

up/ rooted

more art➤

*a presentation of recent work + conversations
from More Art's 2025/26 Fellowship*

Saturday, July 25th, 2026, 1–5pm at Magnum Foundation

Program Schedule

1pm: **Opening & Welcome**

Please feel free to explore the work on display!

There will be a short break between each presentation

1:20pm: **Huiyi Chen**

Drawing on three walks choreographed and facilitated, Huiyi will share her journey of leaving, returning to, and remaking home while exploring walking as embodied research, world-building, and community-making. She will also share a zine that brings together an evolving collection of walking scores.

1:40pm: **Intelligent Mischief**

Intelligent Mischief will be sharing about their inquiry into social dreaming and guiding folks in using their new world making card deck for collective dreaming and imagining.

2pm: **asmara**

This presentation explores the practice of constructing sustainable ecological futures through memory work/archives and the centrality of interpersonal relationships to the practice's success.

2:30pm: **orion**

orion will be sharing about printmaking events that help build hyperlocal community defense and care networks, block by block.

2:40pm: **30-Minute Break**

Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

3:10pm: **Naya Lee Chang**

Naya will be presenting a working proposal for a public sculpture that interrupts the memorial narrative of Shorakapok Rock in Inwood Hill Park.

3:30pm: **Isabella Vargas**

Isabella will share "We Are Ghosts," an interdisciplinary installation that explores how documentary storytelling can be expanded through augmented reality and public objects in an accessible public space. Presented throughout a disability focused community garden, each sculptural work invites visitors to encounter disabled and immigrant stories through interaction and reflection.

3:50pm: **Brandon Shaw McKnight**

Brandon will share *This Big Light of Ours*, an interactive public art installation inspired by Lewis Latimer that invites audiences to reflect on history, identity, and the ways we can become a source of light for one another.

4:10-5pm:

Please feel free to speak with the Fellows and continue to explore the work on display in the space!

5pm: **Event Close**

Artist Bios

Huiyi Chen

Huiyi is an artist, writer, and educator working across moving image, performance, digital technology, and site-based research. Rooted in diasporic experience and living in-between worlds, her work explores migration, belonging, interspecies kinship, and power structures that shape them. She flies a kite to trace the shapes of wind, tastes grass to read the memory of soil, and turns the kitchen into an assemblage of sound. She approaches art as social practice, creating poetic interventions that open space for public discourse. She is always becoming.

She holds a Bachelor degree in psychology and photography from the University of Southern California (2016), and an MPS degree from the Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP) at New York University (2019). Her works have showcased at IDFA, COH:DOX, Culture Hub, NYC Media Lab, American Museum of Natural History, and more. She has taught at the Mason Gross School of Art at Rutgers University and is now a teaching fellow at NYU Shanghai.

Intelligent Mischief

INTELLIGENT MISCHIEF—Terry Marshall (he/him) and Aisha Shillingford (she/her)—is a creative studio and cultural futures lab that creates public art and social dream spaces that offer the necessary space and time needed to unleash Black imagination to shape the future. Our purpose is to boost invention and imagination, realign action logic and experiment with new forms of culture and civil society to create atmospheres of change.

We are cultivating a global archipelago of Black utopias, an autonomous, interdependence, speculative, real & surrealist constellation of places and spaces where Black folks are thriving, sovereign, and free.

asmara

Guided by Black Feminist Insurgency, asmara (she/they) is dedicated to the reality that freedom is a place we can build and arrive at in this lifetime. They study and practice traditions of feminist revolution to reignite the liberatory world-building that occurs before, during, and in the wake of global systems

of domination. Inspired by the ancient relationship between women and nature, her work catalyzes the consciousness shifts necessary to restore dignity to the earth and third-world women; at the center of this is a reconfiguration of the feminine body as a precious and profound locus in earthly and cosmic ecosystems. As an artist of the experimental tradition, she focuses on raising social empathy through intimate community building and the creative practices of writing, performance, and film. As part of this practice, asmara practices agroecological conservation and grows food for free distribution to support resilient, sovereign community members at Ujamaa Garden in the Northeast Bronx.

