

Between grain,
dune,
salt,
and sky

Adji Dieye

Wintana Hagos

Jessica Karuhanga

Mallory Lowe Mpoka

Dawit L. Petros

Rolla Tahir

September 18th - December 13th, 2025

Curated by Sarah Edo

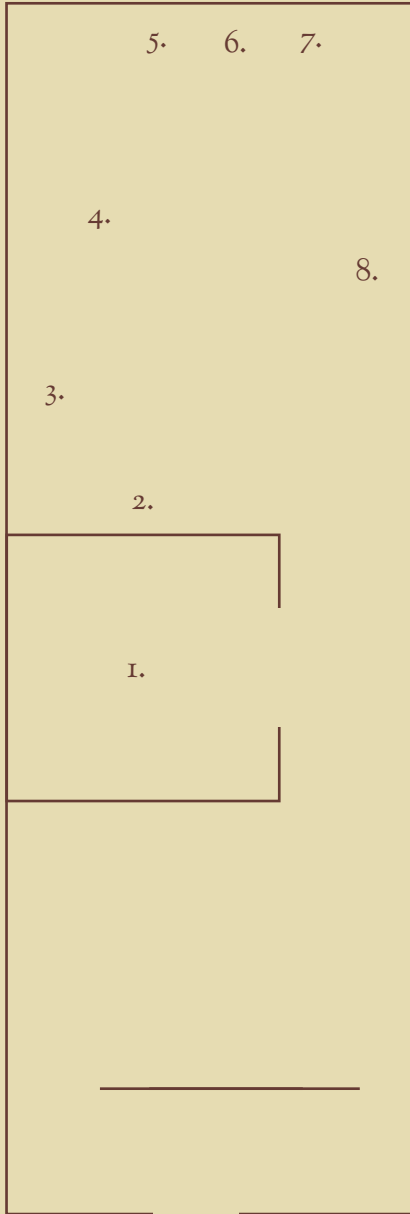


Between grain, dune, salt, and sky explores the dominant and understated narratives of desert geographies, displacement, architecture, archives, skin, sound, and subversive technologies of image-making across landscapes from the Mediterranean, the Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Atlantic Ocean. Inspired, in part, by the ongoing research of Sudanese-Canadian writer Nehal El-Hadi, the exhibition explores sand as both a material and a metaphor, offering a framework through which to consider the entanglements of Black life, migration, and extractive economies.

The works of Rolla Tahir, Dawit L. Petros, and Wintana Hagos engage with borderlands, desert crossings, and nearby coastal crossings, mediating on forced movement, (un)belonging, and embodied memory amid strife and geopolitical conditions. The metaphor of sand extends beyond regional specificity to its uses in infrastructure developments during colonial and post-independence periods, underscoring the enduring imperial foreign dependency that characterizes most African countries today. Shifting from sand to soil, Mallory Lowe Mpoka's use of clay photo-objects both addresses the colonial legacies of photography while simultaneously subverting the dominant and colonial gaze of early photographic processes. And lastly, drawing upon the Black feminist lineage of writers like Toni Cade Bambara, salt emerges as a potent metaphor to imagine the healing and preservation properties of the material in the natural world and the human body. Jessica Karuhanga's work in imaging the Black body thoughtfully engages with representational politics, navigating a space between intimacy and opacity.

Through their visual strategies and material engagements with elements that explicitly or subtly gesture to sand, soil, and salt, these themes emerge as alternative grammars for articulating Black life beyond the limitations of traditional archives and image-making conventions.

Gallery Map



ENTRANCE

1. Wintana Hagos
Dimtsi Adey (Sound of My Mother), 2025
Steel basin, water, wooden base, audio equipment

2. Jessica Karuhanga
Body and Soul, 2019
single-channel video with sound
02:06 min
Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery
Permanent Collection: Purchase, 2023

3. Mallory Lowe Mpoka
Camera Obscura, 2024
Terracotta, glaze, acrylic, engraving

4. Adji Dieye
Untitled, 2020
black matte, steel, silk
Fabrication of metal structure by Zac Mahadeo
Artwork courtesy of Artist and Cecile Fakoury Galerie

5. Rolla Tahir
Int'maa, 2023
Yarn, 35 mm film

6. Rolla Tahir
Sadu, 2023
Yarn, 35 mm film

7. Rolla Tahir
Sira, 2018
Super8, 16 mm film, and digital with sound

8. Dawit L. Petros
The Green March (Beyond the conclusive logic of monumentality), Tamougrite, Morocco, 2016
Archival color pigment prints

Public Programming

Opening Reception

Thursday, September 18th, 2025

Gallery TPW

6PM-8PM

Artist Talk with Adjie Dieye and Mallory Lowe Mpoka

Saturday, September 20th, 2025

Gallery TPW

11:30AM- 1PM

Sound Performance with Wintana Hagos

Wednesday, October 8th, 2025

Gallery TPW

6PM-8PM

Film Weaving Workshop with Rolla Tahir

Saturday, November 1st, 2025

Gallery TPW

2PM-4PM

Acknowledgements

We'd like to extend warm gratitude to all who made this exhibition and programming possible with special thanks to Vanessa Rieger, Colby Richardson, Zac Mahadeo, Scott McCannell and Tandazani Dhlakama.

Between grain, dune, salt, and sky is generously supported by:



Cover Image: Rolla Tahir, *Sira* (still), single-channel video with sound, 2018.
Courtesy of the artist.