

## VOICE

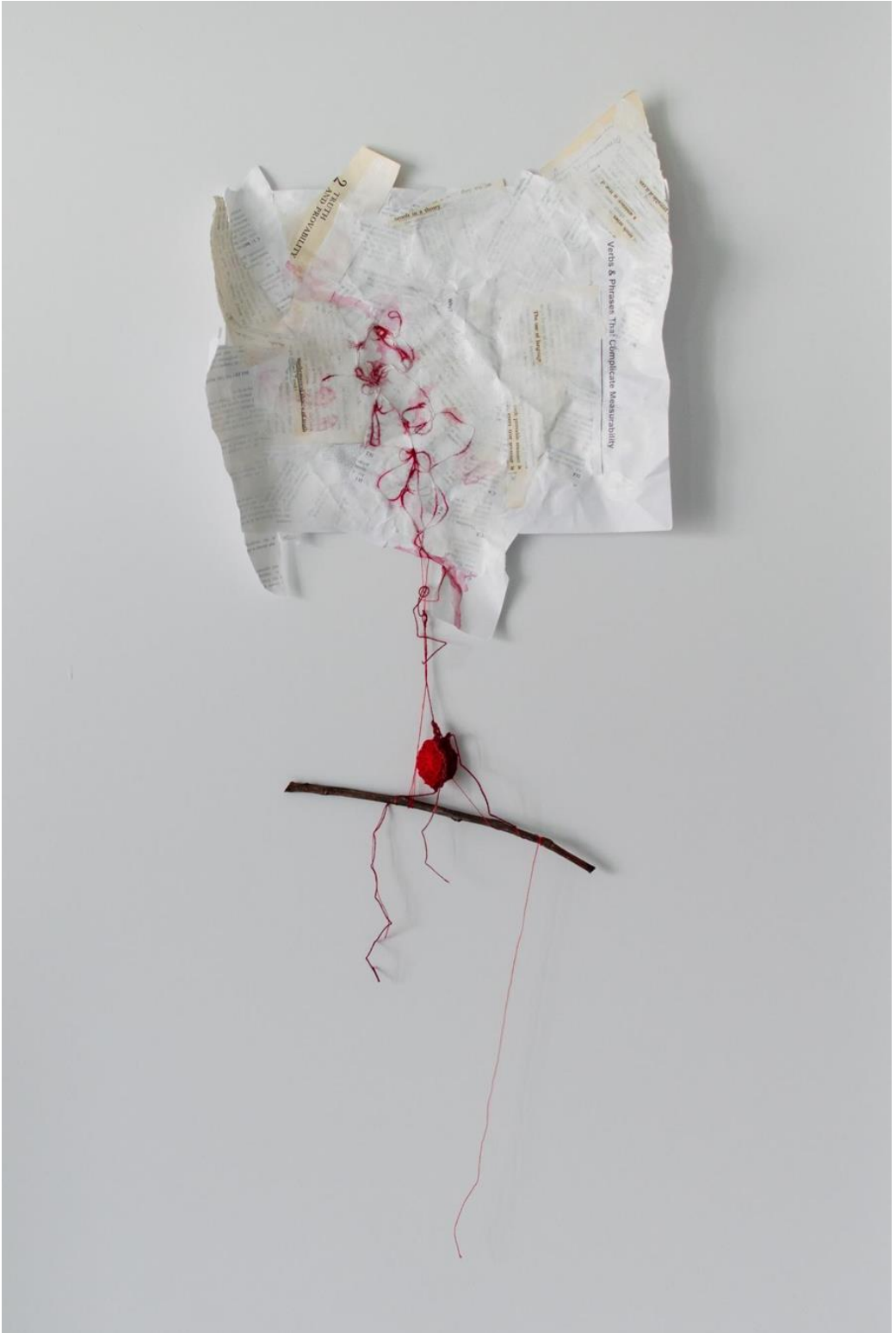
**Patricia Hoi Ling Ki**

### **Abstract**

This piece refers to a recurring dream about not being able to speak, not being able to be heard, and therefore, not being able to push back against threats of violence. I created it after having conversations with other Asian women about how we are constantly trying to speak out against systemic violence in organizations that claim to be anti-oppressive, and yet, are almost entirely made up of white folk at the managerial level. Our words momentarily capture attention – perhaps people are shocked at the assertiveness and articulateness of Asian women who are stereotyped as passive and politically apathetic – and we receive acknowledgement, apologies, and offers of help. But over time, we realize that not only has no meaningful change been made, but that we are now no longer invited to the table for discussions. The polite responses always drown out the calls for change, or the offers of help are conditional, requiring us to conform to a white middleclass standard of social respectability that erases our very ways of being and the agency of choice. At the same time, my conversations with friends remind me that we can still draw on each other for strengths, inspirations, and creative strategies to persist in our various spaces; to find small ways of resistance against what bell hook (1995) calls “white supremacist capitalist patriarchy” (p. 17); to continue to keep alive the dream of a less violent future.

