

# SURVIVING THE LONG WARS

2023 Veteran Art Triennial & Summit  
[SURVIVINGTHELONGWARS.ONLINE](https://SURVIVINGTHELONGWARS.ONLINE)

# SURVIVING THE LONG WARS

## Land Acknowledgment

The City of Chicago and its surrounding areas have always been, and always will be, home to numerous Native American communities. As a team dedicated to the uplifting of Indigenous People's sovereignty everywhere, we recognize that each program and exhibition associated with this project is taking place on the traditional homelands of the Council of Three Fires—the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa—as well as the Menominee, Miami, and Ho-Chunk Nations. Further, we acknowledge that Chicago is home to one of the largest urban Native American communities in the US.

Land acknowledgments are not rhetorical gestures, but rather calls to action. We therefore invite each of our non-Indigenous colleagues to learn more about the forced removal of many of the communities listed above from the state of Illinois and to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into their line of work. We also encourage everyone to ask themselves how they may benefit from the continuation of settler colonialism, militarism, and warfare. Confronting these realities allows us to break down our privileges and adopt anti-colonial practices that can one day help us in creating a more equitable society.

To provide immediate assistance to Native American communities in Chicago, you can send donations to the city's American Indian Center: [AICCHICAGO.ORG/DONATE](https://aicchicago.org/donate).

From the “American Indian Wars” to the “Global War on Terror,” *SURVIVING THE LONG WARS* explores the multiple, overlapping histories that shape our understanding of warfare, as well as the alternative visions of peace, healing, and justice generated by diverse communities impacted by war.

Inspired by the powerful artwork of Indigenous artists responding to the “American Indian Wars” and artists of the Greater Middle East reacting to the “Global War on Terror,” the second Veteran Art Triennial & Summit focuses on how these artistic responses complicate and are entangled with the creative practices of veterans. The featured artworks, projects, programs, and exhibitions create opportunities for people to gain a deeper understanding of the impact of war.

The project began in September 2022 with a virtual scholarly seminar series at the nexus of critical ethnic studies, Native/Indigenous studies, and Middle Eastern Studies on the histories and futures of Native rebellion in relation to US militarism and warfare. The project culminates in the second Veteran Art Triennial & Summit, in spring 2023, at the Chicago Cultural Center, Hyde Park Art Center, and Newberry Library.



# Residues and Rebellions

Newberry Library

February 28 – May 26, 2023

Opening Program: March 16, 2023

## Artists

Miridith Campbell (Kiowa)

Mahwish Chishty

Rodney Ewing

Darrell Wayne Fair

Frederick Gokliz

(San Carlos Apache)

Gilbert Kills Pretty Enemy III

(Standing Rock Sioux)

Terran Last Gun (Piiikani)

Monty Little (Diné)

and featured works from the newspapers *Akwesasne Notes*, *Winter Soldier*, and *The Black Panther*; the *Black Horse Ledgers*; and a selection of *Kiowa ledger drawings*

## OPENING PROGRAM

### FEATURED POETS

Erika R. Land, Carlos Sirah,

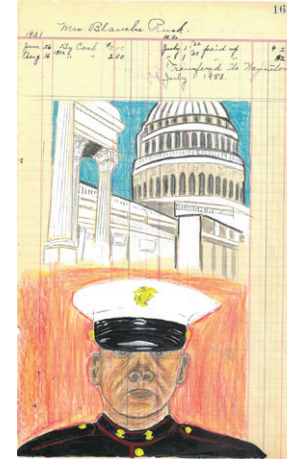
Monty Little (Diné), &

Dunya Mikhail

*SURVIVING THE LONG WARS: Residues and Rebellions* highlights intimate connections across vast differences in time, geography, and medium to propose uncommon alliances that can serve as a foundation for solidarity.

Historic works from the Newberry's Edward E. Ayer Collection, including Kiowa and Cheyenne ledger drawings along with a selection of ink and watercolor drawings by Frederick Gokliz (San Carlos Apache), are paired with contemporary artworks to reclaim visible yet overlooked strategies of BIPOC survival and resistance. From ledger art to beadwork to portraiture, the featured works use different strategies to record distinct yet overlapping community histories, redirect the colonial gaze, and recycle the technologies of US militarism, opening up alternative ways of knowing, sensing, and living in the long wars.

