

A project by Maya, Beimnet, & Parvathy



lost *and* found

"As a people who have been stripped of our history, language, identity, and pride, we attempt again and again to *find* what we *lost* – digging into our cultural roots imaginatively and making art out of our findings." (Gloria E. Anzaldua, *Borderlands, La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, 1987, P 176.)

Five Second *Pitch*

Lost and Found is a multimedia exhibition that delves into the themes of belonging, comfort, and human connection through visual storytelling in the form of film, photography, and sound. This exhibition will also explore the concept of multiculturalism – recognizing the significance of shared experiences among individuals from different cultural backgrounds – and building an inclusive space for creatives of color in NYC.

Mission Statement

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Our mission with *Lost and Found* is to establish a space that celebrates and unites people of color from multiple cultural backgrounds residing in New York City; challenging the traditionally exclusive gallery experience that has primarily been oriented around whiteness.

The exhibition is dedicated to explore the complex emotional journey of individuals who grapple with the experience of adapting to new practices, sometimes at the cost of leaving behind comforts of their culture, a phenomenon particularly prevalent among POC, immigrant families and international students who move to the United States.

The feelings of displacement and uncertainty challenges the notion that these feelings are confined to a simple dichotomy of positive versus negative emotions, and our intention is not to offer a definitive solution to these complex emotions but give them a creative language.

One of our primary objectives is to provide a sense of comfort to our audience by highlighting that individuals living in the same city, despite coming from vastly different cultural backgrounds, share common emotional experiences. We aim to create a space that fosters belonging, like a "home away from home," by offering our audience different views of mutual journeys.

The formal elements of our exhibition is a testament to the power of sound, film and photography in visual storytelling. These mediums serve as tools for navigating the landscapes of belonging, comfort, and human connection.

Celebration of diversity and difference for all those individuals who find themselves living in the spaces in between: "I struggled to fit in and feel at home. I had to let go of this myth of the great United States as a melting pot where everyone belonged. But, over time, I learned to love the wonderful things about this country – the freedoms, the clean air, the abundance of open spaces – and challenge the discrimination and inequities. Most importantly, I learned to embrace who I am!.... Moving through different places to carve my own space." (Ch 4: *Spaces In Between* by Sharada Krishnamurthy)

Subtractive Bilingualism: Plight of countless American immigrant and native children and adults who have lost their ethnic languages in the process of becoming linguistically assimilated into the English-speaking world of the school and society. (Wong-Fillmore, 1991, P 324)



Theoretical Base

"I remember feeling lost, constantly searching for someone to understand me, for someone I could understand." (Ch 15: *I Lost My Language But Your Child Doesn't Have To* by May F. Chung)

"Values of Multiculturalism: I wish to deliver the message that we have a lot of commonalities despite gender, identities, colors, accents, languages, and whatever excuse people might come up with to divide us." (Ch 23: *Lost And Found, A Story Of Reclaiming Identities*, by Bashar Ali Hariri and Fatmeh Al Alawneh)

Critical Storytelling: Multilingual Immigrants in the United States by Luis Javier Prentón Herrera and Ethan Tính Trinh, 2020.

Pepón Osorio: A reflection of shared experiences within one's community, "*Badge of Honor*" from 1995, a large-scale multimedia installation with assemblage, explores the toll of having a father in prison for both parties. Osorio built installations side by side, one simulating a prison cell, the other a boy's bedroom, and projected videos of imprisoned fathers and their sons."

[Link](#)



[moodboard]

Existing Research Projects / Exhibitions and Installations

Albert Gyorgy: Melancholy, the emptiness that incapacitates us through grief. [Link](#)



Faith Ringgold: Storytelling through textiles. [Link](#)



The art of mourning: Taryn Simon explores performance, grief and death in Manhattan, *An Occupation of Loss*. [Link](#)



A visual moodboard of photo and film installations

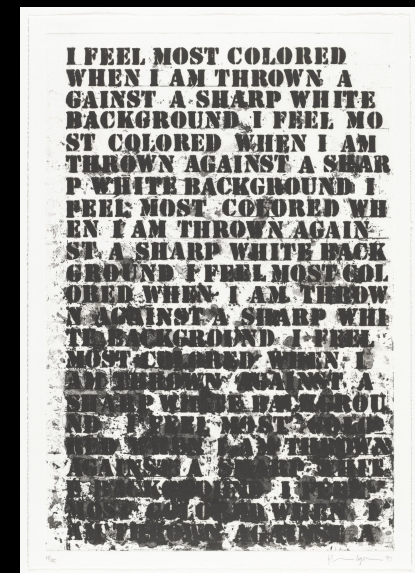


why does it matter?



"Spaces are orientated 'around' whiteness, insofar as whiteness is not seen. We do not face whiteness; it 'trails behind' bodies, as what is assumed to be given. The effect of this 'around whiteness' is the institutionalization of a certain 'likeness', which makes non-white bodies feel uncomfortable, exposed, visible, different, when they take up this space" (*Ahmed 2007, 157*).

"To be comfortable is to be so at ease with one's environment that it is hard to distinguish where one's body ends and the world begins. One fits, and by fitting the surfaces of bodies disappears from view. White bodies are comfortable as they inhabit spaces that extend their shape" (*Ahmed 2007, 158*).



Glenn Ligon. *Untitled (Four Etchings)*.
1992 | MoMA

*community
and
audience*

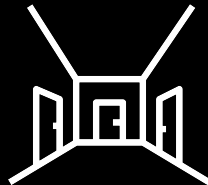
Our exhibition space is geared towards people of color seeking a sense of community and those wanting to meet people with shared cultural backgrounds and experiences. We hope to provide a creative language and spatial experience that can be understood and felt by many from this community that we're a part of ourselves.

next steps



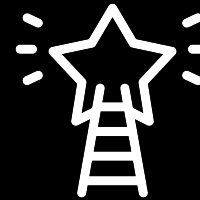
Confirm artists list and
the number of pieces
to be displayed

Confirm studio space:
Shelter Gallery, 127
Eldridge St, New York,
NY 10002.



Create design plans
for installation in
collaboration with the
gallery curator.
Posters and social
media posts.

Final installation in the
studio space. Interview
artists.



Exhibition Day