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14.11 2024 18.01 2025

## Veronica Mockler I Won't Do It Alone

» Opening on **November 14** at 6 pm

» The gallery is open from Tuesday to Saturday from noon to 5 pm

**Veronica Mockler's work uses participatory dialogue to investigate processes of shared authority. Her art practice seeks to redefine who and how we can participate in the institutions of art, citizenship, and knowledge.**

From 2022-2024, Mockler led *À l'image - Takeover*, an outreach project for Dazibao, in partnership with Black community organizations of Little Burgundy neighborhood in Montréal, which aimed to give a cohort of young women a platform to collectively respond to the gallery's exhibitions through the artistic medium of their choice. As an artist and leader, her role in this project involved establishing a framework, guiding discussions, and coordinating participants to realize their projects. Following *À l'image - Takeover*, Dazibao invited Mockler to create a follow-up response that would address her experience and how socially engaged practices steer the development of the artists who undertake them.

For *I Won't Do It Alone*, Mockler implemented a durational structure wherein every hour from 9 to 5, for 5 days, she speaks to the camera for two and a half minutes in what she calls "briefings". Unscripted and unedited, each briefing was then sent to different participants from past projects, inviting them to respond in a video of their own. The accumulated videos meander through personal, artistic, and social issues including precarity, privilege, authenticity, worth, ethics, form, and many more.

Over the course of the diligently executed task, the moniker "briefing" is switched out for "confession," "testimony," "address," and "experiment." The open-endedness of dialogue as a form, when applied to the artist and her participants in novel solitude, collapses into a kind of void as they stumble into a labyrinth of ideas—or perhaps more accurately, a labyrinth of thinking. They try to identify the strands of meaning that underwrite life and art at large, at times constructing false oppositions and at others finding truth in utter simplicity.



© Veronica Mockler, *I Won't Do It Alone* (2024)

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dazibao.art

Drawing on oral storytelling, documentary practice and social pedagogy, Veronica Mockler's work treats the experience of speaking and listening to others as a political art form. Since 2022, she has been an artist-in-residence at the Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance at Concordia University as part of the UNESCO Chair in the Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism, in which she focuses on the challenge of institutional inclusion and class solidarity in the face of increased global polarization. She is also a founding member of BANAL, a music and performance collective dedicated to the sensing of contentious public opinion. Mockler's collaborations with BANAL collective have been included in programs at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal and the Centro de Cultura Digital in Mexico City. Her video installation, *The Third Screen*, premiered at the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling's Acts of Listening Lab (Concordia University) and was presented at UNIONDOCS (New York) and at the World Forum for Acoustic Ecology at the Atlantic Center for the Arts (Florida). In 2023, she was invited as a researcher-artist to the Tokyo Art Farm Festival, in the context of the Tokyo Biennale.

The artist would like to thank the participants: SafiaB, Sa'naa T'Yanna Bishop-Méus, Serena Beaulieu, Tahar Behlouli, Ahmed Benkhalifa, Line Bonneau, Kevin Callahan, Anna Maria Camino, Paul Anthony Clarke, Lucille Garant, Charles-Antoine Gosselin, Amanda Gutierrez, Banafsheh Hassani, Hunnayna Hemed, Susana Hennessey Lavery, Dorothy Hunter, Eugénie Jobin, Leslie Kapo, Modibo Keita, Gabriel Lajournade, Kendra McDonald, Robin Price, Richard Quirion, Florencia Sosa Rey, Troy Tailfeathers, Andrew Woods.

The artist would like to thank Vivek Venkatesh, Dean and James McGill Professor at McGill University's Faculty of Education, for his support of her research.

The present exhibition includes a [booklet of essays](#) by some of *À l'image - Takeover*'s participants describing their experience. Visit our [website](#) to access the eight *À l'image - Takeover* projects and know more about its participants.



Dazibao thanks the artist for her generous collaboration as well as its advisory committee for their support.

Dazibao receives financial support from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, the ministère de la Culture et des Communications and the Ville de Montréal.

Dazibao acknowledges that it is located on the unceded territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation and that Tiohtiá:ke / Montreal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations, and today, is home to a diverse population of Indigenous as well as other peoples. Guided by ethics of respect, listening, and awareness, Dazibao commits to a continued reflection regarding the deep-rooted and systemic challenges tied to accessibility and inclusivity in the arts and beyond, and endeavors to apply such reflections to all aspects of its activities and governance.