

Overexposed

UBC
Pride
Online

Artist Showcase 3
Gray Park





“The Magpie and Tiger Die Together in the Garden of Temptation”

The Oriental magpie and the Siberian tiger are two representative South Korean national animals often depicted together in minhwa (traditional Korean art), the latter having connections to colonial history as populations of the highly revered predator were strategically culled during imperial occupation. The tiger continues to live on in folk tradition and popular culture as a representation of the Korean spirit. As a member of the Korean diaspora, I am racialized before I am perceived as trans, perhaps before I am perceived as anything else. My ethnicity and the yellow of my skin speak before I am given an opportunity, my slanted eyes are shut. This piece is an exploration of my complicated grief of seeing people that look, live, and speak like me berated, attacked, harassed, minimized on a daily basis. Our elders fear for their lives just as our youth do. The pain that comes with hatred outside of my control is palpable and informs every aspect of my life - as a trans and non-binary individual, I'm already quite used to being hyperaware of my existence, monitoring the slightest quiver of my fingertips as I pace down the street, my eyes darting in avoidance of others'. Words fail me - there is no succinct way for me to verbalize my pain. Together we die in the garden of Temptation, at the hands of those who prey upon us, those who hunt us for sport with no acknowledgment of our pain.



Gray Park (they/them)

Gray Park (@countcupid) is a trans, non-binary, Korean multidisciplinary artist currently in their second year of undergrad, with an interest in cultural anthropology, sociology, and visual arts. They were born and raised in so-called Canada, and are settled on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. Gray's work explores their intersectional identity and seeks to deride and ridicule socially prescribed roles and expectations. Outside of their studies and traditional or digital mediums, Gray is a drag artist and all-around "gender trickster" under many pseudonyms, who looks to queer spaces both on stage and out in the institutional world, bringing some much needed fun to traditionally serious realms.