



Reading the Migration Library

Reading the Migration Library (RML) is a long-running artist project made up of events and publications about migration and displacement. Lois Klassen initiated the project in 2016. Deanne Achong produced the project website (readingthemigrationlibrary.com) in 2021. In 2024 Klassen and Achong worked together to co-host the final phase of RML projects in the series, *Undercurrents and Folds*. The titles that were produced in all three phases of the project are listed below.

RML1: Communities and Connections, the first RML series, was produced in the years 2016 to 2018 (with an additional title in 2023), in partnership with organizations in New Westminster (BC), Santa Fe (NM), Vancouver (BC) and Kingston, (ON). RML1 publications included simple folded pamphlets made in community workshops as well as elaborate chapbooks using innovative binding and printing by writers from SFU's The Writing Studio.

RML1: Communities and Connections titles:

Deanne Achong (2017), *Workin' for the Yankee Dollar*.
Frederick Cummings (2017), *My Nomadic Family*.
Margaret Dragu (2017), *Tweed Curtain Passport / Visa*.
Francisco-Fernando Granados (2017), *Waves*.
Lois Klassen (2016), *Migration, Law & the Image*.
Lois Klassen (2017), *Reading the Migration Map*.
Sarah Klassen (2017), *Train Country Emigrant*.
Misti Ko (2017), *The Migration Pattern of a Single Human*.
Christine Leviczky Riek (2017), *Inventory for a Voyage [Da capo sin' al Fine]*.
Franci Louann (2017), *Charlie Henry Workman (1897-1976) ~The Unspoken*.
Ginger Mason (2023), *Henry Frederick Terry (1907-1980) ~ I Remember*.
Graham McGarva (2017), *A Long Story, this...*
Karen Ngan, Peggy Ngan, Lois Klassen (2017), *Flow*.
Kattia Samayoa (2017), *Paisanos*.
Lib Spry (2018), *We are all living history*.
Jasmine Valandi (2017), *zarf (containers)*.
Elisa Yon (2017), *When Food Tells Stories: A Tale in 12 Courses*, with contributions from Oana Capota, Frederick Cummings, Margaret Dragu, Alan Hill, Sandeep Johal, Kaitlin Kazmierowski, Lois Klassen, Jackline Omondi, and Lilia Yon.
Elisa Yon (2017), *Repetition and Texture and Pattern in National Geographic*.

RML2: Poetics and Actions, the second RML series (2020-2021) was produced during the COVID19 pandemic and carried a unifying design by book designer Victoria Lum. A group of commissioned artists and writers produced artist books in partnership with Library of Africa and the African Diaspora (Accra, Ghana) and with funding from the BC Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts.

RML2: Poetics and Actions titles:

Gabriel Awuah Mainoo (2021), *We Are Moulting Birds*, in the bound 3-book set labeled *Ghanaian Writing on Migration and Diaspora*.



Madame Beespeaker and Lori Weidenhammer (2021), *Feeding the Migration (Painted Lady)*.
Carlos Colín (2020), *Tierra y Libertad / Little México*.
Crista Dahl (2020), *The Migrators*, with contributions from Jairo Salazar and Lois Klassen.
Gabriela Galíndez (2021), *Notas sobre un recorrido: el Centro de Procesamiento de El Paso / Notes on a Tour: the El Paso Processing Center*.
A.B. Godfreed & Saan (2021), *On Loss: Two Poems from Ghana*, in the bound 3-book set labeled *Ghanaian Writing on Migration and Diaspora*.
Jay Kophy (2021), *Walking on Water*, in the bound 3-book set labeled *Ghanaian Writing on Migration and Diaspora*.

RML3: Undercurrents and Folds (2024) is hosted collaboratively by Lois Klassen (Vancouver) and Deanne Achong (Newfoundland). From either side of Turtle Island, Klassen and Achong have assembled a group of artists who offer creative responses to topics of displacement, diaspora, arrivals and failed arrivals, travel over sovereign Indigenous territory, and the violence of forcible containment caused by colonizing states.

Klassen and Achong bring to this phase their past experiences with previous RML publications and events. While Lois Klassen is the founding artist-editor of RML with a hand in creating many of the previous publications and events, Deanne Achong is the web designer-developer behind ReadingtheMigrationLibrary.com (and its parent, LightFactoryPublications.ca), and the artist-author of *Workin' for the Yankee Dollar* (RML1, 2017).

RML3: Undercurrents and Folds titles:

Deanne Achong (2024), *Mama D'Lo and Missy G Under the Sea*.
Peter Morin and Leah Decter (2024), *x: the meeting place makes the spine*.
Sarah Shamash (2024), *Didactics to Postpone the End of the World*.
Candie Tanaka (2024), *Hanafuda 花札 (Flower Cards)*.
Tania Willard and Leah Decter (2024), *Directions to BUSH Gallery*.
Clare Yow (2024), *ac-cu-mu-la-tions*.

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RML publications are available by exchange at events and through mail art. Follow the “Exchange” tab on the project web site to see descriptions of previous exchanges and for information on how to participate.

The entire RML collection is available for purchase (\$1000) for public archives and libraries.

RML3 publications are now available for reviewers and public libraries holding zine collections.

For more information on exchanges, copies, and purchases, contact:

Lois Klassen,
lightfactorypublications@gmail.com

RML books are published by Light Factory Publications (LFP). LFP produces artist books and projects that are urgent in their need to meet a public.

LFP

LightFactoryPublications.ca