

DIGITAL **AGNES**

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

Illicit Gin Institute, Wolfe Island

31 March 2023

SPEAKERS

Emelie Chhangur, Terri Lynn Brennan, Zina Saro-Wiwa and recorded voice of Robin Wall
Kimmerer

KEYWORDS

Arts of Africa, Performance Art, Blackness in Canada

TRANSCRIPT

[Sound of windshield wipers in the rain]

[A turn signal]

[Drum beats]

[Door opening]

Emelie Chhangur: Hi everyone, come on in.

Terri Lynn Brennan: Everyone is starting to move in.

I'll welcome you all for a smudge.

The smoke is to cleanse your eyes. So that basically helps what you see tonight. Your ears, for what you hear tonight. Your mouth, for what you say.

[Group of people talking and laughing]

[Bell rings and everyone falls silent]

[Atmospheric music]

Zina Saro-Wiwa: We are from the Ogoni region of the Niger Delta of Nigeria.

I was 19 when he was killed.

Gin. DJ Iodine [words echo]

Distillation.

A spiritual entity.

I am learning what a spirit is.

We have gin, we have all sorts of illicit gins all over Africa – all over West Africa. [echoes]

I think there is spiritual meaning when it comes to African production because of the way that we drink.

It's time to have a drink?

[muffled laughter]

We're going to drink in silence.

[sounds of glasses clinking and gin pouring]

Spirits of the Niger Delta, sumac from Belle Island from Jeanette Harding's garden.

[Bassline beat with sounds of glasses clinking and gin pouring]

Drink within the drink.

Gestures. Facial expressions. Other forms of body language.

[inaudible]

[Bird chittering]

I find the idea of braiding very, very, very powerful and very powerful and that's kind of what's happened here at this event.

[Drums]

[Dance music passes from right to left]

[Applause]

Recording of Robin Wall Kimmerer speaking: Can we bend our heads together and make a braid to honour the Earth? And then I'll hold it for you, while you braid it too.