

Presenter: Lusi Tapasa

Session & Time: ART II

Room/Time: Goodman Gallery - Library / 1:00-2:00

Discipline: Art: Graphic Design, Humanities and Cultural Studies

Faculty Mentor: Steven Polacco, Amy Wong

Digital Portfolio URL:

Title: Persistence in the Commons

Abstract:

This thesis will examine JosÃ© MuÃ±ozâ€™s concept of the â€œbrown commonsâ€ as a shared condition of marginalization, perseverance, and connection, arguing that brownness can operate not just as an individual's identity, but as a collective through lived experience. Drawing from The Sense of Brown, this project will explore how brownness functions as a cultural ecology that connects people, environments, and the connection they share emotionally that was previously shaped by histories of colonialism, exclusion, and resistance.

As a Samoan student deeply rooted in my culture. I approach this work through both research and personal perspective through the use of typography, visual pressure, layered composition and literature to represent the tension between

systems that oppress and devalue brown life and the resilience that emerges within these shared spaces.

Rather than defining brownness as this singular thing, this project aims to communicate its complexity. How it holds both struggle and solidarity, oppression and creativity. Ultimately, this thesis argues that graphic design and literature can translate these layered experiences into visual form, making visible the persistence and collective identity that define the brown commons.