

DIGITAL **AGNES**

Agnes Etherington Art Centre at Queen's University
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Francesca Carandang

With Opened Mouths: Community Voices

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SPEAKERS

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KEYWORDS

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TRANSCRIPT

Francesca Carandang: Hello, my name is Francesca and I am a master's student with the Screen Cultures and Curatorial Studies program at Queen's University. Curators have the responsibility to guide the audience's understanding of artifacts, but curator intentions do not always align with audience readings, especially when working with objects that have been stolen. Rather than thinking of museums as a holder of knowledge, we can instead use them as a space for opening conversations between curators and audiences. The preservation of knowledge in the museum exhibits artifacts as objects to only be looked at, placing a barrier between the past and the present. One step forward in allowing cultural objects to have a life outside the museum is to acknowledge history as an ongoing conversation. Opening conversations about history and artifacts in the museum space not only allows them to exist outside the museum, but also allows members of respective communities to have a choice in representing their culture, sharing experiences, and to be heard.