

## **Resume**

Name:

Devin Nicole Johnson

E-mail:

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Preferred media:

digital art, computer graphics, print

tech. skills / software usage:

adobe photoshop, adobe illustrator, adobe inDesign, adobe after effects

## Senior Project

### Title:

ᵂᵒᵒᵝᵝ3 (Pagbabalikloob, or Return to Source)

### Description:

In *Pagbabalikloob*, I look towards the archetype of the *babaylan* for guidance and inspiration. The *babaylan* is an ancient Philippine revolutionary and priestess-poet who provides healing, wisdom, and direction through prayer and poetry. I seek to write her spiritual teachings back into existence. In doing so, I found it appropriate to reference the ancient pre-hispanic script that the *babaylan* used to share her teachings: ᵒᵒᵝ (*baybayin*).

*Baybayin* is a deeply spiritual and intuitive script. Its characters visually carry profound and multidimensional symbolisms that go beyond merely signifying linguistic sounds. For example the ᵒ (*ba*) in *babaylan*, drawn in the shape of breasts/buttocks/womb, symbolizes the feminine *diwa* (essence). The ᵝ (*la*) is drawn in the shape of a penis or sperm, symbolizing the masculine principle. Together, they evoke the act of divine creation. To be able to truly understand the *baybayin* script requires one to practice *talinghaga*. As De Guia writes in her book *Kapwa*, *talinghaga* is “a holistic lifestyle that was anchored in prayer and devotion.” It is a “process of reflection, contemplation... it is thinking and seeing in metaphors, and it entails a matter of inner sight.” Anyone can cultivate *talinghaga*, as it is a form of intuition and tacit knowing that is derived from a universal symbolism.

In *Pagbabalikloob*, I seek to borrow from the characters and symbolisms of *baybayin* to intuitively create aesthetic forms that call forth a sacred indigenous and universal knowing (mainly, as the designer of the modern Babaylan mandala Perla Daly writes, that “within one’s *loob* or deepest inner being, there is not just a shared humanity, but also a shared inner life that connects us with each other and with all cosmic existence.”) *Pagbabalikloob* is a series of offerings in the form of aesthetic prayers from me, to my ancestors, and to you, my *kapwa* (kindred beings).

## Previous Work



Title:

*Ninuno*

Description:

Bones are the last earthly traces of the dead. They evoke something that transcends the transient nature of flesh: an ancestral knowledge and memory. They allow our ancestors to continue passing down their wisdom onto us, acting as vessels to carry their messages and wisdom.

Animated projection onto a spinal piece, 2 minute loop