Studio 9D presents ***Propagation, Suspended Roots***
Meditations on grafting, mourning & embodiment, curated by Rose Malenfant & Leah Huang

“when you reach the moon
write the history of flower massacres”
-Forugh Farrokhzad

What happens when soil becomes sand and there is no land left to be transplanted into?

Through womxn artists' unique lens, we scrutinize the desire for collective embodiment.
To propagate offers a way to sustain growth in spite of severance.
To graft relocates living tissue in hopes of harmonious repair.
To mourn allows us to feel through loss, while remnants inevitably settle in our bodies.

With this exhibition, we invite one another to reimagine and reintegrate tracing cycles of displacement and grief, as fertilization for resilience and reclamation.

This collection of works explores the tension between life suspended and life sustained, merging past, future, and the fleeting. Through archival storytelling and material memories, this exhibition highlights the importance of nourishing our physicality, spirituality, and land as one inseparable, breathing entity.

Across 20 artists’ distinct visual languages, stories are churned and truths excavated. Works like Rossana Romero’s trace the roots of her ancestral love and grief through the history of Colombia. Through her painting *‘I do not know if it is a memory or un sueño, pero aveces siento el río Magdalena en mi cuello’,* she archives The Banana Massacre of 1928 through the lens of mystical realism. By personifying the Magdalena River as both artery and witness, she allows us to simultaneously feel the magic and pain of Colombian land; as the people of Ciénaga were effaced by the hands of the United Fruit Company (Chiqita) seeking profit over lives.

Where there is production and distribution, there is consumption. Artist Marilla Cubberly pulls our attention toward this rhythm, enshrining unexpected materials such as clementine nets and egg cartons in her sculptures, materials we often handle but struggle to trace back to their source. In search of the space between known and lost, Serena Seshandri archives film photographs from her grandfather, images she inherited without stories. She paints to imagine filling in the gaps, to continue conversations they ran out of time to share.

As these artists commune, we find a collective refuge. A space that doesn't shrink our sting. A place where we hold our roots in our own palms, as we lay the foundation for a soil we can trust.

~Rose Malenfant & Leah Huang

Featured Artists:

- ✦ Montanna Binder, bindi.media, @nnontanna
- ✦ Julia Blume, julia-blume-art.com, @j.u.l.i.a_b.l.u.m.e
- ✦ Hope Buzzelli, hopebuzzelli.com, @hopebuzzelli.art
- ✦ Romina Chuls, rominachuls.com, @nunahueso
- ✦ Marilla Cubberley, marilla.cargo.site, @marillacubberley
- ✦ Isis Davis- Marks, isisdavismarks.com, @isisdavismarks
- ✦ Emma Hines, emmahinesart.com, @emmahinesart
- ✦ Leah Huang, leah-huang.com, @laleah___
- ✦ Weihui Lu, weihuilu.com, @weihui_lu
- ✦ Elisa Lutteral, @elilutteral
- ✦ Rose Malenfant, rosemalenfant.com, @rose.mal.enfant
- ✦ Anam Rani, @anamrani_92
- ✦ Rossana Romero, rossanaromero.com, @rossanaromero__
- ✦ Serena Seshadri, @sersesh
- ✦ Ze Treasure Troll, trollmadeart.com, @troll.made.art
- ✦ Carlie Trosclair, carlietrosclair.com, @carlietrosclairstudio
- ✦ Dena Paige-Fischer, denapaigefischer.com, @dpfstudio
- ✦ Ami Park, ami-park.com, @iam__ami_
- ✦ Xingyun Wang, xingyunwang.net, @xingyun_wang_art
- ✦ Jaleeca Yancy, www.jrydesigns.net, @jry_designs