

In November, every year, we lose an hour of light from our evenings as it is reallocated to morning. Collectively, we begin enduring the dark days before winter takes hold. This November, to coincide with this period of darkness, Xpace Cultural Centre is pleased to present *Dream, Desire, Despair*. This thematic round of exhibitions is the first of three exhibition rounds that have been curated from our annual Open Call for our 2025/2026 programming year.

*Dream, Desire, Despair* offers a response to the often complicated and melancholic feelings that arise during this time of the year. A dramatic telling of the fluctuating pendulum of emotions and sensations. We *dream* of vibrancy, a flashy recall of our brightest memories; we *desire* for the promised thawing, longing for outlandish wishes just out of our grasp; and we *despair*, with an acceptance of the reality of this time of year, performing our anguish and sadness for nobody else to see.

Nicole Beno's Window Space exhibition, *Mirage of the Sprawl*, dreams of a simulated version of nature—supercharged, extra juicy and plump. She articulates a surreal space where organic forms melt into synthetic patterns, collapsing into one another. Maddy Young, Patrick Stochmal, and Wu Jing's Main Space exhibition, *I scrub myself until my skin is raw*, locates the bathroom as a site of duplicity that configures fantasies to be realized. However, once undertaken, these fantasies disparagingly reveal barriers endemic to allowing them to flourish. And finally, Miguel Caba's Project Space exhibition, *Mothers / Gardens*, brings together imagery sent to them by both Caba's mother and grandmother from each of their respective homes in Canada and the Philippines. Mimicking the reality in the imagery, the sculptural paintings desire to collapse distance and time to reveal a garden. They are almost but not quite the real thing.

These exhibitions illuminate that within the darkness there is light. We hope that you can find a shimmer, glint or glimmer amongst the works on display to hold dear in the coming months.

Congratulations to Nicole Beno; Maddy Young, Patrick Stochmal, Wu Jing; and Miguel Caba.

– Avalon Mott  
*Artistic Director*