



Truths arise (in progress)

In response to the call for contributions from the memorial gallery and poetic inquiries by Dr. Fyre Jean Graveline at WHEAT:

<https://www.wheatinstitute.com/memorial-gallery>

This is bigger than any space I can hold.
Nevertheless, this stretches as far across my
living room as it can contain.

Nevertheless, I wanted this to be laborious, to
take work, effort, time. A settler's desire to do
something.

Book pages pasted on with India ink and broad
strokes. Crumpled and trampled, uneven grounds,
treacherous history, upon which gold paint landed
and splattered.

So too were my ancestors and I subject to colonization. But my family had an alternative
destination to call home away from a different kind of colonialism and political subjugation
because of the colonization and destruction of lives and livelihoods on this land.

So what will I do in this place?

galaxies more numerous and brilliant than
minds can contain

dancing in the light of every new day
off the cemented institutional grounds
that try to bury them.



Truths Arise

I wanted to surround each circle -- each a spiral galaxy of lifeworlds and relations and connections beyond space and time -- with yarn.

It's what I learned about love and care. My grandmother taught my mother to stitch in all different ways. My mother made me sweaters after sweater after sweater and taught me to stitch in all the different ways too.

My tapestry needle would not penetrate the ground so I used an awl to punch the holes for which the yarn will thread through around

..

heartbeat

and breathing with each stitch
-- inhale up -- exhale down --

What does it mean to journey alongside people from whose oppression and subjugation I profit
as a settler and worker in the care/trauma/survivor industrial complex (1)

-- for now --

Holding the spaces in between
with my whole being as I walk
on this earth in relations

Crossing paths, walking alongside
connecting for a moment and parting ways in another
All the while getting caught in the orbit of compulsion to repeat (2)
always remembering how insidious internalized colonization
is, will be
always remembering to resist •• resist •• resist ••
-- divert -- divert -- divert -- from the well-tread paths (3)

All the while taking care
not to tread over the stories, the truths, the ways of life
we pledge to uplift.

--- Patricia Ki

(1) Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, <https://arsenalpulp.com/Books/C/Care-Work>

(2) Judith Butler,
<https://www.routledge.com/Gender-Trouble-Feminism-and-the-Subversion-of-Identity/Butler/p/book/9780415389556>

(3) Sara Ahmed, <https://www.dukeupress.edu/the-promise-of-happiness>