



Crystal Cortez & Asa Nakagawa / Santino Gonzales / Suzanne Kite /
mario lemafa / Bogosi Sekhukhuni / Wendi Yan

Curated by Ninth Planet
(DB Amarin / Whit Forrester / Trisha Lagaso Goldberg)

May 3 through August 23, 2025
Opening Reception: Saturday, May 3 | 5 to 8pm
Curator remarks at 4:30pm

Slash 1150 25th St, Building B, San Francisco
Open Thursday-Saturday, 11am-6pm



Wendi Yan, Scenes from *The Inner Carbon Classic*, 2024, animation sequence, variable length, 5 min. Courtesy of the artist.

The formation of our curatorial collective, the Ninth Planet, began with a walk through the streets of New York City in the summer of 2023, just before the U.S. congressional hearings on unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP) and non-human "biologics." Recognizing that we were likely on the brink of

"official" disclosure of non-human intelligences interacting with contemporary human civilization, our collective formed, with an aim to wrest the narrative away from military, governmental, and corporate ownership. Rather than reinforcing systems of control, we seek to illuminate what falls outside the frameworks of global political power structures: the lived experiences, histories, and cosmologies that have long acknowledged and incorporated encounters with the unknown.

A Lagrange Point is a relationship of equilibrium, a region in space where the gravitational forces of two celestial bodies create a state of suspension. It is a place of stillness between immense forces, and a vantage point for recalibration. The exhibition borrows this concept to explore thresholds and transitions of knowledge, power, and perception in relation to UAP and broader ideas around non-human intelligence.

Though UAP discourse has returned to the public sphere, the discussion remains entrenched in restrictive paradigms of inquiry such as governmental hearings, military records, and Hollywood documentaries. These narratives treat the unknown as a technological threat, a sanctioned and sensational framing of the fringe, or a puzzle to be solved. *Lagrange Point* is not separate from that conversation but intentionally positioned just beyond its gravity well, where epistemologies shaped by Indigenous cosmologies, queer futurisms, and alternative ways of knowing are centered.

For millennia, societies across the world have documented sightings and interactions with beings from the sky: deities, messengers, and liminal figures who mediate between worlds. These are not myths or mere anthropological artifacts, but persistent infrastructures of knowledge and living archives that challenge, eschew, and ignore the Western materialist paradigm. Might these venerable and venerated encounters invite us to rethink the nature of consciousness itself? What possibilities emerge if we shift our perspective away from narratives driven by the interests of States, War Machine, venture capitalists, and rulers of the entertainment industrial complex?

Through new commissions and existing works, the artists in *Lagrange Point* approach these questions with speculative, poetic, and critical methodologies. The works of Crystal Cortez in collaboration with Asa Nakagawa, Santino Gonzales, Suzanne Kite, mario lemafa, Bogosi Sekhukhuni, and Wendi Yan resist the supermassive pull of singular explanations, embracing instead a logic of multiplicity, indeterminacy, and radical absurdity. Whether engaging with artificial intelligence, Indigenous science, embodied experience, or the implications of non-human intelligences, they propose frameworks for encounters that neither domesticate nor dismiss the unknown. Instead, these works extend an invitation to witness, to listen, and to reconsider the limits of human perception and relational possibility.

By invoking the *Lagrange Point* as both metaphor and method, the exhibition establishes a counterpoint to dominant modes of inquiry. Here, balance is not stasis but a state of potential—an opening for thought, for contact, and for the speculative reimagining of what intelligence, presence, and relation might mean in a universe where we are not alone.

- Ninth Planet

Lagrange Point, curated by Ninth Planet, is the 17th in a series of exhibitions at Slash, each organized by an independent Bay Area-based curator. The exhibition is generously supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

Please join us for an introduction to the exhibition by Ninth Planet at 4:30pm on May 3.

Crystal Cortez and Asa Nakagawa are immersive sound artists based in the Pacific Northwest. Using sound to attune with the more-than-human world, they explore the ancient wisdom of humpback whales as displayed in their highly structured annual chorus. Composing in reaction to these vocalizations, they investigate the signal-to-noise ratio between the whales and anthropogenic noise, which poses a substantial threat to marine ecosystems. Extractive technologies, military devices, and ship engines cause physiological and environmental damage, demanding an urgent call to action for quieter oceans.

Santino Gonzales is an artist from Los Lunas, New Mexico. His multimedia works draw on elements of ufology, adobe, and radio to explore feelings of connection across space and time. Gonzales' art practice reveals throughlines between technology, land, and the unknown. His work positions these modes of cultural analysis within their broader legacies of resilience, resurgence, and wonder. Gonzales received his BFA from the University of New Mexico & his MFA from California College of the Arts. He is a Dedalus Fellow and has exhibited work internationally.

Kite (Dr. Suzanne Kite) is an award-winning Oglála Lakǰóta performance artist, visual artist, composer, and academic, known for her sound and video performances with her machine learning hair-braid interface. Kite's practice explores contemporary Lakota ontology through research-creation, computational media, and performance. Kite often works in collaboration with family and community members. Her interdisciplinary practice spans sound, video, performance, instrument building, wearable artwork, poetry, books, interactive installation, and more.

mario lemafa was born in Honolulu and lives in Washington state. "If it feels like work—it probably is."

Bogosi Sekhukhuni is an artist, writer, and designer who offers considerations on cultures and histories of technology. Since 2012, Sekhukhuni's work has been featured in both solo and group exhibitions in institutions that include Kunsthalle Bern, Fondazione Prada, Sharjah Art Foundation, and the New Museum. They have been awarded the Prix Net Art Award, Rhizome, New York. Sekhukhuni is a founding member of the artist group NTU (South Africa) and is co-founder of design firm INFANT (Portland/Johannesburg).

Wendi Yan is an artist, technologist, and writer narrating metamorphoses of the scientific self. She examines the cosmological, linguistic, and physiological challenges in facing alien epistemic systems across time and crafts alternative fictions of science and its history through CGI films. She was an inaugural Steve Jobs Archive Fellow and a finalist for the 6th VHAward.

Ninth Planet (DB Amarin, Whit Forrester, Trisha Lagaso Goldberg) is a transdisciplinary contemporary art collective. Formed in the summer of 2023 in New York City over a conversation about the daylighting of UAP (unidentified anomalous phenomena) by mainstream institutions, Ninth Planet is committed to broadening understandings of "alien life" and non-human intelligence and the ways in which these subject areas cross-pollinate with queerness and Indigeneity.

Slash is a nonprofit exhibition space founded in 2018 to advance and promote the expanding field of contemporary art in San Francisco through exhibitions, publications, and public programming.