



Leah M. Bowie

interdisciplinary artist | researcher | writer

Exploring memory, diaspora, and ecological listening through sound, performance, and digital cartographies.

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Lines | Collaborative Performance in Zurich | Leah Muriel Bowie (left) | Andrea Maciel (right) | Photography: Priska Ketter



Leah M. Bowie (they/them) is a Sri Lankan–Swiss interdisciplinary artist and writer based between Switzerland and London.

Their work unfolds at the intersections of memory, identity, ecology, and alternative epistemologies, moving fluidly across performance, sound, illustration, digital cartographies, and language.

With a professional background in journalism, Leah brings narrative precision and a sensitivity to language to their artistic research. Their practice resists linearity and certainty, creating membranes of encounter, screens, translucent walls, zines, and scores, that hold partial truths, diasporic grief, and speculative narratives. These works offer glimpses of what slips beyond language or remains unspoken, crafting spaces where fragmented knowing can exist without being forced into coherence.

Leah's academic background spans Computer Science, Environmental Science, and Asian Studies, alongside postgraduate training in Creative Writing, Creative Methods, and Creation & Scenario in Music at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). Their research explores feminist and diasporic methodologies, ecological and non-extractive listening, and digital cartographies of care.



Vom Erlkönig | Solo Performance in Zurich | Photography: Rahel Enny

Achiamma

This project began as a film tracing the story of my Sri Lankan grandmother, Achiamma, whom I met only once as a child. Yet the story resisted clarity. Our connection is scattered and interrupted by silence, diaspora, and distance.

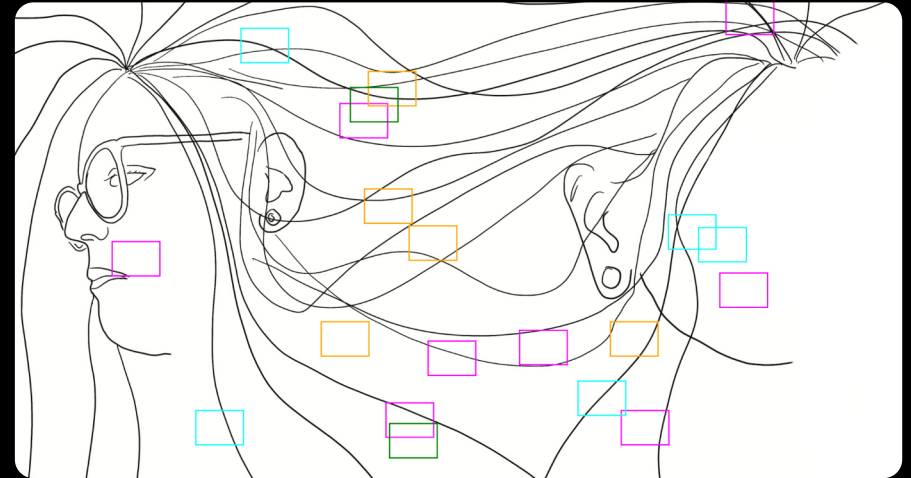
What emerged instead is a visual map, a cartography of fragmented inheritance. Scenes became sketches, sounds became descriptions, and the resulting gaps were rendered visible rather than filled. The work embraces incompleteness as an honest expression of longing and dislocation.

