

**ROOT DIVISION PRESENTS:**  
***Water is Thicker Than Blood***



**Image Info:** Elisa Ortega Montilla, *10,000 km Away*, 2019, Mixed media with Spanish objects, 48 x 48 in.

**Exhibition Dates:** January 7-February 12, 2022

**2nd Saturday Opening Reception:** January 8, 2022 | 7-9 pm

**2nd Saturday Closing Reception:** February 12, 2022 | 7-9 pm

**Gallery Hours :** By Appointment | Wednesday-Saturday

**Participating Artists:**

Nanci Amaka

Kira Dominguez Hultgren

Ghazal Ghazi

Madeleine Ignon

Ahn Lee

Jennifer Lugris

Deepa Mahajan

Alicia McDaniel\*\* & Sam Johnson

Alexander Feliciano Mejía

Lydia Nakashima Degarrod

Elisa Ortega Montilla

Susan Ossman

Tamara Porras

Juan Carlos Rodriguez Rivera

Pallavi Sharma

Irene Wibawa

Join us this January and February for *Water is Thicker Than Blood*, curated by Rachel Poonsiriwong. This exhibition explores the complexities of intergenerational and familial traumas alongside pathways to healing. The show highlights artists whose work has nurtured vulnerable spaces that reflect on emotional, cultural, or geographical rifts.

At its heart, *Water is Thicker than Blood* investigates the weaving of trauma into domesticity and genealogical systems. On a personal level, the featured works carry artists' intimate expressions of grief, longing, and discomfort. Collectively, this exhibition surfaces the intersectionality of familial rifts and traumas with many immigrant and diasporic experiences. Works in the show aim to acknowledge these shared experiences within many families as a byproduct of institutional failures during the pandemic.

*Water is Thicker than Blood* is an intermixture of healing practices and a coming-to-terms — each piece acts as a personal insight into an artist's memory. The show is most fully experienced as a gift, in which viewers honor and reciprocate the vulnerability that each artist has invested into their work. In a similar vein, viewers will have an opportunity to converse with the pieces as gateways for processing and articulating their own intergenerational traumas.

*Water is Thicker Than Blood* will be on view in the Root Division Gallery (by appt.) or online in our [Square Store](#) from **January 7-February 12, 2022**. [Learn more and RSVP here.](#)

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To learn more about exhibition updates, visit our website and social media channels:

[rootdivision.org](http://rootdivision.org) @rootdivision - (IG) @RootDivision SF - (FB)

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#### **ABOUT ROOT DIVISION**

Root Division is a visual arts non-profit in San Francisco that connects creativity and community through a dynamic ecosystem of arts education, exhibitions, and studios. Root Division's mission is to empower artists, foster community service, inspire youth, and enrich the Bay Area through engagement in the visual arts. The organization is a launching pad for artists, a stepping-stone for educators and students, and a bridge for the general public to become involved in the arts.

Root Division is supported in part by a plethora of individual donors and by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, Grants for the Arts, Kimball Foundation, Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, Deutsche Bank, Violet World Foundation, and Bill Graham Memorial Fund.

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