

Carrying morning on their tongues

JJJJJerome Ellis

Curated by Alicja Melzacka and Maartje Fliervoet

Manifold Books #31

Press Release

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16/05/'26 – 11/07/'26

Opening hours: Fridays and Saturdays 1-5 pm/by appointment

Carrying morning on their tongues is an exhibition by JJJJJerome Ellis that presents four bodies of work. These works enact and channel the embodied experience of time on various scales; here, time is a river, an exposure, a musical note, or a breath.

A music album and artist's book, The Clearing (2021), together with Aster of Ceremonies (2023), a book of hymns presented here alongside the audiobook, attune with great sensitivity to the relationship between the time of reading and the time of listening. Through JJJJJerome's experiments with notation, transcription, and audio description, multiple visual and auditory layers converge and diverge. Alongside these works, a selection of photographs from the series Exposure (2024-) and the video 251218 (2024) introduce two distinct timelines, unfolding in an uneven rhythm around the asymmetrical architecture of Manifold Books.

What is a clock? Is it an instrument? A body with hands and a face?

A capitalist rosary?' asks JJJJJerome in The Clearing. What is a syllable? A bell held on a glottal hilltop? The indestructable?

A gathering of sound (...) What is a bell? Why is it that the same bell that calls us to prayer and meditation called the enslaved to the field? Can black song heal these traumas arising from time and sound? How can we create gentler, more humane clocks?'

JJJJJerome's work reverberates in the gap between personal memory and histories of colonisation and resistance—histories that were poorly and partially documented and that require another kind of historiography, or rather, another approach to the past: one that looks to human and non-human ancestors for guidance and dislodges time from its linear course, tied to productivity and extraction. My thesis is that blackness, dysfluency and music are forces that open time,' offers JJJJJerome.

About Manifold Books:

Manifold Books is a platform that explores connections between art and books. With each exhibition a few titles are added to its book collection –all including artists' interventions. For further info, please refer to: www.manifoldbooks.nl.

This exhibition has been made possible by:

Mondriaan Fonds

AFK



01. Overview JJJJJerome Ellis, *Carrying morning on their tongues*. 2026. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



02. JJJJerome Ellis. *Exposure*. 2024-. Growing series of photographic bursts. 10cm x 15cm each, in frameless frame. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



03. JJJJJerome Ellis. *Exposure*. 2024-. Growing series of photographic bursts. 10cm x 15cm each, in frameless frame. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



04. JJJJJerome Ellis. *Exposure*. 2024-. Growing series of photographic bursts. 10cm x 15cm each, in frameless frame. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



05. Overview JJJJerome Ellis, *Carrying morning on their tongues*. 2026. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



06. JJJJJerome Ellis. *Exposure*. 2024-. Growing series of photographic bursts. 10cm x 15cm each, in frameless frame. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



07. JJJJJerome Ellis. *Exposure*. 2024-. Growing series of photographic bursts. 10cm x 15cm each, in frameless frame. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



08. Overview JJJJerome Ellis, *Carrying morning on their tongues*. 2026. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



