

Visceral Mappings: Transdiasporic Art Practices

Curated by: Pritika Chowdhry

www.transdiaspora.org

Dellora A. Norris Cultural Arts Center

1040 Dunham Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

Duration: June 14 - July 14, 2007

Reception: Sunday, July 1, 2pm - 4pm

Panel: Saturday, June 30, 9:30am - 10:45am

National Women's Studies Assocn. conference

Room 220, Pyle Center

702 Langdon Street, Madison, WI 53706

Duration: April 20 - 22, 2007

Reception: Friday, April 20, 6:15pm - 7:15pm

Panel: Friday, April 20, 1:45pm - 2:45pm

UW Women's Studies Association conference

I believe that the story of contemporary American art is incomplete without understanding and conceptualizing its multi-diasporic and inter-diasporic nature. Therefore, I have structured a rigorous definition for the term "*Transdiaspora*"™ and constructed a curatorial framework titled "*Transdiasporic Art Practices*"©. These theoretical formulations have become a catalyst for the **Transdiaspora Project**, a series of annual art exhibits and related publications. An online archive is being developed on <http://www.transdiaspora.org>.

The "*Transdiaspora*" paradigm for curating art exhibits makes transverse and horizontal connections between artists of minority communities as well as from majoritarian populations. By taking a multi-diasporic and multi-ethnic approach, Transdiaspora exhibits emphasize continuities across multiple ethnic groups. Transdiaspora exhibits also engage with deterritorialized diasporas such as Queer diasporas to include artists from the majoritarian populations of non-traditional diasporic and exilic locations. Transdiaspora exhibits thus enable and facilitate an inter-diasporic, hybridic dialog among artists of all communities.

The 2007 Transdiaspora exhibit titled "**Visceral Mappings: Transdiasporic Art Practices**" exhibit positions the intimate geography of the body as a metaphor for displacement and the domestic geography of the home as a metaphor for the nation. The exhibit brings together artists of African, Jewish, Native, Chicana, Haitian, Italian, Egyptian, Taiwanese, Indonesian, Indian, Greek and Korean diasporic origins as well as American artists of non-traditional diasporic and exilic locations such as the LGBTQ community. This exhibit is staged as a non-traditional installation that creates an immersive domestic environment.

The "Visceral Mappings: Transdiasporic Art Practices" exhibit was first held in Madison, Wisconsin for the UW Women's Studies Conference, in the Pyle Center. The exhibit was very well-received and a larger and expanded version of the exhibit is now traveling to the Dellora Norris Cultural Arts Center for the National Women's Studies Association annual conference. It is our honor to present this exhibit to an esteemed national audience of scholars, activists and artists.