orion

orion (they/them) is a multidisciplinary artist, educator, and organizer based in New York. Their visual arts practice queers space by blurring boundaries and disrupting power structures. orion's work interrogates how systems such as racism, imperialism, and the patriarchy converge to impede and complicate what could be beautiful, intimate connections. Drawn to highly tactile materials and playful processes, orion often works experimentally with fabric, food scraps, found objects, and handmade paper.

orion's art, teaching, and organizing practices are motivated by their grief and rage in response to personal and systemic injustices, as well as their desire for a softer, more interconnected world.

Naya Lee Chang

Naya Lee Chang (she/her) is a Brooklyn-based public artist who remixes the built environment with site-specific sculptures that visually riff on existing architecture or infrastructure, and conceptually uncover stories from a place's real or imagined past. Grounded in historical scholarship yet frequently whimsical and striking in form, Chang's work intrigues busy pedestrians as well as community participants, who will find layers of meaning and opportunities for bodily engagement in her installations.

Recent public works include two twelve-foot-tall facades that broke up the RISD Museum's colonial revival architecture with brickwork from around the world; prosthetic arms for a bronze statue of Caesar Augustus that was missing his original right appendage; and a material land acknowledgment in the form of sidewalk cracks mended with quahog shells. Chang graduated

from the Brown | RISD Dual Degree Program with an AB in History from Brown University and a BFA in Furniture Design from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). She is the recipient of awards and grants from Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the RISD Museum, Brown Arts Institute, and YoungArts. In the next year, Chang will present new public works at the Queens Botanical Garden, Inwood Hill Park, and Riverside Park South.

Isabella Vargas

Isabella Vargas is a multimedia artist who works at the intersection of media and activism. She works with nonfiction forms by combining captured footage and experimental animation to reconstruct narratives about her intersectional communities. Vargas questions the marginalization of people and their relationship with disability, ethnic identity, queerness, and their ties to intergenerational trauma. In tandem with her art practice, Vargas is a disability activist and gleans her narratives from direct interaction with members of the communities for whom she is advocating, striving to give a platform to their voices.

Vargas is a current More Art fellow, previous Docs In Progress / FWD-DOC fellow, previous BRIClab fellow, Emerge fellow with the San Francisco Longmore Institute, previous Disability Belongs Lab fellow, and a recent MDOCS Storyteller Institute recipient. Vargas was also a previous UnionDocs fellow where her work centered on creating nonfiction content for NYC community organizations. Her most recent film work premiered in an exhibition titled “to hold a we” at BRICarts.

Brandon Shaw McKnight

Brandon Shaw McKnight is an interdisciplinary artist who creates work for people who are willing to feel. Refusing to be confined to a single medium, he moves between installation, performance, directing, movement, music, and community engagement to create experiences that challenge, question, and transform.

His practice is driven by a simple belief: art that leaves people unchanged has missed an opportunity. Rather than asking audiences to observe from a distance, Brandon invites them into spaces where reflection becomes participation and participation becomes action. His work often explores identity, memory, spirituality, and the responsibility we have to one another,

using storytelling as a catalyst for personal and collective change.

As a 2025–2026 More Art Engaging Artists Fellow, Brandon is developing *This Big Light of Ours*, an interactive installation inspired by the legacy of Lewis H. Latimer. Through light, sound, and audience participation, the work asks a central question: How will you use your light to change the world?

About More Art

More Art is a nonprofit organization that collaborates with artists across their careers to catalyze social change by producing meaningful participatory public art for a broad audience.

More Art's year-long **Engaging Artists Fellowship** is designed to help emerging NYC artists and community organizers develop and sustain a socially engaged and public art practice. The infrastructure and laboratory provided by More Art allow selected emerging and underrepresented artists to gain a deeper understanding of the history and vitality of public and socially engaged art and encourage artists to expand and develop social practice.

Learn more about our work at moreart.org.

Up/Rooted is presented by More Art and hosted at the Magnum Foundation in New York, NY.