

Exhibition at Artspace, Richmond, VA, May 18 - July 18, 2026

250 years of Expression: Freedom, Dissent, and the American Voice

Call for Art: Artistic expression as a form of survival, resistance, and political agency, especially for people navigating displacement, exclusion, or marginalization. Freedom of expression is a contested right—shaped by borders, citizenship, language, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender, labor, and state control—and a tool for dissent, solidarity, and self-determination. Juror Diego Sanchez.

Suspended and *Accretion* are exhibited in this group show. My statement:

Mass detention is THE human rights violation of present US, with a long-lasting ripple effect imposed on lives and future generations. As an immigrant of a country with few people behind bars, my work focuses on highlighting the humanity of women detained inside jails through their handwritten script. Works submitted are part of my *Script under Suppression* platform, a stage for memory of past and future, with varied levels of legibility. It is an investigation of suppression but also connection across beings, highlighting voices too often unseen. Handwriting captured my interest when I received my grandmother's diary, written as our country (Netherlands) was being invaded in 1940 at the onset of WWII. Although I was close to *oma*, I had no idea of her trauma prior to reading her journal after her passing. I re-marked her voice in space, incorporating her content in 3-D paintings. It has led to my self-initiated creative programs for women detained in US jails, continued upon reentry (since 2017, ongoing).