

Isole: A Voyage Among My Dreams
 Education & Engagement Exhibition Guide

On view September 18 through June 22, 2025
 Wed-Sun, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. / and by appointment

[*Isole: A Voyage Among My Dreams*](#), by D.C.-based artist [Cianne Fragione](#), features a combination of paintings, drawings, and assemblages in conversation with Eugenio Montale’s collection of poems, *Ossi di Seppia*. Created with oil paint and mixed-media materials, this exhibition draws on similar types of motifs that refer to memories, traditions, and histories. Using gestural marks inspired by movement, Fragione conjures images of the land, sky, and sea. Repurposed materials, such as shoes, lace, and journal pages, evoke sites of cultural heritage. Together, language, motion, and materials blur the lines between spatial and temporal boundaries, calling attention to the fluid nature of human experience.

Themes: cyclical time, reusing, poetry, the sea, memory, cultural heritage, nature as metaphor

Eugenio Montale / *Ossi di Seppia*

[Eugenio Montale](#) (1896-1981) was an Italian poet, prose writer, editor, and translator who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1975. His first collection of poems, [*Ossi di Seppia*](#) (1925; “Cuttlefish Bones”), expresses the desolation of the postwar period through intricate descriptions of the land and sea.

During her creative process, Cianne Fragione often calls on this collection for inspiration. After engaging with a poem—circling some words and crossing out others—she uses the language as a launching point for her own work. She has cited one poem in particular, “Mediterraneo” (“The Mediterranean”), for its impact on her recent exhibition, *Isole: A Voyage Among My Dreams*.

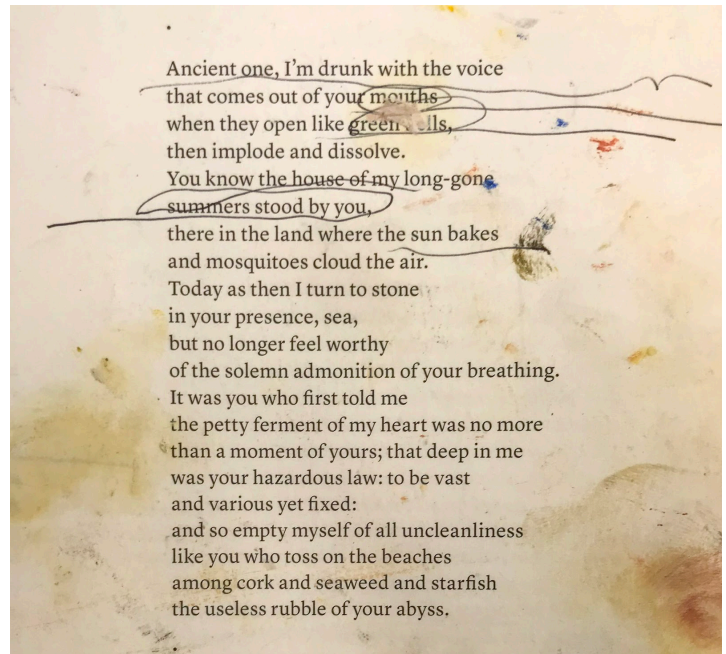


Image: Artist Cianne Fragione's copy and marks on Montale's *Mediterranean*.

Engagement Activities + Prompts

Erasure Poetry

[Erasure poetry](#), also known as blackout poetry, involves obscuring portions of an existing text to create something new. During this process, poets pay attention to words and phrases that evoke something beyond the scope of the original text. The way that Cianne Fragione interacts with poetry (described above) is similar.

Create your own erasure poem by finding and printing a document such as an advertisement or article. Using a pen or pencil, circle words that you find interesting. Then, try crossing out portions of the remaining text to create new sentences. If you want, print multiple documents to experiment with different variations.

- How does deconstructing/reconstructing the document change its meaning?
- In what ways can you enhance or subvert the messages you find in the text?
- As a bonus, try responding to your erasure poem with an additional creative project (e.g., drawing, painting, etc.).

Ekphrastic Poetry

The word [ekphrasis](#), meaning “description,” stems from ancient Greece. Today, ekphrastic poetry refers to poetry written about works of art. In this genre, poets describe and expand on concepts present in the art from which they draw inspiration. Cianne Fragione practices a similar technique, but in reverse; poetry becomes a point of entry for her visual creations.

Create your own ekphrastic poem by viewing and responding to a work of art, such as a drawing, painting, photograph, or sculpture. Start by writing down your observations about the art, then make connections to your own life.

- What memories does the piece evoke?
- How does it make you feel?

If you're more interested in creating visual art, try responding to a poem.

- What colors, shapes, or textures do the words evoke?
- What emotions do they create, and how might those emotions inform your creative decisions?

Engagement Resources

Artist & Curator Dialogue



During opening week, Saint Mary's College Museum of Art (SMCMoA) hosted a dialogue between Cianne Fragione and the curator, Britt Royer. This event, which lasted approximately 90 minutes, centered around Fragione's exhibition, *Isole: A Voyage Among My Dreams*. Following the dialogue, audience members participated by asking questions. For those who were unable to attend this event, a [video recording](#) is available. Members of the SMC community are encouraged to watch and listen, especially those interested in learning more about Fragione's life and artistic process. This video may also serve as a source of inspiration, especially for students in creative academic programs.

Exhibition Catalogue

The exhibition *Isole: A Voyage Among My Dreams* is accompanied by a 68-page full-color [catalogue](#) with a complete illustrated checklist. The catalogue includes a director's introduction (Lauren MacDonald), an artist's essay (Cianne Fragione), a curator's essay (Britt Royer), and an MFA poem (han briner). Designed by Olivia Basic, this catalogue provides additional information about Fragione's life and work.

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Cianne Fragione

September 18, 2024—June 22, 2025
Saint Mary's College Museum of Art | Moraga, California

