The Carrier-Bag Theory of Fiction*, a short essay written by Le Guin in 1986. Throughout the text, the author develops an alternative theory of the power of fiction: rather than opportunities to glorify virile and violent heroism, Le Guin sees stories as chances to reinvent our collective futures and make space for our everyday gestures and feelings. Le Guin's thinking was profoundly inspired by the research of anthropologist Elizabeth Fisher, who posited that the most essential tool for the survival of prehistoric humanity was not the weapon, as previously believed, but the bag used to carry seeds and fruits. Following this, Le Guin reimagines bags as works of art: supple, soft and adaptable recipients, ripe for infinite future harvests.

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### KIMURA BYOL-NATHALIE LEMOINE (ZE/ZER)

Kimura byol-nathalie lemoine is a conceptual multimedia feminist artist and curator who questions binaries and perceptions of identities—diaspora, ethnicity, colorism, post-colonialism, immigration, gender—through calligraphy, painting, poetry, digital and video, and collaborative practice.

### SALIMA PUNJANI (SHE/HER)

Salima Punjani is a multisensory artist grounded in relational aesthetics. She is particularly interested in how multiple senses can be used to expand the possibilities for people to feel welcome in art spaces as well as to create artful experiences of empathy, intimacy, and connection.

### DOMINIQUE SIROIS (SHE/HER)

Dominique Sirois' artistic practice takes the form of multidisciplinary installations, playing with materializations of exhibition devices through ceramics and printed images. Sirois deploys narrative devices throughout her installations using economic, archaeological, mythological, technological, and mineralogical references.

### SANTIAGO TAMAYO SOLER (HE/HIM)

Santiago Tamayo Soler is an interdisciplinary artist working mainly in video and performance. Interested in fiction/nonfiction, narrative devices, and live action, Tamayo Soler overlays digital footage and modified video games to create pixelated universes home to Latin American, immigrant, queer stories of a radical futuristic fantasy.

### KAREN TRASK (SHE/HER)

Karen Trask is known for her explorations of language and innovative use of paper, whose works include installations, artist-books, videos, and performances. Trask's multimedia work has been exhibited in Quebec, Canada, Europe, Mexico, and Japan.

## Résidences PHI MONTRÉAL

At PHI, we value the role of art and culture in our everyday lives. The purpose of PHI MONTRÉAL is to nurture a relationship between artists, curators and visitors by inviting them to investigate the pressing issues of our time through the production and presentation of artworks. This residency explores art making and presentation through the concept of the ecosystem, a community-building network that relies on interaction and interconnectivity for its health and wellbeing.

## PHI FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Established in 2007 by Phoebe Greenberg, the PHI Foundation for Contemporary Art is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing impactful contemporary art experiences to the public. Its programming is international in scope, responsive to the local context, and free of charge to reinforce PHI's commitment to accessibility and inclusion. The Foundation is driven by a desire to foster connection through art and deliver programming that sparks critical thinking and joy. In this way, the Foundation is a gathering place, committed to nurturing convivial exchanges that celebrate art as part of our everyday lives.