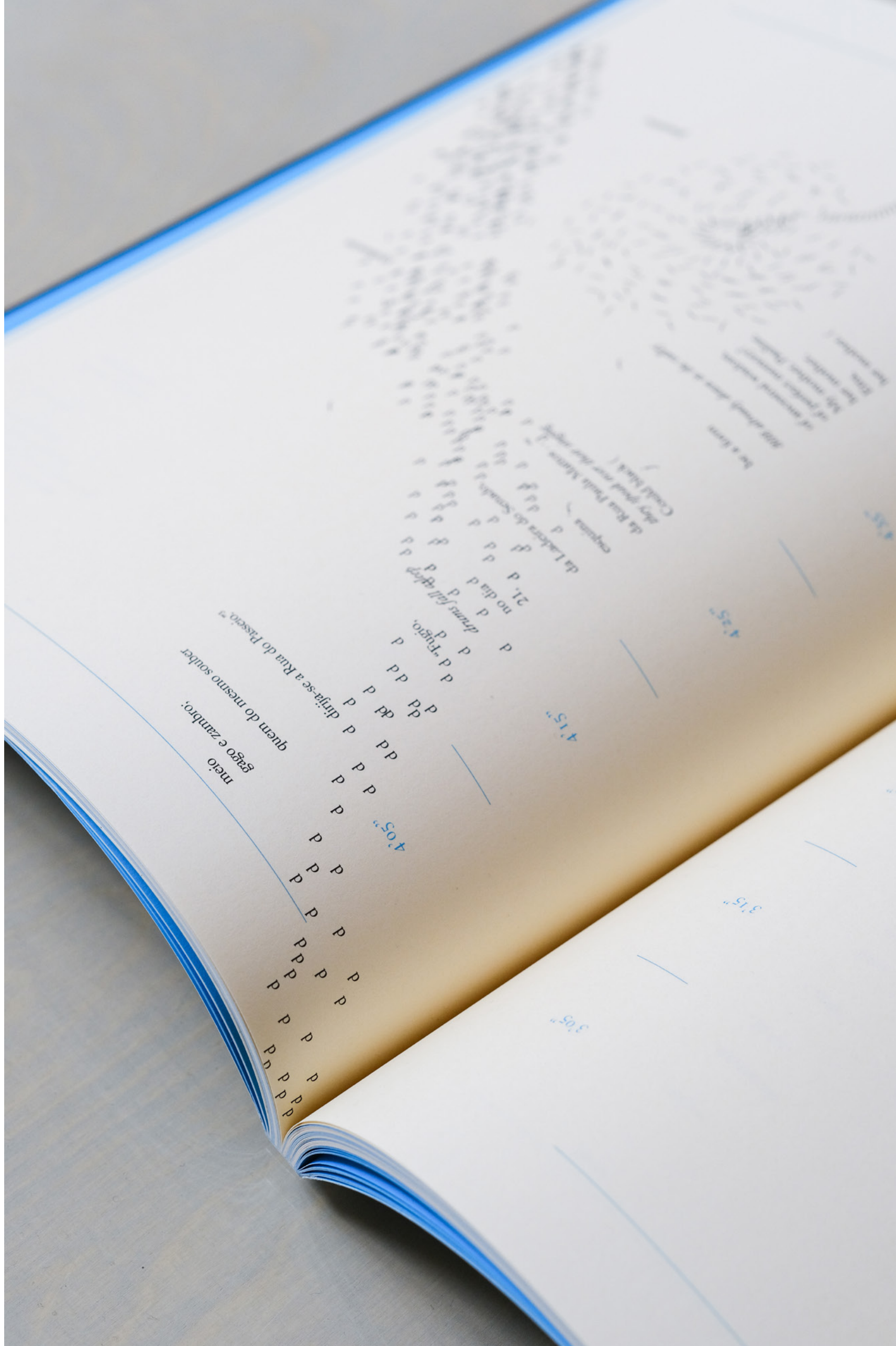
09. JJJJJerome Ellis. *Aster of Ceremonies*. 2023. Softcover, 144 pages, 9 × 7 × 0.25 inch and [audiobook](#), read by the author, 6 hours and 18 minutes. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