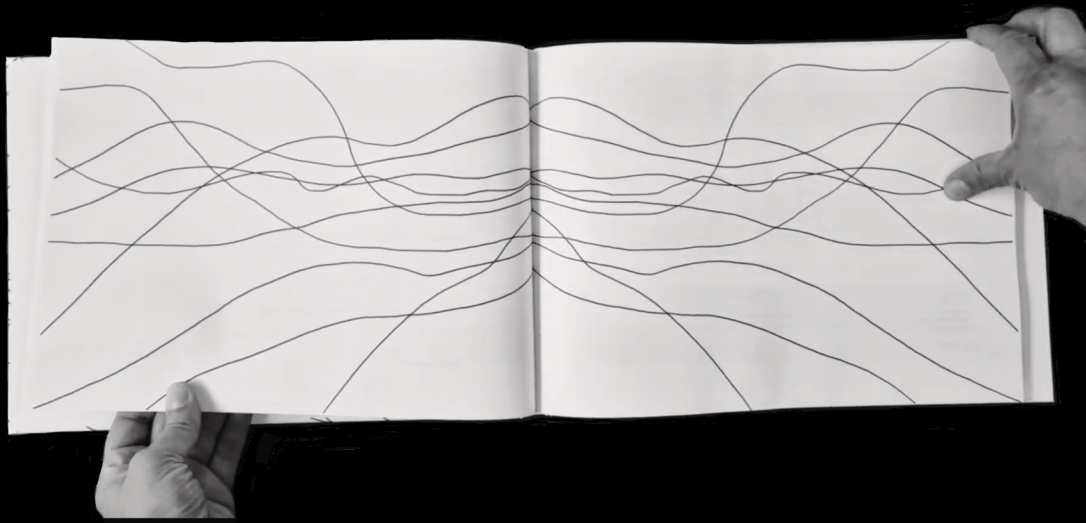
Built from sensory fragments - video textures, written traces, sonic impressions - Achiamma reconfigures itself with each viewing. Performance and code act as methods of remembering: tentative, porous, shaped by the fragility of hearing and the body's own distortions.

Viewers are invited to navigate freely through this shifting terrain of memory and loss. It is not a tribute, but an attempt to touch what has always been partially out of reach.

View the trailer: <https://youtu.be/j2k3AuWxitE>

Visit the website: <https://leahmbowie.github.io/achiamma/>





Dis-Place: A Performative Archive

Dis-Place is a performative archive of memory and trace. It gathers fragments from thirty-three homes lived across four continents, each distilled into an artefact and a score. Rather than documenting the past, it invites re-performance, transforming absence into presence, displacement into an act of making. Presented as a book, Dis-Place interweaves drawings, texts, and performance scores to explore how memory persists through artefacts. Each encounter becomes a new re-performance, reminding us that memory and home are not fixed, but continually re-made.

View the archive video: <https://youtu.be/dIWAencG9lk>



Lines: A Poem | A Series of Performances

Lines is a series of performances emerging from the Dis-Place archive. It traces the connections, the spaces between the moments that shape a life. Lines speaks of memory and becoming, of the invisible threads that hold our stories together. Formed through words, sounds, and gestures, it moves in shadows, repetitions, and strokes. Each line is both trace and anticipation: the marks we leave behind and the ones that guide us forward. In this sense, Lines is not separate from us. Lines are us.

The premiere of Lines took place on July 5, 2024 with the unfra-me ensemble in Zurich.

View the trailer: <https://youtu.be/AgK0KeZOUH4>

2025

One month **art residency** in Hrísey, Iceland

Premiere of the short film **Cosplay** in Vienna

Publication of **Achiamma**

Visual Art **Exhibition** at the Festival der Kulturen in Bern

Performance with the duo **Le&Lo** in Bern

2024

Performance **Lines**, Zurich

Publication of **Dis-Place: A Performative Archive**

Publication of the book **Seiten des Glücks** with three other authors

Performance **Home II** at the Museumsnacht, Bern

Performance **Home I** at the Festival der Kulturen, Bern

2023

Performance **Filters** at Der Ort in Biel, Switzerland

Performance **Vom Erbkönig**, Zurich

Education

Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in **Creation & Scenario in Music, Creationship, and Creative Writing**,
Zurich University of the Arts (ZhdK)

Focusing on Creation, a mentoring programme in music

Performance with Charlotte Hug, University of the Arts, Zurich

MAS in **Asian Studies**, University of Geneva

MSc in **Computer Science**, University of Fribourg

BSc in **Computer Science** and **Environmental Science**,
University of Fribourg



Lines | unfra-me | Photography: Tae Peter | Leonie Berger | Leah Muriel Bowie