



## Maria Driscoll McMahan

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### ***Squishing out Breath***

*“Through a multi-disciplinary art practice as device for the compression of time, I hope to squish out pottery shards, striations on kerf walls, circuitry, breath...”*

-Maria Driscoll McMahan

**Curatorial blurb:** As of 2019, 29 million people have had their DNA tested. *Squishing out Breath* is, in part, a meta-genealogical investigation which contemplates the psycho-socio-political implications of this phenomenon and serves as a meditation on the wonder and absurdity of the ways the cellular constitution of one’s spit -a body fluid most abject -can, not only serve as a portal to other times and places but stimulate new narratives which alter subjective perceptions of self. National lore and mythology originating in one’s ancestral stomping grounds can inform the perceived purpose of one’s life, as “the self,” in identification and sympathy with one’s ancestors permeates boundaries of time and space. What happens when accidental genealogists find heroes, barbarians, princes, paupers, and sworn enemies perhaps sitting on the same branch of the family tree? How is the past informing the present and how will it continue to inform the future?