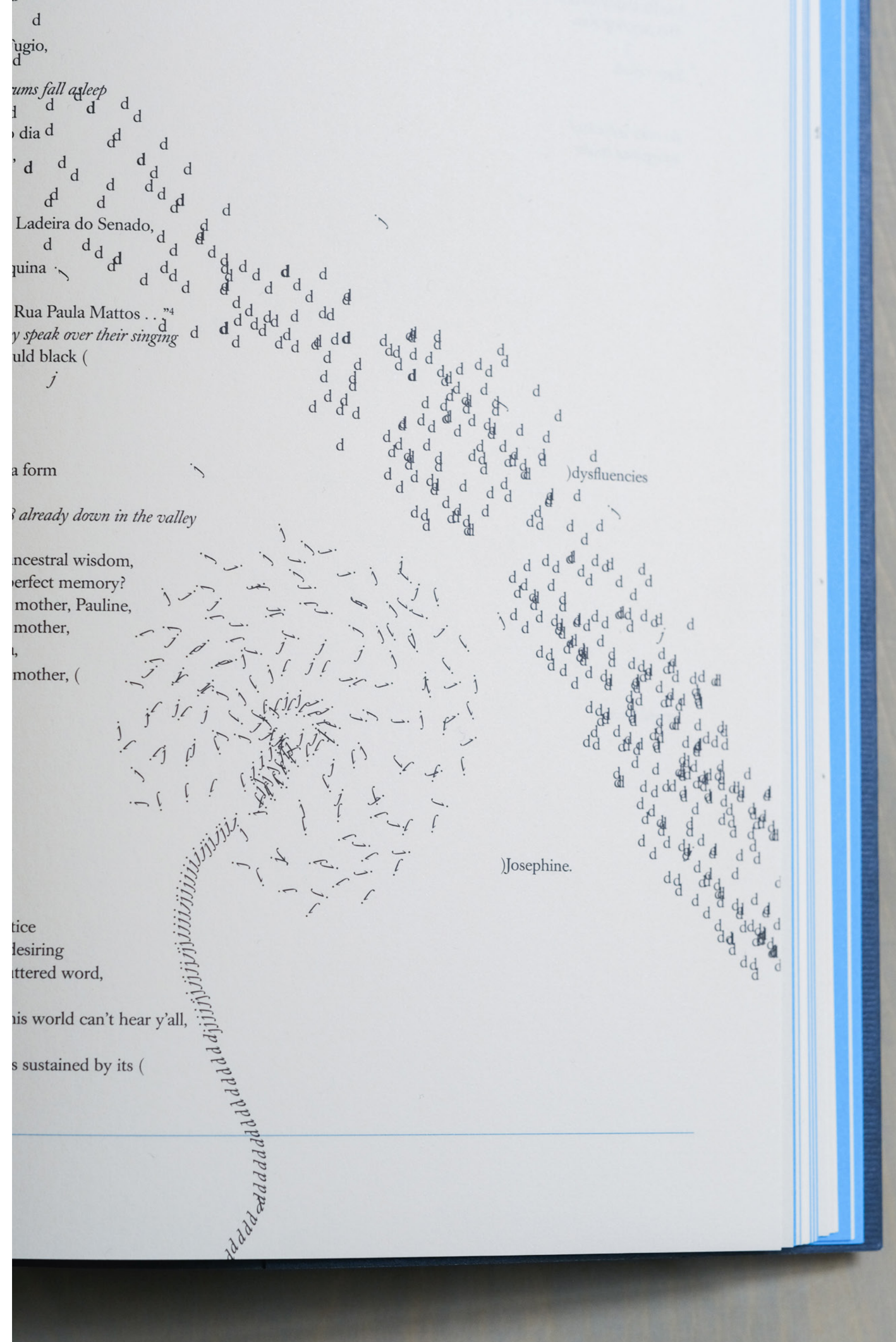
10. JJJJJerome Ellis. *Aster of Ceremonies*. 2023. Softcover, 144 pages, 9 × 7 × 0.25 inch. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



11. JJJJerome Ellis. *The Clearing*. 2021. Softcover with jacket, 128 pages, 13 × 10 inches and sound recording (digital and LP), 1 hour and 2 minutes. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



12. JJJJJerome Ellis. *The Clearing*. 2021. Softcover with jacket, 128 pages, 13 × 10 inches. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



13. JJJJJerome Ellis. *The Clearing*. 2021. Softcover with jacket, 128 pages, 13 × 10 inches. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



