

Michelle
Bui

Mutable
Materialism



CAG

Bringing both a painterly and sculptural approach to her photographic practice, Montreal-based artist Michelle Bui operates within the visual language of the still life. Working with an array of everyday, seemingly unremarkable materials, Bui creates assemblages for the camera, building alluring scenes through processes of accumulating, merging, manipulating, and resituating.

In *Mutable Materialism*, an exhibition presented on the CAG façade and at Yaletown-Roundhouse Station, Bui offers two new suites of images, each a reflection on the relationships between sense, sensation and desire. Whether referencing the seductive language of advertising, the tactility of the touch-screen, or the conventions of commercial packaging and display, Bui's works engage and confuse, coaxing incongruous forms into conversation with one another to invite reflection on the ways we connect with and understand objects and images alike.

Michelle Bui: Mutable Materialism is organized by the Contemporary Art Gallery and Capture Photography Festival. The project is co-curated by Julia Lamare, Acting Associate Curator, Contemporary Art Gallery and Chelsea Yuill, Assistant Curator, Capture Photography Festival.

Works at Yaletown-Roundhouse Station are presented in partnership with the Canada Line Public Art Program – InTransit BC.

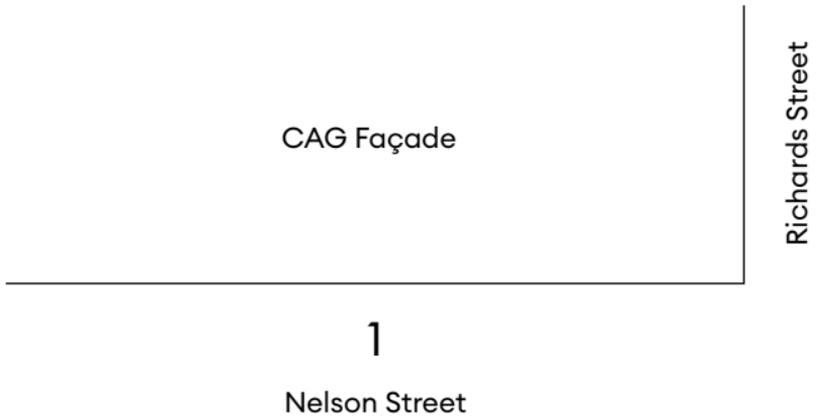


Capture Photography Festival

1 CAG Façade

Envelop #1-8, 2022
UV prints on vinyl

In this suite of new photographs, Bui offers a series of abstractions rendered from flowers, plant matter and other indiscernible objects, all sheathed in soft plastics. Prompting reflection on the way objects and images are consumed, the works' vertical format responds not just to the windows they cover, but to the devices that so often mediate our encounters with visual information. Indeed, the plastics that encase these compositions are both screen and skin, rendering the objects intimate and tactile, while nodding toward a desire to preserve or protect.

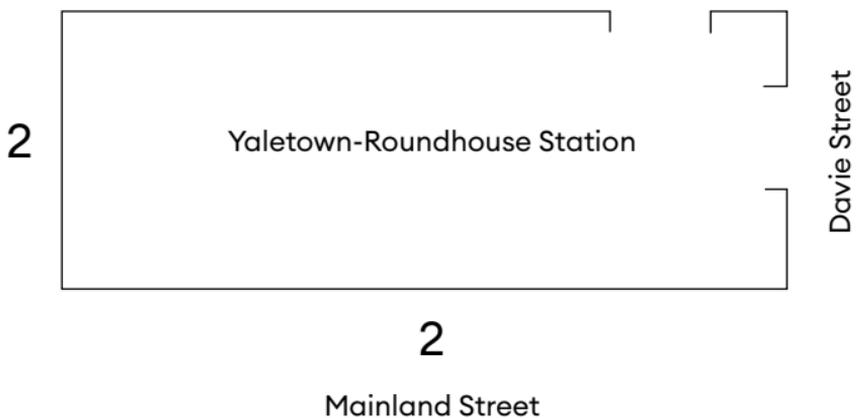


2 Offsite at Yaletown-Roundhouse Station

North elevation (left to right)
Guardian, 2022
Glue Gunned, 2021

West elevation (left to right)
Corsage, 2022
Stud, 2022
Les membranes (boyaux), 2022
Mikado, 2022
Oyster, 2021
UV prints on vinyl

Working with a lexicon of familiar objects – such as those abundant on the shelves of supermarkets and convenience stores – this body of work sees Bui creating delicate, often precarious compositions in her studio, employing her camera at the moment they threaten to perish or collapse. Using materials ranging from imitation pearls and upholstery foam to fresh cut flowers and wooden blocks, the forms Bui builds are frequently absurd in nature, enlarged here to an outsized scale reminiscent of billboards. Situated in the public sphere, these compositions both engage with and upend the conventions of advertising, inviting reflection on our relationship to the everyday and consumption, to broader systems of value, commerce and desire.



April 1
→ August 28, 2022

Contemporary
Art Gallery

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Open Tuesday to Sunday, 12 pm → 6 pm
Free admission