



Mercer Union
a centre for contemporary art

For Immediate Release

Mercer Union presents Suneil Sanzgiri's first institutional solo exhibition in Canada

The acclaimed Brooklyn artist will premiere a stunning new film
exploring liberatory struggles both past and present

MARCH 19, 2025 (TORONTO, CANADA) — Mercer Union presents *An Impossible Address* by **Suneil Sanzgiri** from **April 12–June 14, 2025**. Marking the artist's first institutional solo exhibition in Canada, the exhibition features a new film by the same name: *An Impossible Address*, the 10th project developed through Mercer Union's trailblazing *Artist First* commissioning platform. Haunted by questions of disappearance, loss, and revolutionary struggle, the film continues Sanzgiri's examination of the life of Sita Valles and the bonds of solidarity that developed between India and Africa against the Portuguese empire.

"Arriving at our 10th *Artist First* commission underscores Mercer Union's dedication to supporting artists in creating new and experimental work," says Theresa Wang, Director & Curator of Mercer Union. "The commissioning platform has enabled us to champion Canadian and international artists alike, facilitating first-time Canadian institutional presentations of works that have gone on to flourish through tours, exhibitions, and screenings. Presenting Suneil Sanzgiri's *An Impossible Address* is a significant milestone in many regards. For Sanzgiri, it represents an opportunity to expand his audiences and explore new contexts for his work. For Mercer Union, it aligns with our mission to introduce Canadian audiences to compelling artistic practices that speak to the pressing issues of our time."

An Impossible Address is a kaleidoscopic and sonically vibrant journey shot on location in Angola, Goa, and Portugal, that combines Sanzgiri's signature visual language of 16mm film with digital animation, hand-processing, 3D scanning, and archival translations. The film is conceived as a letter to Valles, whose figure haunts Sanzgiri as he pulls at historical threads that expose contemporary expressions of empire and anti-colonial struggle today.

The film is presented within an installation that references the 1955 Asian-African Conference, the first significant gathering of states from the two continents held in Bandung, Indonesia, and remembered today for the novelty of the endeavour as well as its theatricality. The installation features monochromatic, abstracted flags made of acoustic felt, representing the 29 nations that were present at the conference, and invites viewers of the film to take up seven red seats—in a nod to the central panel that chaired the conference.

"Raw and surging with questions, *An Impossible Address* (2025) is a film that wades into the profound irresolution of disappearance and death amidst liberatory struggle," says Aamna Muzaffar, Curator & Head of Exhibitions at Mercer Union, and the curator of Sanzgiri's exhibition. "At a time when our social, civic, and political worlds are in a state of accelerated erosion, Canadian

audiences of contemporary art and experimental film know that critically engaged and socially relevant artworks enrich the public discourse needed in our communities.”

Suneil Sanzgiri is an artist, researcher, and filmmaker. His first institutional solo exhibition *Here the Earth Grows Gold* opened at the Brooklyn Museum in October 2023. His award-winning films have circulated widely at film festivals and art institutions across the world including Mass MoCA, Massachusetts (2024), Wexner Center for the Arts, Ohio (2024), de Appel, Netherlands (2024), REDCAT, California (2022); Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh (2024), Jameel Arts Centre, UAE (2024), e-Flux, New York (2023), moCa Cleveland, Ohio (2022), The Menil Collection, Texas (2022), International Film Festival Rotterdam (2020 - 2022), New York Film Festival (2020), BFI London Film Festival (2024); Viennale (2021), Blackstar Film Festival (2020 - 2024), Open City Docs (2021), and many more.

For more information about the exhibition, visit mercerunion.org. Public programming includes an artist talk in partnership with Mercer Union’s fORUM series and the University of Toronto’s Master of Visual Studies Proseminar Series, and a screening curated by the artist in partnership with TIFF and Images Festival. Sanzgiri will also present two public billboards, curated by Muzaffar, as part of the 2025 CONTACT Photography Festival, titled *My Memory is Again in the Way of Your History (After Agha Shahid Ali)* (2023–ongoing).

An Impossible Address (2025) is commissioned by Mercer Union, Toronto; and EMPAC—Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, New York.

Suneil Sanzgiri: *An Impossible Address* is made possible with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts through the Arts Abroad Program. The exhibition is presented in partnership with CONTACT Photography Festival, and Images Festival, Toronto.



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An Impossible Address is presented as part of *Artist First*, a Mercer Union commissioning platform. *Artist First* commissions are made possible with the generous support of Femi & Aminat Adeyinka, Kaye & Paul Beeston, Rebecca Carbin, Anouchka Freybe & Scott Connell, Joanna & Meric Gertler, Miles Gertler, Popsy Johnstone, Christie Kirchner, Margaret McNee, Matt Meagher, David & Erica Neligan, Frances & Tim Price, Lauren Charyk Silverberg, and Carlos Yep. Learn more at mercerunion.org/support.

artist^{first}

Public programs

fORUM: Suneil Sanzgiri artist talk

Monday, April 7 at 6:30pm

University of Toronto, Daniels Building, 1 Spadina Crescent, Room 170

Join Suneil Sanzgiri for an artist talk as part of Mercer Union's ongoing program series fORUM and presented in partnership with the Master of Visual Studies Proseminar Series at the University of Toronto. The evening will be introduced by Gareth Long, Assistant Professor and Director of the MVS program.

Infinite Returns curated by Suneil Sanzgiri

Wednesday, April 9 at 6:30pm

TIFF Lightbox, 350 King Street W

From notions like the anti-colonial leader, poet, and agronomist Amilcar Cabral's concept of "returning to the source," to the "right to return" for Palestinians and displaced Indigenous people across the globe, how can film be used to disrupt the settler logic of static time and linear progression? Spanning struggles and geographies across the Caribbean, India, Bangladesh, Angola, and Palestine, this program looks to artists and filmmakers who use a diversity of tactics of staging return through an examination of artifacts of the past, re-creations, rehearsals, repetitions, reincarnations, speculative fictions, and spectro-poems. This program proposes film as a possible site for exhibiting and envisioning an infinite number of returns of people, land, resources, kinships, and insurgencies. With works by Suneil Sanzgiri, Onyeka Igwe, Basel Abbas & Ruanne Abou-Rahme, Sarah Maldoror, Naeem Mohaiemen, and Noor Abed.

About Mercer Union

Mercer Union is a non-profit, artist-run centre dedicated to commissioning and producing new works of contemporary art, and providing an engaging program that encourages critical inquiry and conversation. We champion ambitious exhibitions that empower diverse Canadian and international artists in formative and established stages of their practice.

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Press kit and photos

bit.ly/AnImpossibleAddress

Press contact

Ines Min

+1 604 440 0791

ines@inesmin.com