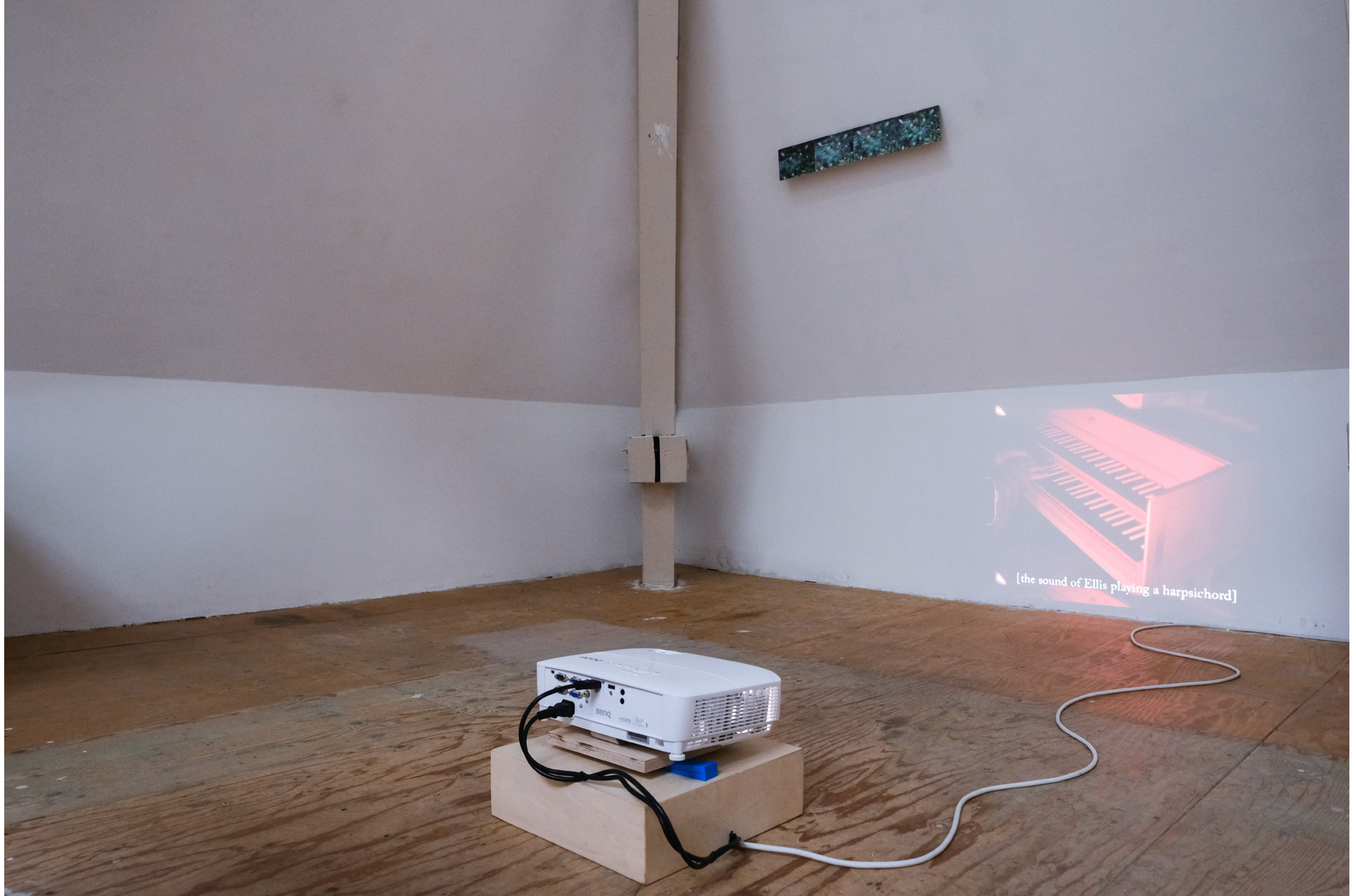
14. Overview JJJJJerome Ellis, *Carrying morning on their tongues*. 2026. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



15. JJJJerome Ellis. *Exposure*. 2024-. Growing series of photographic bursts. 10cm x 15cm each, in frameless frame. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



16. JJJJerome Ellis. *Exposure*. 2024-. Growing series of photographic bursts. 10cm x 15cm each, in frameless frame. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



