

**Material+Visual Worlds**  
**Transdisciplinary Area of Excellence**  
**2025 Spring Semester**

**presents**

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Tulane University

**Naming Waters, Claiming Lands:  
Territorial Fictions and Ecological Entanglements  
in the Gulf South**

**Thursday 10 April**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Fine Arts 258**

This lecture discusses contemporary artists engaging with the layered histories of colonial mapping, plantation geographies, and environmental extraction along the Gulf. Imani Jacqueline Brown exposes the survival of African American burial sites along Cancer Alley, Monique Verdin and the Nanih Bulbancha Collective revive Indigenous mound-building traditions, and Tuan Andrew Nguyen examines memory and landscape for Vietnamese American New Orleans. These artists' works confront territorial fictions first constructed through 18th-century French maps and fortifications, which inscribed racial and spatial hierarchies onto the landscape, as well as in 19th century plantation landscapes of the region — legacies that continue to shape Gulf ecologies and communities today.

**This talk is free and open to the public.**