

Artist Statement

Words Matter transforms books into tactile sculptural forms that draw attention to histories embedded in language. Language is biased; what gets written in history books is skewed. I alter each book in a way that speaks to the context of the book, generally incorporating a textile technique.

Each piece has its own narrative. Words and how they are spoken are integral to our identities and our rights. This body of work offers insight into how we have historically used words that we know now perpetuate prejudice.

Biography

Helena Wadsley lives on the unceded territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw nation in Gibsons, BC, and works with textiles, drawing, and video, incorporating craft techniques into the vernacular of visual art.

She has participated in residencies in Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Yukon. Her work has been exhibited in France, Latvia, Greece, UK, US, Australia, and across Canada.

In the past year, her work has been exhibited in Gibsons, Sechelt, Parksville, Vancouver, and Liverpool, UK. She has

received Canada Council and BC Arts Council grants. Her artwork has appeared in the following recent publications: Quo Vadis, Tradition and Innovation, 7th Riga International Textile and Fibre Art Triennial catalogue, 2023, and Mother Art Prize, 4th edition, by Procreate Project, London, UK, 2025, and Yarn in Contemporary Art, Charlotte Vannier, Pyramyd Editions, 2025. She has a BFA in Art History (Concordia University), Diploma in Studio (ECUAD), and an MFA in Painting (University of Saskatchewan).