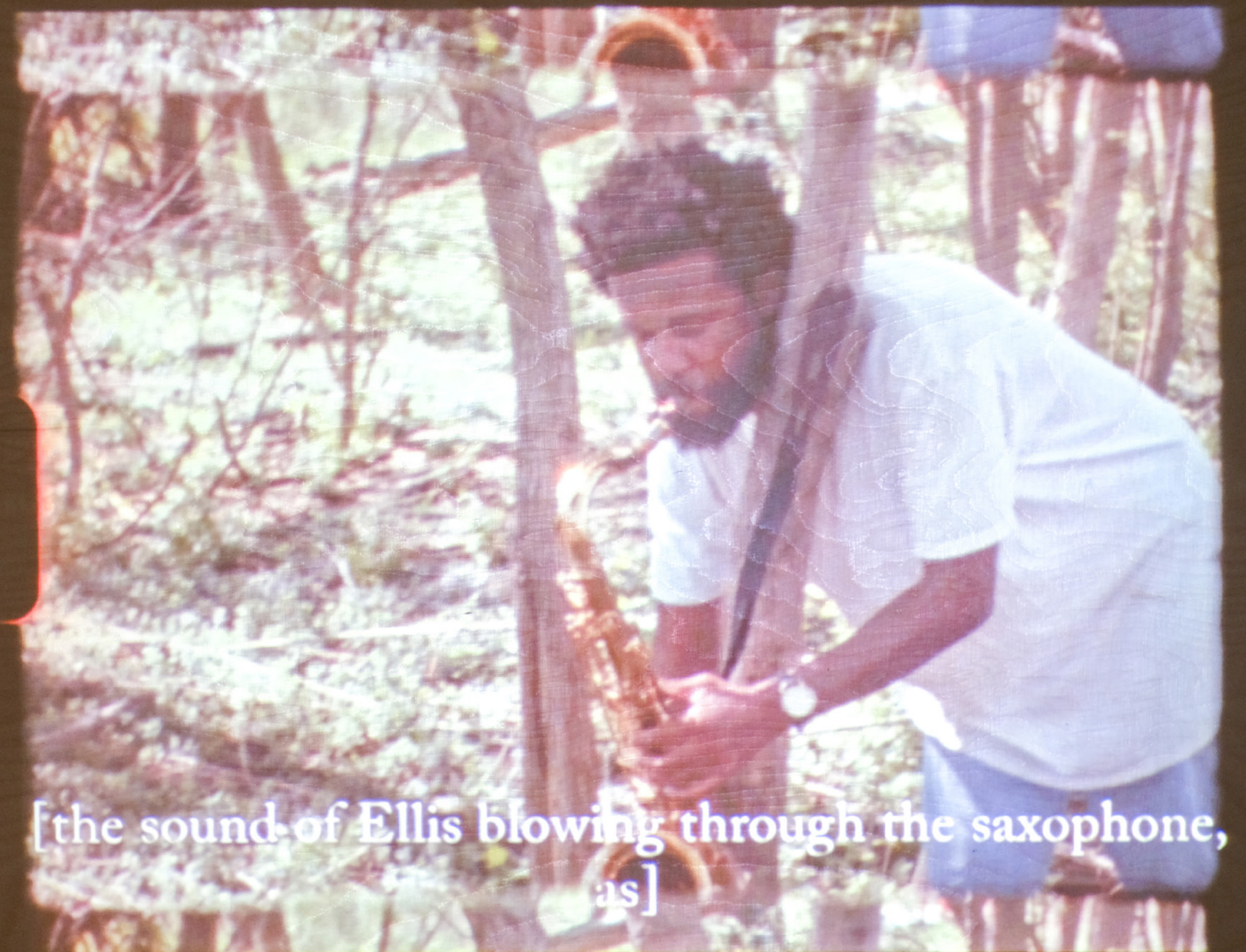
17. Overview JJJJerome Ellis, *Carrying morning on their tongues*. 2026. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



18. JJJJerome Ellis. *251218*. 2024. 4 minutes, digital video (color, no sound). Camera: Matt Talbot. Editing: Graham Duncan. Text: JJJJerome Ellis. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



19. JJJJerome Ellis. *251218*. 2024. 4 minutes, digital video (color, no sound). Camera: Matt Talbot. Editing: Graham Duncan. Text: JJJJerome Ellis. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



20. JJJJerome Ellis. *251218*. 2024. 4 minutes, digital video (color, no sound). Camera: Matt Talbot. Editing: Graham Duncan. Text: JJJJerome Ellis. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



21. Overview JJJJerome Ellis, *Carrying morning on their tongues*. 2026. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



22. Overview JJJJJerome Ellis, *Carrying morning on their tongues*. 2026. Photo by Silvia Arenas.



23. JJJJJerome Ellis. *Exposure*. 2024-. Growing series of photographic bursts. 10cm x 15cm each, in frameless frame. Photo by Silvia Arenas.