

Contemporary
Art Gallery

Summer 2023

CAG

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Gabrielle L'Hirondelle Hill

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May 26 → September 3

Sesemiya

s7ulh wakáystn iy ta stamsh cht

May 26 → September 3

Dionne Lee

Ratios

May 26 → September 3

CAG

Gabrielle² L'Hirondelle Hill

M*****



Opening: Thu 25 May
7 pm → 9 pm

May 26

The sculptural work of Gabrielle L'Hirondelle Hill explores the fallacies embedded in colonial concepts of property, economy and family. Her works frequently frame Western systems of capitalism and control as both imposed and impermanent, emphasizing the endurance, power and radical potential of other surviving knowledges and economic practices. Often engaging the physical, historical or symbolic properties of the materials she works with, past projects have seen Hill variously use tobacco, found objects and deaccessioned museum artifacts to consider questions of labour, land, value, and reciprocity.

At the Contemporary Art Gallery, Hill presents *M******, a project that deepens the artist's long-term inquiry into structures of kinship. Bringing together a suite of new works in sculpture, drawing and cameraless cinema, the exhibition sees Hill reflecting expansively on economies of parenting and reproductive labour. Harnessing references ranging from spores and parasites to Nadya "Octomom" Suleman, these works gesture toward an experience of motherhood that is multiplicitous, non-linear and visceral, both bound to and more than the limits and binaries frequently invoked by the word "Mother."

Gabrielle L'Hirondelle Hill is an artist and writer. Her practice explores the history of found materials to enquire into concepts of land, property, and economy. Recent exhibitions include the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the 59th Venice Biennale; Le Magasin CNAC, Grenoble; the Vancouver Art Gallery; the College Art Galleries at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon; and Gallery TPW, Toronto. She is a member of BUSH gallery, an Indigenous artist collective that seeks to challenge Eurocentric art models, and to centre the land and Indigenous epistemologies. Hill is Cree and English, with maternal roots in the Michel Band and Papaschase. She lives on the unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm and selilwətał Nations.

Sesemiya

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s7ulh wakáy'stn iy
ta stamsh cht



Opening: Thu 25 May
7 pm → 9 pm

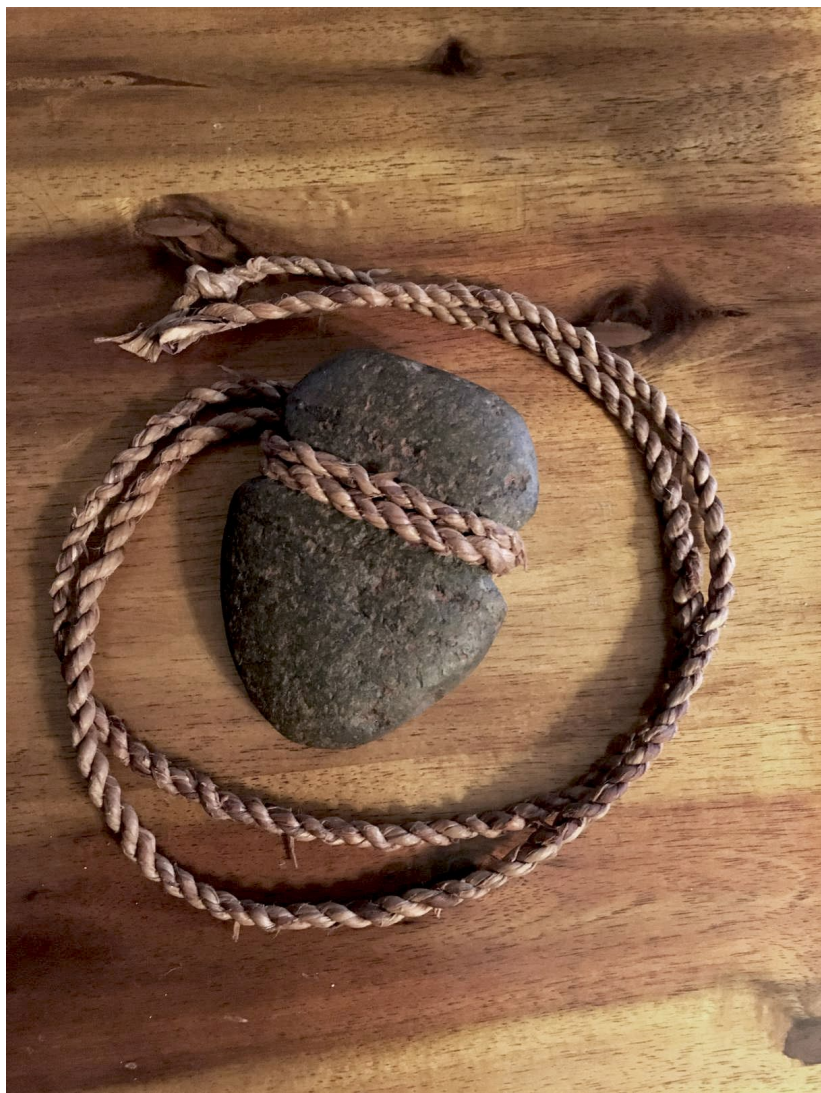
May 26

Images













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Gabrielle L'Hirondelle Hill
Process image for *M*****, 2023
Courtesy of the artist



Sesemiya
*Fish Skin, Cougar Bone, and
Fungus Fibre Container*, 2020
Courtesy of the artist



Sesemiya
Stone Necklace, 2017
Courtesy of the artist



Dionne Lee
Ratios (detail), 2023
Courtesy of the artist

For more than twenty years, Sesemiya (Tracy Williams) has been engaged with the revitalization of Coast Salish cultural practices. Through research, collaborative experimentation and consultation with Knowledge Keepers, Sesemiya's work embodies her deep knowledge of Coast Salish lands. A fifth-generation cedar weaver, the objects she makes extend directly from her practice of gathering and preparing wild materials.

