

IMAGES OF RESISTANCE PROMO VIDEO TRANSCRIPTION

My role in this project is to help narrate the lived experiences of the Tamil community in which I'm part of, and to try to really display the stories of what happened during the 2009 Gardiner protests.

This project is "Images of Resistance." It's an archive of action. This project is kind of telling that story of those protests, in certain days during those months, you know, we were losing thousands of people on a single day, but the civil war and the kind of genocidal act of the government had continued right from the "independence from the British."

In addition to talking about the genocide and the reason why those protests were happening, the learnings and unlearnings that went through in our community, particularly the young people who spearheaded those protests, is an important story to tell and I'm glad that Museum of Toronto is collaborating on that story.

Last year marked the 10th year of the protests, so I think this is a very pivotal time to try to really reflect the history and what actually happened. Something that was really compelling to me about this project was that kind of reclaiming of the story and this archive and this consistent force of action.

This is a chance for the Tamil community and also the Greater Toronto community to see this really kind of important piece of history through the eyes of the protesters who were actually on the ground through the images that maybe we didn't get to see in the media because it was being covered in a very specific way, what took place and what continues to happen with the Tamil community.

What we are trying to achieve with this project as well is trying to again reclaim that narrative and really show that these protests were unprecedented, it showed the mass mobilization of the Tamil community. It showed that the demographics of who came out to the protests were also very unique it was both the youth and elders, everybody showed up regardless of the different backgrounds within the Tamil community. It was a very unifying moment even though the Tamil community was in distress in that moment.