What unexpected connections do you see between artworks by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) veteran artists and other artists impacted by war?



**TOP** Darrell Wayne Fair (b. 1967) [US Marine Corps veteran]  
*The Facade*, 2022  
Pencil and colored pencil on ledger paper

Miridith Campbell (Kiowa, b. 1966) [US Marine Corps, Army, and Navy veteran]  
*Counting Coup*, 2002  
US cavalry coat, seed beads, and buckskin

**BOTTOM** Rodney Ewing (b. 1964) [US Army veteran]  
*Conductor (William Still)*, 2021  
Hand-colored silkscreen on ledger paper

Mahwish Chishty (b. 1980)  
*MQ-9/5*, 2013  
Gouache and tea stain on paper



# Unlikely Entanglements

Hyde Park Art Center

March 16 – July 9, 2023

Opening Program: March 17, 2023

## Artists

Bassim Al Shaker  
 June Carpenter  
 (Osage/Shawnee)  
 Mahwish Chishty  
 Jose deVera  
 Sabba Elahi  
 Rodney Ewing  
 Sarah Farahat  
 Rajkamal Kahlon  
 Ruth Kaneko  
 (Kanaka Wahine)  
 Eric Perez  
 Yvette Pino  
 Gregory Rick  
 Dwayne Wilcox  
 (Oglala Lakota)  
 Yiran Zhang

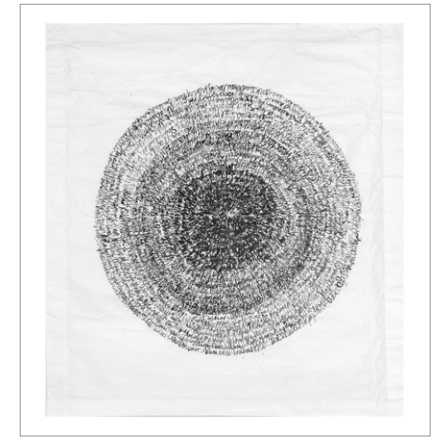
## OPENING PERFORMANCES

Hipólito Arriaga III,  
 GOODWYN., &  
 Hussein Smko

*SURVIVING THE LONG WARS: Unlikely Entanglements* reveals the connections that emerge between personal and collective histories of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities marked by the legacies of the two longest wars in US history—the “American Indian Wars” and the “Global War on Terror.”

Visual parallels and connections surface—from contrasting viewpoints and across differences—between artworks by civilians impacted by these long wars and BIPOC military veterans. These “unlikely entanglements” highlight the aesthetic affinities that form between different histories, geographies, and peoples resisting colonialism. The featured artists use collage, painting, embroidery, soft sculpture, and installation to unravel dominant histories of militarism while weaving together intimate stories of survival and resistance. Collectively, these artworks of wartime survivors and their descendants conjure meaning out of the traumatic afterlives of the long wars while creating space for solidarity and alternative futures.

*How do the unlikely entanglements that connect the artworks featured in this exhibition encourage solidarity across difference?*



**TOP** Gregory Rick (b. 1981) [US Army veteran]  
*From Manila to Baghdad, 2023*  
 Acrylic, pigmented ink, absorbent ground, sign painting paint, and oil bar on linen

