CALL FOR ARTISTS

BEAUTIFUL LACUNAE

July—August, 2018 | THE STAMP GALLERY

SUBMIT BY MONDAY, MAY 21

Is the meaning of your artwork dependent upon specific references to your non-English language or your culture?

Do you feel that your artwork is best understood when interpreted by those who also share or know about a culture you identify with? When viewed by those who also speak your primary language?

Do you feel that there is a gap of understanding when native English-speakers interpret your artwork?

The Stamp Gallery at the University of Maryland invites you to submit images of your work to its second summer exhibition, Beautiful Lacunae.

Sanskrit, the sacred language of Hinduism that is still spoken in parts of modern-day India, has 96 words for different forms of “love.” Some languages in Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Asia do not have words for “color,” but all have words to describe the seen world.¹ Artists who speak languages that read right-to-left often create visual narratives that also read right to left.

Beautiful Lacunae asks us all: how does a non-English primary language affect an artist’s production of art? What are the gaps between artists who make these works, and viewers who interpret them here?

What happens when a work of art is made by a speaker of one or more languages, and then viewed by speakers of other different languages?

Beautiful Lacunae will provide a platform for artists with non-English native languages to present their work in its most natural, intended form. Labels will be written in the artist’s native/chosen language, and a pop-up library—created collaboratively with exhibiting artists—will be available for visitors to investigate cultural references further.

Artists are encouraged to submit 2-D or 3-D work in any medium, including digital, installation, performance, text, and sound. There is no size restriction.

TO SUBMIT: Please email images of work, phone number, and link to artist website (if applicable) to stampgallery@umd.edu with title “Beautiful Lacunae Application – [Name].” All submissions must be received by May 21. Accepted artists will be notified at the end of May.

QUESTIONS: Grace DeWitt at stampgallery@umd.edu.

¹ Anna Wierzbecka, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute