



THE  
NICHOLSON  
PROJECT

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***The Pleasure of Wasted Time* by Stephanie J. Williams  
&  
*Nourish: Storytelling with Saris* by Monica Jahan Bose**

**On View September 10th through November 4th, 2023**  
Gallery Hours: Wednesdays, 2-6pm and Saturdays, 12-4pm

Opening Reception: Sunday, September 10th, 4-6 pm  
Artist Talks: October 21st, 2-3pm

**Washington, DC (August 4, 2023)** The Nicholson Project presents two exhibitions: *The Pleasure of Wasted Time*, a solo exhibition by artist Stephanie J. Williams, and *Nourish: Storytelling with Saris* by Monica Jahan Bose. The exhibitions will open on September 10, 2023, and run through November 4, 2023. The gallery will be open to the public Wednesdays from 2-6 pm and Saturdays from 12-4 pm. The artists will be present at the opening reception on Sunday,

September 10th from 4-6 pm. A poetry performance will take place at 5 pm in conjunction with Bose's exhibition.

***The Pleasure of Wasted Time* by Stephanie J. Williams**

DC-based artist, Stephanie J. Williams says "Animating stop-motion puppets is perhaps the most inefficient way to make my work. It demands my slowness." *The Pleasure of Wasted Time* reflects on this slowness and the importance of the care that comes with creating stop-motion films. The exhibition will feature a series of Williams' stop motion short films along with an installation of the hand-built puppets, sculptures, and set pieces used in the creation of these films.

Animating physical material can be unpredictable and requires an improvisation inherent to stop motion; physical constraints of gravity and pose translate as extemporaneous movement-based physical "conversations" with material. Real material resists what the animator wills upon it. How an animator familiarizes themselves with a puppet is through touch, error, and walking. Williams poses the puppet, then walks back to the camera trigger. This is done thousands of times to create the illusion of continuous puppet movement. It is through a meditative sense of movement economy that Williams plans her walking path to and from the puppet; an accumulation of simple intimate gestures that choreograph careful discovery.

When she animates, Williams thinks about the strains on a human body that is declared a political object—the repeated stress of navigating precarious terrain. Over the past couple of years, she has been thinking about why the stories of some are marginalized. Recentering these stories requires care. It requires her slowness. She is most drawn to work that requires care through an accumulation of careful intimate gestures. Working frame by frame, the gesture(s) of a puppet in pose creates a collaborative ritual to bring attention to stories that are often forgotten and ignored.

About the Artist: Stephanie J. Williams is a tinkerer and doodler. Her work primarily navigates hierarchies of taste, unpacking how "official" histories are constructed in order to understand contemporary social coding. She received her MFA in Sculpture from RISD under a Presidential Scholarship, has shown in Fictions, part of the Studio Museum in Harlem's F-show exhibitions, as well as with Washington Project for the Arts, Lawrence University, the Delaware Contemporary, and the Walters Museum as a Sondheim Finalist, with residencies at the Corporation of Yaddo, Sculpture Space, Williams College, the Nicholson Project, VCCA, and ACRE. Recent projects have screened at the New Orleans Film Festival (Best Animated Short, 2022), Sweaty Eyeballs Animation Festival (Jury Citation, 2022), the Atlanta Film Festival (2023), and Outfest LA LGBTQIA+ Film Festival (2023). She has received support from the Saul Zaentz Innovation Fund in Media Studies at Johns Hopkins University and multiple DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities Fellowships. She is based in DC/Baltimore and currently teaches stop motion as Full Time Faculty for Maryland Institute College of Art. For more information, visit [www.stephaniejwilliams.com](http://www.stephaniejwilliams.com)

***Nourish: Storytelling with Saris* by Monica Jahan Bose**

*Nourish: Storytelling with Saris* is an installation of video, drawings, poems, and saris inspired by plants and herbs. Touching the soil and growing food are grounding and nourishing. For the last two years, Bangladeshi-American artist Monica Jahan Bose and DC participants in her *Storytelling with Saris* project have been connecting with the soil and Earth and food justice issues by nurturing plants on windowsills and planting neighborhood vegetable gardens. This

year they planted and harvested in the garden at The Nicholson Project. Bose led a series of planting workshops that included poetry and art inspired by soil and plants. Using performance, sari art, writing, and film, *Storytelling with Saris*, which commenced in 2012, links DC residents with Bangladeshi coastal women farmers in solidarity to address climate and food injustice.

About the Artist: Monica Jahan Bose is a Bangladeshi-American artist and climate activist whose work spans painting, printmaking, film, performance, and public art. Her socially engaged work highlights the intersection of climate, racial, gender, and economic injustice through co-created workshops, art actions, and temporary installations and performances. Bose uses the sari—a precolonial 18-foot-long unstitched garment that is always recycled and never discarded—to represent women’s lives and the cycle of life on our planet. She has exhibited her work extensively in the US and internationally (20 solo shows, numerous group exhibitions, and more than 25 performances) including solo exhibitions at the Bangladesh National Museum and MACRO Museum of Contemporary Art Rome. Her ongoing collaborative project *Storytelling with Saris* with women farmers from her ancestral island village has traveled to 10 states and seven countries and engaged thousands of people. Her work has appeared in the Miami Herald, the Washington Post, Art Asia Pacific, the Milwaukee Sentinel, the Honolulu Star Advertiser, the Japan Times, and all major newspapers in Bangladesh. She has a BA in the Practice of Art (Painting) from Wesleyan University, a post-graduate Diploma in Art from Santiniketan, India, and a JD from Columbia Law School.

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### **About The Nicholson Project**

The Nicholson Project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization located in Washington, DC. Founded in 2019, The Nicholson Project is an artist residency program and exhibition space coupled with a neighborhood garden, working to support artists and serve as a creative and innovative cultural hub in Southeast DC. Our long-term vision is to inspire others to use non-traditional arts-based, community-centered, projects as a pathway toward stronger, more vibrant communities. The Nicholson Project is located at 2310 Nicholson Street SE, Washington, DC 20020. More information is available at [thenicholsonproject.org](http://thenicholsonproject.org)

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*High-resolution images available upon request*

Press Contact

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