**Sabba Elahi** (b. 1980)  
*identified suspects, CIA/Pakistan Dronestrikes, 2014*  
 Ink on rice paper

**BOTTOM** Yvette M. Pino (b. 1976) [US Army veteran]  
*Forced Protection Study #1, 2020*  
 Silkscreen

**Ruth Kaneko** (Kanaka Wahine, b. 1985)  
 [US Army veteran]  
*Sutured, 2019*  
 Mixed media



# Reckon and Reimagine

Chicago Cultural Center

March 12 – July 2, 2023

Opening Program: March 18, 2023

## Artists

Dorothy I. Burge  
 Miridith Campbell (Kiowa)  
 Melissa Doud (Ojibwe)  
 Ali Eyal  
 Chitra Ganesh  
 Mariam Ghani  
 Hock E. Aye Vi Edgar Heap of Birds  
 (Cheyenne & Arapaho Nation)  
 Gina Herrera (Tesuque Pueblo)  
 Tom Jones (Ho-Chunk)  
 Rajkamal Kahlon  
 Monty Little (Diné)  
 Hanaa Malallah  
 Hector René  
 Membreño-Canales  
 Chris Pappan  
 (Kaw/Osage, Lakota)  
 Michael Rakowitz  
 Gerald Sheffield  
 Dwayne Wilcox (Oglala Lakota)

## OPENING PERFORMANCES

Elexa Dawson (Citizen Potawatomi Nation), Joseph Running Crane (Blackfeet), Brittney Chantele, & James Pakootas (Confederate Tribes of Colville)

*SURVIVING THE LONG WARS: Reckon and Reimagine* features the powerful work of Indigenous artists responding to the “American Indian Wars” alongside artists from the Greater Middle East and its diasporas reacting to the “Global War on Terror.” The exhibition explores how these works complicate and relate to the creative practices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) veterans whose experiences profoundly challenge the dominant histories of these long wars.

Collectively, these works reckon with an ongoing violent history while creating space to build solidarity across differences. Unlikely connections emerge as the artists use diverse strategies to construct meaning out of the ruins of the long wars. They critique dominant colonial conventions and propose dissident people’s archives, while reworking the complex terrain of public monuments and memorials through the perspective of diverse BIPOC communities. By reckoning with these complex legacies the featured artists transform colonial materials and technologies to reimagine histories and futures.

*How do the featured artworks reckon with the ongoing violent history of the long wars, while imagining a more peaceful future?*



**TOP** Chris Pappan (Kaw/Osage, Lakota, b. 1971)  
*War Dance IX*, 2023  
 Graphite, ink, gold leaf, and map collage on US Cavalry recruitment ledger

Monty Little (Diné, b. 1983)  
 [US Marine Corps veteran]  
*Vellum of Cumuli*, 03, 2022/2023  
 Laser-cut photopolymer plate prints, screenprint, oil paint, and monotype on collaged paper

**BOTTOM** Hanaa Malallah (b. 1958)  
*She/He Has No Picture*, 2019/2020  
 Burnt canvas collage on canvas with laser-cut brass plaques, four art books, thousands of computer-generated moving images, and original booklet published by the Iraqi government in 1991

Melissa Doud (Ojibwe, b. 1971)  
 [US Army Veteran]  
*Bullet Dress*, 2016  
 Army uniform with 365 bullet casings



## Full Program

# 2023 Veteran Art Triennial & Summit

**SURVIVING**  
THE LONG WARS

## Thursday, March 16

Hyde Park Art Center

Welcome & Grounding with  
Joseph Lefthand

Gallery 1 | 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Quilting Workshop with Dorothy Burge

Room A | 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

STLW Humanities Discussion Hosted  
by NEH Veteran Fellow Eric Perez

The Pond | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Community Health Workshop with  
Tension and Trauma Releasing Exercises  
Hosted by Lovella Calica

MMR | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Warrior Writers BIPOC Writing  
Workshop with Eddie Falcón and  
Angela Waller

Room B | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

STLW Humanities Discussion Hosted  
by NEH Veteran Fellow Gina Herrera

The Pond | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Movement Workshop with  
Hussein Smko

Gallery 1 | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Warrior Writers BIPOC Writing  
Workshop with Eddie Falcón and  
Angela Waller

Room B | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

**OPEN PLATFORM**

MMR | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

## Thursday, March 16 (cont.)

Newberry Library

*STLW: Residues and Rebellions*  
Exhibition Close-Up and Poetry Reading

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

## Friday, March 17

Hyde Park Art Center

Welcome & Grounding with  
Joseph Lefthand

Gallery 1 | 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Trace Monoprint Memory Drawings  
with Yvette Pino

Room D | 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Drone Stories Embroidery Circle  
with Sabba Elahi