At the Contemporary Art Gallery, Sesemiya presents *s7ulh wakáystn iy ta stamsh cht* (Our Weapons and Warriors), a new body of work that sees the artist engaging the theme of land defence. Employing materials such as cedar slats and roots, fishskin leather, animal bones, and synthetic human skin, the exhibition alludes to the figure of a Skwxwú7mesh warrior in traditional accoutrement, armed with tools for battle. While the tools Sesemiya has recreated are anachronistic in nature, the project of cultural revitalization they result from is vitally urgent. *s7ulh wakáystn iy ta stamsh cht* proposes traditional ways of living, knowing and being with the land to themselves be acts of resistance to the ongoing colonial occupation of unsundered Skwxwú7mesh lands, inspiring, in the artist's words, "future generations of stelmexw to *tl'a7ashen ta nexwniw-chet* (celebrate our teachings that make us who we are)."

Sesemiya (Tracy Williams) is a knowledge seeker, dreamer, water protector, land defender, lover, mother, auntie, weaver, and cultural practitioner. Her rich relationships with plants, animals, land, and water have taken her to the tops of mountains, the bottom of the ocean, fields of fireweed, and occasionally art galleries. Her work has appeared in exhibitions such as *lineages and land bases*, Vancouver Art Gallery (2020); *Intangible: Memory and Innovation in Coast Salish Art*, Bill Reid Gallery (2017); and *N. Vancouver*, The Polygon Gallery (2017). In 2021, a commissioned work of Sesemiya's was included in the Vancouver Art Gallery's presentation of Yoko Ono's *Water Event*. Sesemiya is a proud member of the Skwxwú7mesh Nation.

→ September 3

Dionne Lee Ratios

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Opening: Thu 25 May
7 pm → 9 pm

May 26

The work of Dionne Lee engages closely with photographic methodologies to pursue forms of knowledge counter to the imperialist assumptions underlying the conventions of North American landscape photography. Central to Lee's practice is the body's experience of the world at a close distance, a scale that she privileges in her work as an access point for understanding the relationship between people and land.

In *Ratios*, displayed as a trio of photographs at Yaletown-Roundhouse Station and a series of successively darkening photocopies on CAG's façade, Lee mutually implicates small rocks and her own hand as tools to measure each other. Invoking the practice in geological survey photographs to include small objects in frame to indicate scale, these works stage by proxy the relationship between human bodies and land, and the asymmetry of their impacts on one other.

Dionne Lee: Ratios is presented in partnership with the Canada Line Public Art Program – InTransit BC.

Dionne Lee is a visual artist working in photography, collage, sculpture, and video. Her work explores power and personal history in relation to the American landscape, and interrogates historical narratives that exist within photographic representations of land and place. Lee received her MFA from California College of the Arts. She has exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Feria Material, Mexico City; New Orleans Museum of Art; Aperture Foundation, New York; Silver Eye Center for Photography, Pittsburgh; Museum of Fine Arts Houston; and the San Francisco Arts Commission, among others. Lee was a 2022 Artist-in-Residence at the Chinati Foundation and is a 2021–2023 Artist-in-Residence with Unseen California.

→ September 3

Talks

In Conversation: Gabrielle
L'Hirondelle Hill, Dionne Lee and
Sesemiya with Lorna Brown

Sat 27 May • 12 pm

Join us for a public conversation
between the summer 2023 exhibiting
artists, moderated by Lorna Brown.

Performances

Live: Sound Responses to M*****

Thu 6 Jul • 7 pm

CAG welcomes Chandra Melting
Tallow, Alexander Miranda and
Laura Ortman to perform live in
the gallery alongside Gabrielle
L'Hirondelle Hill's M*****.

Curatorial Tours

Join one of CAG's curators for a tour
of our current exhibitions, held on
the last Tuesday of the month.

Godfre Leung

Tue 6 Jun • 6 pm

Matthew Hyland

Tue 11 Jul • 6 pm

All talks and events are free and
suitable for a general audience.

Talks and readings held online via
Zoom will be live captioned (CART).

For more details or to register, visit
cagvancouver.org.

Saturday Sessions

One Saturday each month, CAG
invites a guest host to lead walk-
throughs of our current exhibitions,
offering their insights and response
to the works on view.

Karice Mitchell on Dionne Lee

Sat 17 Jun • 12 pm

Whess Harman on Gabrielle
L'Hirondelle Hill

Sat 8 Jul • 12 pm

Latashkinem on Sesemiya

Sat 12 Aug • 12 pm

Open Studio

Open Studio is a monthly program
for young visitors and families
inspired by contemporary art prac-
tices and CAG's current exhibitions.

Sléway (Working with Cedar)

Sesemiya

Sat 24 Jun • 1 pm → 3 pm

Between Canvas and Celluloid

Paige Smith

Sat 22 Jul • 1 pm → 3 pm

Blackout Poetry

Rafael Zen

Sun 20 Aug • 1 pm → 3 pm

The Contemporary Art Gallery is generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Vancouver and the Province of BC through the BC Arts Council and the BC Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch. We are also grateful for the support of Vancouver Foundation and our members, donors and volunteers.

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At the Contemporary Art Gallery, we carry out our work on the unceded and ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. As a predominantly settler-led organization, we acknowledge our responsibility to each of these nations, who have stewarded this land, water and air for thousands of years. We are committed to building sustained, reciprocal relationships with Indigenous communities and supporting the work of reconciliation and Indigenous sovereignty.

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Contemporary
Art Gallery

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and səliłwətał Territories

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Open Tuesday to Sunday, 12 pm → 6 pm
Admission always free