

# MISSING CONTEXT LONG OVERDUE

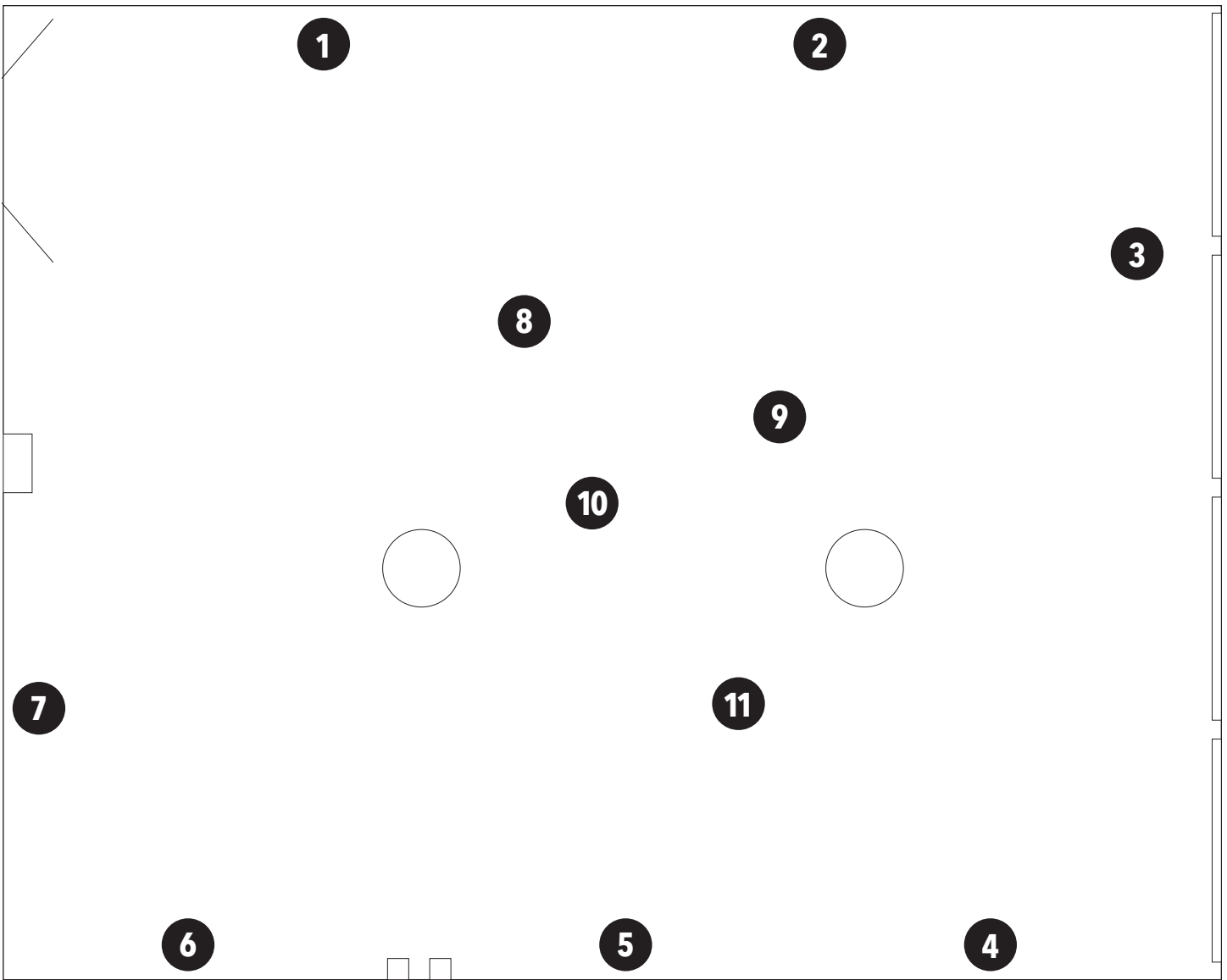
WORKS BY NANCY NOWACEK & ALLISON V. ROWE

Artists Allison Rowe and Nancy Nowacek are tired. The fatigue borne by women and femmes has traditionally remained private, their suffering given no credence. In their respective, multilayered and deeply researched bodies of work, Rowe and Nowacek consider women's and femme's bodies, as well as cultural responses to them through custom, attitude, and media portrayal, through the lens of fatigue.

Psychologists Alana M C Brown and Nicole J Gervais's academic paper, "Role of Ovarian Hormones in the Modulation of Sleep in Females Across the Adult Lifespan" (2020), which calls for the advancement of sex-based sleep disorder identification and treatment approaches, provides the framework for *Missing Context Long Overdue*. Both Rowe and Nowacek have intimate familiarity with extreme forms of fatigue. Through her work, Rowe has documented the ups and downs of her rest patterns during pregnancy and the postpartum period, while Nowacek has plumbed her understanding of fatigue as a person living with Long Covid. Their personal experiences become a metaphor for the experiences of countless women

who have been dismissed or discounted for simply being "tired."

Inevitably, time is a key component of both artists' work. Who among us has not watched the silent numbers of the glowing clock tick by through a night of insomnia? Or alternatively, felt the brief spasm of time in a corporeal way when the fatigued body hasn't been afforded enough rest, the blaring alarm seeming to sound during the deepest part of sleep? Whether it is through Rowe's assiduous documentation of her and her baby's waking and sleeping hours (*Nap Math* [12 Months]) or Nowacek's suite of large-format drawings representing her confinement to bed during her illness (*Resting Drawing* series) the sense of time passing—slowly, or quickly—in relation to sleep becomes palpable. Through these and other works on view, Rowe and Nowacek begin to fill in the "Missing Context" of female/femme sleep disfunction, and in turn, shed light on the historical diminishment of women's health issues while raising a cry that rectification is long overdue. —Jessica Holmes



**1. IMPROPER OF MEN AND ANIMALS**

2024  
Single channel video  
1 minute, looping (NN)

**2. TO GIVE A NAME AND EQUIP WITH ARMS**

2024  
Vinyl and watercolor pencil on Inkjet print  
18"x24" framed (NN)

**3. MISSING CONTEXT LONG OVERDUE**

2024  
Broadsheet  
22"x75" x 28" (unfolded)  
Edition of 500 (NN)

**4. FIRST TRIMESTER (12 WEEKS)**

2018  
Watercolor on paper  
9" x 12" and 12" x 9" unframed  
(AVR)

**5. MUMMY READS THE IPCC REPORT**

2022  
Single channel video  
57:26 (AVR)

**6. NAP MATH (12 MONTHS)**

2019-2020  
Inkjet prints  
24" x 15" unframed (AVR)

**7. SCENES FROM AN ILLNESS**

2024  
Inkjet Prints  
24x36" unframed (NN)

**8. RESTING DRAWING NO. 3**

2024  
Colored pencil on paper  
50" x 80"  
(NN)

**9. RESTING DRAWING NO. 1**

2024  
Magic marker on paper  
50" x 61"  
(NN)

**10. RESTING DRAWING NO. 2**

2024  
Acrylic on paper  
50" x 60"  
(NN)

**11. SOFT THREATS**

2019  
Receiving blankets  
Dimensions variable  
(AVR)