

Would That: Tracing the Narratives of and between 1st and 2nd Generation Vietnamese Americans

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Motivation

Toward a monograph in progress: a hybrid collection of creative writing which will include poetry, nonfiction prose, audio-visual work, and site-based installation.

Project Description

An creative oral history of narratives within the Vietnamese diaspora in the U.S.

Context

Existent oral histories of the Vietnamese diaspora typically are traditional interviews archived in academic institutions with limited access.

This creative literary arts approach seeks to compose both a chorus and highlight discrete connections within diaspora narratives, exploring what exists in the silences and nonverbal actions between family members and generations of Vietnamese Americans.



How are stories passed between generations?

How to listen to refugees who are hesitant to look back at the past?

What exists in the silences, is caught in historic gaps between family members?



Project Deliverables

- Poems, lyric prose, and video pieces which weave narratives across the diaspora
- Multimedia archival footage of 1st and 2nd generation Vietnamese Americans
- Publish a monograph of hybrid creative writing
- Exhibit an installation of visual and literary arts

Potential Impact

- Centering of collective voices directly from the Vietnamese diaspora, gathered by a 2nd generation daughter of Vietnamese refugees
- First hybrid collection of poems and prose and multimedia work to engage with diasporic narratives
- Highlight previously hidden and overshadowed stories of and between generations of Vietnamese Americans
- Activate conversations between generations and family members in the Vietnamese diaspora