

Artist Statement: Preserving Endangered Languages

Captivated by the intricate tapestry of human languages and the profound cultural heritage they encapsulate, my creative focus lies in raising awareness about endangered languages.

In an increasingly interconnected world, where dominant languages gain prominence, language erosion is occurring at an unprecedented rate. Of the 7000 global languages almost half teeter on the brink of extinction. These linguistic treasures embody wisdom, customs, and unique perspectives of diverse communities. Holding the essence of collective human experience, their loss leaves an irreparable fracture in global cultural heritage.

My installation consists of a 50metre hand-printed 'scroll', detailing over 2500 endangered languages printed on delicate muslin, emphasising the fragility of endangered languages. Tension and gravity turn this 2-dimensional work into a 3-dimensional sculpture. Taking over 200 hours to complete, this is the first stage of the project. It is expected to travel internationally.

Accompanying the 'scroll' is a recording of language and song, highlighting endangered languages native to the location where the work is displayed. Each installation iteration will be different. The space will inform the installation and the soundscape will change with its geography, encouraging in the audience curiosity, empathy, and appreciation for the linguistic diversity that surrounds us.

Driven by a desire to empower communities impacted by potential language loss, collaborating with local organisations, native speakers and institutions, I aim to create art projects that not only raise awareness but facilitate language revitalisation efforts. Through workshops, educational programs, and community events, I hope to inspire individuals and foster a sense of pride, belonging, and cultural significance in indigenous language.

Globalisation threatens to erase the uniqueness of our languages. My artistic journey is a call to action. I invite viewers on this quest to preserve endangered languages and to recognise the invaluable contribution they make to the collective human experience.