



Natalie Hunter
Waylight

VALLEY PARK BRANCH
MURAL PROJECT





Natalie Hunter *Waylight*

Waylight is a luminous photo-based installation that responds to landscape, memory, and place within Valley Park's local Hamilton Mountain landscapes. Caught in-between motion and stasis, material and immaterial, light and time, it speaks to our intimate relationships with a place, its landscape, its history, and a community's memories through time. As a young child, I grew up attending the Valley Park recreation centre and public library. Retracing my childhood footsteps, I collect images of the Valley Park creek, the iconic wooden bridge, and the natural flora of the region. Embracing an experimental use of photography materials and camera function, I use colour filters to distinguish layered moments in time, and sunlight to illuminate the photographs on transparent film. Light is used to construct imagery within the camera, in the post-production process, and in its presentation. Photographs on transparent film appear to curl, fold, drape, and float in space while casting latent images and shadows onto surrounding

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surfaces. This use of light makes reference to the prismatic glass skylight dome that sits atop the Valley Park public pool, and the changing light within this space.

Through this process, I consider how the image of a landscape can rest in memory while remaining in a constantly changing physical state. The layered landscapes in *Waylight* are caught in a state of transition; enabling viewers to experience the routes I have taken as they walk along the sidewalk next to the mural. Resembling a timeline, pieces of light, a roll of film, or a mental map, time and space are extended and stretched across the length of the building. It is my hope that *Waylight* becomes an experience for the diverse communities around Valley Park as they continue to witness the rapid growth of their neighbourhoods, and the complicated impact of suburban sprawl on a changing landscape.