The Pond | 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

STLW Humanities Discussion Hosted  
by NEH Veteran Fellow Anthony Torres

Room B | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Movement and Breathing Workshop  
with Joseph Lefthand

Gallery 1 | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Writing Workshop with Dunya Mikhail

MMR | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Frontline Paper Making Workshop

Room A | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

## Friday, March 17 (cont.)

Hyde Park Art Center

**OPEN PLATFORM**

MMR | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

*The Space Between: Unlikely*  
*Entanglements Opening Program*

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

## Saturday, March 18

Chicago Cultural Center

Welcome & Grounding with  
Joseph Lefthand

Grand Army of the Republic Hall  
10:00 AM – 10:40 AM

STLW Humanities Discussion Hosted  
by NEH Veteran Fellow Gerald Sheffield

4th Floor Conference Room

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Indigenous Artists Discussion Hosted  
by Joseph Lefthand and Meranda  
Roberts with Gina Herrera, Ernest  
Whiteman III, and Jason Wesaw

Theater | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

First Exhibition Tour of  
*Reckon and Reimagine*

Exhibition Hall | 12:30 PM – 1:10 PM

STLW Humanities Discussion Hosted  
by NEH Veteran Fellow Monty Little

4th Floor Conference Room

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

*DRONE: Testimonies & Music* with  
Andrea Assaf, Ashley Wilkerson,  
Anu Yadav, Nick Slie, Lubana Al Quntar,  
Aida Shahghasemi, and Zafer Tawil  
Theater | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

*Sada [regroup]: Film Showing and*  
*Discussion* with Bassim Al Shaker and  
Ali Eyal Hosted by Michael Rakowitz  
Theater | 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Second Exhibition Tour of  
*Reckon and Reimagine*  
Exhibition Hall | 3:30 PM – 4:10 PM

*Forging Hope: Reckon and Reimagine*  
Opening Program  
Exhibition Hall & Theater | 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

## Sunday, March 19

Chicago Cultural Center

Welcome & Grounding with  
Joseph Lefthand

Grand Army of the Republic Hall  
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Closing Circle with Anthony Torres  
and Andrea Assaf

Grand Army of the Republic Hall  
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Closing Performance with  
Starla Thompson

Grand Army of the Republic Hall  
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM

Iraq War Memorial Activation  
Grand Army of the Republic Hall  
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM





*Download resources for educators and students to help facilitate conversation around themes of this program.*

*SURVIVING THE LONG WARS* is organized through a partnership between the emerging Veteran Art Movement and the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Gender and Women's Studies Program and Museum and Exhibition Studies Program. Organizers include Aaron Hughes, Ronak K. Kapadia, Therese Quinn, Joseph Lefthand, Amber Zora, and Meranda Roberts, with support from Kevin Basl, Rachel Dukes, Zaynab Hilal, Becky Nasadowski, and Yiran Zhang. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Veteran Fellows are Natasha Erskine, Gina Herrera, Monty Little, Eric Perez, Gerald Sheffield, and Anthony Torres.

The 2023 Veteran Art Triennial exhibitions and broader humanities project is supported by the Chicago Cultural Center, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, DEMIL Art Fund, emerging Veteran Art Movement, Hyde Park Art Center, National Endowment for the Humanities,\* Newberry Library, Paratech, UIC Disability Cultural Center, UIC Gender and Women's Studies Program, UIC Institute for the Humanities, UIC Museum and Exhibition Studies Program, UIC Native American Support Program, UIC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, UIC Social Justice Initiative, UIC Student Veteran Affairs, UIC Women's Leadership and Resource Center, and the Windrose Fund at Common Counsel Foundation.

Additional partners include About Face: Veterans Against the War, Chicago Vet Center, Claymore Vets, Coalition of Veterans Organizations, Dissenters, Forest Park Vet Center, Frontline Arts, Prison + Neighborhood Arts/Education Project, Uniting Us, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Vet Art, Veterans For Peace, and Warrior Writers.

\* Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



[VETERAN-ART-MOVEMENT.NET](http://VETERAN-ART-MOVEMENT.NET)