

# DIGITAL **AGNES**

Agnes Etherington Art Centre at Queen's University  
agnes.queensu.ca

## **Illicit Gin Institute, Wolfe Island**

31 March 2023

### **SPEAKERS**

Zina Saro-Wiwa

### **KEYWORDS**

Arts of Africa, Performance Art, Blackness in Canada

### **TRANSCRIPT**

[Music and the sound of the ferry traversing Lake Ontario from Kingston to Wolfe Island]

[Music and the muffled sounds of people talking and laughing]

**Zina Saro-Wiwa:** The thing about the way that we have gin is that it is moderate, and it is medicinal, and it is ritual. And the ritual around the consumption affects how it lives in your body and speaks in your body. And hopefully I'm giving you the space to actually listen to what these plants say in your body. So these kinds of events and spaces, hold space for the idea of listening and waiting and allowing it to come up and realizing, "Oh, that is connected." It comes as no surprise to me that my gin, my particular gin, I experience it as a spiritual entity, not as a humanoid body, but a thing in of itself. I started to experience it – not as a body – but something that I don't quite understand, and I'm still trying to understand its contours now by doing these Assemblies and by figuring out the practice of it, what a spirit is.

[Music]

I find the idea of braiding very, very, very powerful and very interesting. So what I have been doing is braiding our different histories and our culinary histories and brought them together here. The food that we're offering – everything you're about to eat and everything you're about to drink – are from people's gardens, people's histories.

[Music]

[Sound of a loon crying echoing]

[Music]

[Sound of a gong resonating]

[Sound of crickets over outro music]