

# Windows @ Walgreens

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**Elysa D. Batista**

*Submersible Thoughts*

On view Feb. 3 – April 25, 2021  
7340 Collins Ave, Miami Beach



Oolite Arts

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Above and Right: Walgreens 74th street

Responding to the world coming to a standstill, *Submersible Thoughts* creates a pause, a moment for reflection and reimagining in a time of loss, disconnection and uncertainty.

The work of Elysa D. Batista transforms language into sculptural installations, exploring the multiplicity of meanings and contexts that words exist within. Giving weight to words, Batista turns the subconscious and intangibility of language into works of art that intervene space.

simultaneously linked yet dis





Walgreens 74th, Collins Avenue







Above and Right: Walgreens 74th, Collins Avenue

Growing up with a sister by the same name, the importance of language and words became invaluable to Batista in order to define her individuality. Words become a veil that conceal the artist's body but create an entry point for inward exploration of personal experiences, dynamics in power structures and nationality.

This installation poetically addresses the shifts in the world over the last year. As individuals were forced into isolation, new forms of connectivity shifted our means of staying in touch.

"Keeping to ourselves simultaneously linked yet disconnected," a haiku that encompasses the feelings behind the shift into physical isolation, while carrying with it a hope toward alternate forms of connections. The haiku, created from what she calls "napkin notes" stems from a larger body of writings that were done as a type of coping mechanism during isolation.



Travelling along this installation on Collins Ave, you encounter the anagram “NEAR RANE EARN,” spaced between window panes. This phrase narrates some of the notions behind our loss of intimacy and community. The journey, beginning at the nearness we lost moves into an extended cry of longing and presently into the realization that we need to earn back the closeness we once took for granted. As the day turns to night, the windows fill with blue light submerging the text, similarly to how our thoughts build throughout the day and into the night.

For Batista, creating work for the Walgreens windows gives her an opportunity to develop site-specific installations that become encounters for passersby within the daily routine and commutes of life. Uniquely so, the works seek to engage curiosity through an unexpected art encounter.

– **Amanda Bradley**, Programs Manager at Oolite Arts

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## About the Artist

Born in Panama City, Panama. **Elysa D. Batista** received her BFA in Graphic Design from the University of Miami (2009) and her MFA from Parsons the New School of Design (2013). Batista is a mixed media artist who works with language, specifically the multiplicity of meaning according to different contexts. Her three-dimensional work explores personal experiences with dynamics in power structures and nationality, and is interpreted through the use of semiotics.



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**Oolite Arts** strives to support its alumni community of artists through site-specific projects sponsored by Walgreens. In partnership since 2000, Oolite Arts and Walgreens present innovative exhibitions to bring contemporary art to the Miami Beach community.

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*Walgreens*



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