### **Keywords**

intersectionality, anti-Asian racism, racialized misogyny, white supremacy, performative activism, feminism

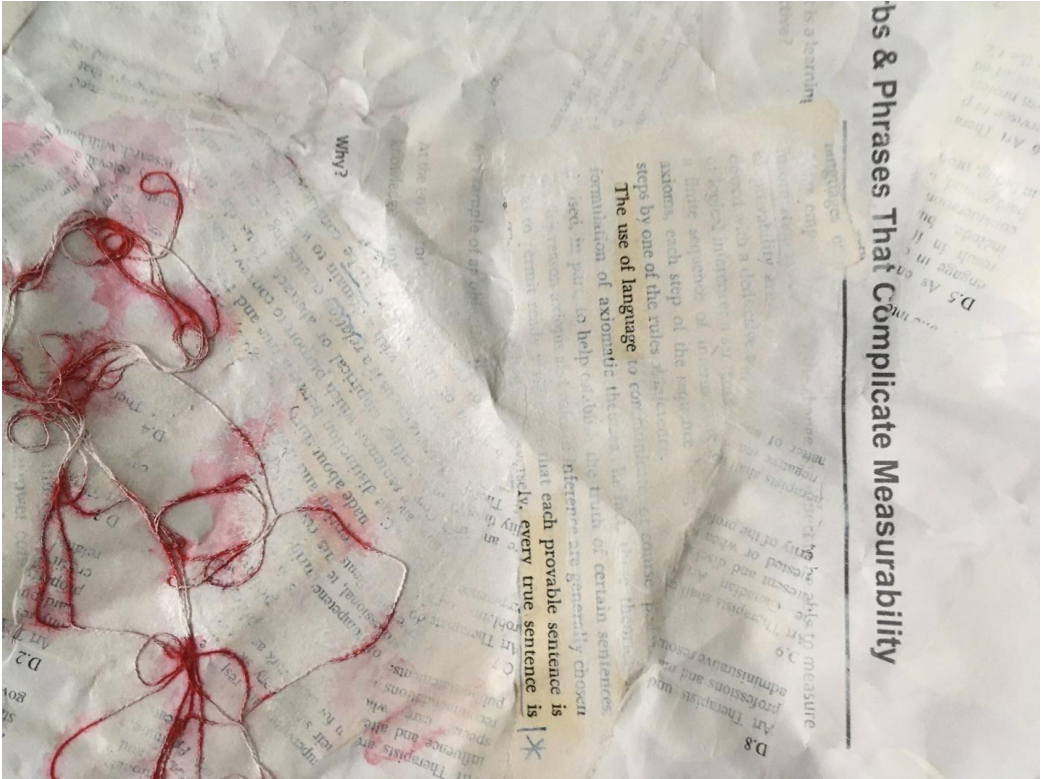


Verbs & Phrases That Complicate Measurement

2. **What** **And** **How** **Often**

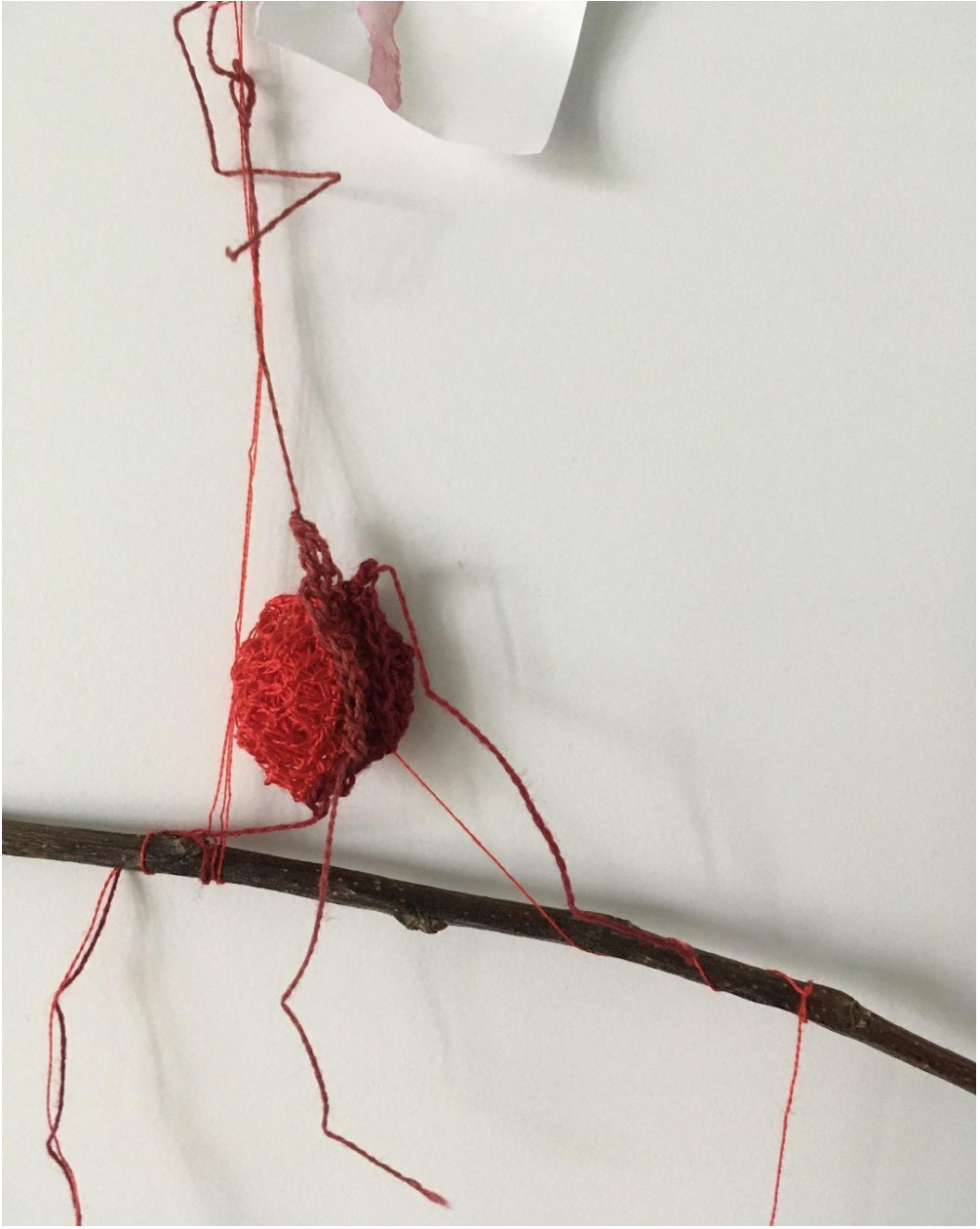
## VOICE

A recurring dream of trying to speak, to yell, but my voice keeps getting smaller, my tongue forgets how to form words, the air feels like a white haze that sound doesn't cut through, and people keep doing what I'm trying to tell them not to.



*You say you're telling the truth? Prove it. Prove that harm was done. Show me measurable evidence, statistics. I can't understand these jargons, explain it with words people understand.*

To insist on having a voice for people not expected to have one is like pouring our lifeblood into the void. But my conversations with my dear friends remind me that we knit together this one heart that persists – the feminist resistance against white supremacist capitalist patriarchy. It may feel precarious and pointless, like perching on a twig attached to nothing, but we find stability in coming together, reaching toward the unknown, the not-yet-tried, not-yet-possible, to build a less violent future.



## References

hooks, bell. (1995). *Killing Rage: Ending Racism*. New York: Henry Holts and Company.

## Acknowledgments

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## Author Biography

Patricia Hoi Ling Ki is an immigrant settler with Chinese/Hakka ancestry, originally from Hong Kong, currently living and working in Tkaronto. She is a PhD candidate in the Critical Disability Studies program at York University. She is also a graduate of the Ontario College of Art & Design (BFA 2007), the Toronto Art Therapy Institute (2011) and York University (BSW 2013, MSW 2014). Previously, she worked as an art therapist and social worker primarily in mental health services. Currently, she works as an instructor and student placement supervisor in art therapy. Her dissertation is a collaborative arts-based study, which contemplates the ethics, practices, and pedagogy of care that avoid replicating violence in professionalized care settings.