



Matilda Forsberg. *Feeding rite*, 2019. Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 36 inches.

**The Immigrant Artist Biennial (TIAB) 2020: *Here, Together!***  
**VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS**

**October 16th - December 18th 2020**

**[virtual2020.theimmigrantartistbiennial.com](http://virtual2020.theimmigrantartistbiennial.com)**

**Mother Tongue**

**Group Exhibition and Performances**

**Co-Curators:** Mary Annunziata, Allison Cannella,  
Anna Mikaela Ekstrand, Katya Grokhovsky

**Artists:** Ferguson Amo, Mahsa Biglow, Sera Boeno, Carolina Casusol, Cecile Chong, Furen Dai, Priyanka Dasgupta & Chad Marshall, Priscilla Dobler Dzul, Matilda Forsberg, Nina Ghanbarzadeh (Afkhamian), Yikui (Coy) Gu, Luma Jasim, Tiri Kananuruk, Marina Kassianidou, Cecilia Kim, Marina Leybishkis, Stefana McClure, Rodrigo Moreira, Renana Neuman, Sari Nordman, Kasia Ozga, Dafna Rehaviah, Katreen Sorokina, Tereza Swanda, Johanna Strobel, Hui-Ying Tsai, Tansy Xiao, Haksul Lee & Natsuki Takauji, Tao Wei

**Performance projects:** Kevin Quiles Bonilla, Marcela Casals, Salomé Egas, Bianca Falco, Georgia Lale, Silkworm Pupae (Jiaoyang Li & JinJin Xu), Jorge Rojas, María Verónica San Martín

As bell hooks writes, “like desire, language disrupts, refuses to be constrained within boundaries. It speaks itself against our will, in words and thoughts that intrude, even violate the most private spaces of mind and body.” Speaking, reading, and writing in one’s mother tongue can provide comfort and community, a sense of belonging in a foreign land. Using the mother tongue to revive folklore and oral storytelling is also a way to honor family and heritage. In the public sphere, however, governments and institutions employ language to reduce, reject, and undermine marginalized populations. In the cultural field, language-based artworks, protest signs, and community organizing serve as powerful tools to call out injustices. Technology increasingly facilitates our use of language, allowing us to communicate with the stroke of a finger, but also interferes with the subtle nuances of oral and physical language.

The selected artists in *Mother Tongue*, chosen from a diverse pool of open call applications received from immigrant artists across the U.S., present a visual lexicon of language marked by translation, assimilation, and belonging. Their works chart the influence of imperialism, migration, and time.

### Curators

**Allison Cannella** was born in the South, raised in the Midwest, rooted in the Southwest, and educated on the East Coast. She now calls New York her home. Allison completed the Masters in Modern & Contemporary Art History: Critical and Curatorial Studies program at Columbia University in 2018 with a thesis on conceptual art, perception, and the emerging field of neuroesthetics. She got her start in the gallery world three years ago at David Zwirner. Allison is proud to be part of the TIAB team as a curatorial advisor, supporting talented artists from around the world and creating exhibition opportunities during these turbulent times.

**Mary Annunziata** is a Brooklyn-based independent writer and curator whose research focuses on conceptual representations of conflict, surveillance, forced migration, and diasporic identity. She holds an MA in Critical & Curatorial Studies from Columbia University and has worked for institutions including the Royal Ontario Museum, the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Artist Protection Fund, a grantmaking initiative that provides fellowships for displaced and threatened artists from emergency zones worldwide. Mary currently serves as a Grant Writer for Access Now, an global non-profit that fights for human rights in the digital age, and as a Curatorial Advisor for The Immigrant Artist Biennial.

**Anna Mikaela Ekstrand** is a Swedish/Guyanese independent curator based in New York City. She has held curatorial positions at Metropolitan Museum of Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim, Bard Graduate Center, Museum of Arts and Design, and is the founding editor-in-chief of Cultbytes. She has co-/curated several exhibitions in New York and Europe, she served as a juror on Friends of the Artist Vol. 11, she contributed with an essay on performance art(ists) forthcoming in "Institution is Verb: PPL Lab Site 2012-2018," and was a curatorial resident at Curator’s Agenda: Vienna 2019. Anna Mikaela serves as an advising curator for TIAB. Anna Mikaela holds dual MA degrees, in Design History, Material Culture, and Decorative Arts from Bard Graduate Center and in Art History from Stockholm University.

**Katya Grokhovsky** was born in Ukraine, raised in Australia and is based in NYC. She is an artist, independent curator, educator, Chief Curator and Founding Director of The Immigrant Artist Biennial (TIAB). Grokhovsky holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, a BFA from Victorian College of the Arts and a BA (Honors) in Fashion from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Grokhovsky has received support through numerous awards including EFA Studio Program, SVA MFA Art Practice Artist in Residence, Kickstarter Creator in Residence, Pratt Fine Arts Department Artist in Residence, Art and Law Fellowship, MAD Museum Studios Program, BRICworkspace Residency, Ox-BOW School of Art Residency, Wassaic Artist Residency, Atlantic Center for the Arts, Studios at MASS MoCA, VOX Populi Curatorial Fellowship, NARS Residency, Santa Fe Art Institute Residency, Watermill Center Residency, Brooklyn Arts Council Grant, NYFA Fiscal Sponsorship, ArtSlant 2017 Prize, Asylum Arts Grant, Australia Council for the Arts ArtStart Grant, Freedman Traveling Scholarship and others. She has curated over 15 exhibitions and events, including Art in Odd Places NYC 2018: “BODY” and “Call of the Wild: Pioneers, Rebels and Heroines” at Vox Populi and more. Her work has been exhibited extensively.

**The Immigrant Artist Biennial** creates a platform for the exchange and presentation of projects by often overlooked and silenced voices. The premiere iteration of the biennial presents 60+ U.S.-based immigrant artists in venues across NYC, including Brooklyn Museum, EFA Project Space, The Green-Wood Cemetery as well as in virtual exhibitions, performances and events. TIAB is fiscally sponsored by NYFA.

For more information: <https://www.theimmigrantartistbiennial.com>

For inquires contact: [info@theimmigrantartistbiennial.com](mailto:info@theimmigrantartistbiennial.com)