

MIGIWA ORIMO PROXIMITY OF SYLLABLES

**“Words strain,
Crack and sometimes break, under the burden,
Under the tension, slip, slide, perish,
Decay with imprecision, will not stay in place,
Will not stay still.”**

— T. S. Eliot

Being an immigrant and having to navigate my daily life using two very different languages (Japanese and English), I have learned to operate out of a space of between-ness. My installations and art projects over the past thirty years explore that in-between space. In recent years, using “notions of gap,” “slippage,” and “a realm of disjunction” as points of entry, my work has explored what lies between the shown and the hidden, the public and the private.

Using words/texts that are hidden, erased, redacted, sealed, absent, or invisible from public view, I try to look at the aspect of language that not only serves to communicate, but wishes to disappear. By highlighting the material qualities of language, I want to create a space where the hidden becomes visible and tactile—not necessarily meant to be “read,” but experienced.

Migiwa Orimo