

Image credits, Roshan Ganu
FRONT *In the Presence of Longing*

INTERIOR LEFT *East 25th Street*

INTERIOR RIGHT *Hamilton Building (detail)*



Roshan Ganu



In The Presence of Longing

Duluth Art Institute | John Steffl Gallery | October – December 2021



This exhibition is the coming together of two chapters of work, one pre-pandemic and one post. The longing pre-pandemic was a more specific one, one for home, for places lived and feelings experienced from an elsewhere. Post pandemic there is an inability to identify the object of longing. If found, the forms are exaggerated, mysterious and fluid. The only way to be in this ‘new’ context seemed to flow with it, roll in it like ink does in water, without the need to logically objectify it. The longing is for the far as much as near, intimate as much as cold, stable as much as fluid, objects as much as abstraction. Together, it is living in the presence of many different longings.

“When access to ‘home’ is forbidden, how does a person create a romantic human geography around them, in a new environment?”

- Roshan Gannu, artist

In *In The Presence of Longing* on one hand objects and moments from my cultural memory are juxtaposed with each other onto the Midwestern landscape, thus creating a hybrid space where I, reality and fiction coexist. On the other, using materials like water, light, colour and ink, the notion of ‘longing’ is abstracted into a fluid state of being.

Roshan Gannu is a multimedia narrative artist originally from Goa-India, now based in Minneapolis. She has conceptualized and art directed stories for the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the Minnesota Opera. She is a recipient of the MNIatures : Mini Operas Big Ideas grant by Minnesota Opera, the Next Step Fund Grant 2021 by MRAC, as well as the Artists Respond: Combating Social Isolation grant by Springboard For The Arts, through which she co-founded ‘Aapli Library’, a zine space for community and conversation in Minneapolis. As a comic artist she has taught comic making workshops with a focus on personal narratives at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Socially Engaged Craft Collective, KCLAS in India and at Aapli Library. Her work has been

recognised by the Star Tribune, MinnPost, MPLS Art and SOTA podcast and has been exhibited at galleries such as Soo Visual Arts Center, Second Shift Gallery, Artistry-Bloomington, ArtReach St. Croix, among others.