

Contemporary
Art Gallery

Summer 2022

CAG

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Abbas Akhavan
cast for a folly
June 3 → August 28

Michelle Bui
Mutable Materialism
Through → August 28

CAG

Abbas Akhavan cast for a folly



June 3

The work of Abbas Akhavan takes shape across a range of media and forms. From sculpture and installation to drawing, performance and video, Akhavan's practice is anchored deeply in the specificities of the sites and spaces he engages. Often open-ended, ephemeral or mimetic in nature, Akhavan's works frequently traffic in slippages and transferences – between public and private, presence and absence, structural and symbolic.

At the Contemporary Art Gallery, Akhavan presents *cast for a folly* (2019/2022), an installation that takes as its point of departure a photograph of the Iraq Museum in Baghdad: an image of the museum's lobby taken following its unprecedented looting during the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Through sculpture, custom-fabricated furniture and found objects, amongst other forms, Akhavan recreates this scene in the gallery from the single vantage point of his source image. Adjacent to this installation is a new work composed of flower fridges – *untitled* (2022) – a continuation of Akhavan's ongoing engagement with plant life as both index to and instrument of broader social economies.

Abbas Akhavan lives and works in Montréal. Recent solo exhibitions include Mount Stuart House, Isle of Bute (2022), Chisenhale Gallery, London (2021); CCA Wattis Institute, San Francisco (2019); Fogo Island Gallery, Fogo Island, (2019). Group exhibitions include Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2022); Momena Biennale at Phi Foundation, Montreal (2021); Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool (2018); SALT Galata, Istanbul (2017); Sharjah Biennial 13, United Arab Emirates (2017); and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2016). He is the recipient of the Fellbach Triennial Award (2017); Sobey Art Award (2015); Abraaj Group Art Prize (2014); and the Berliner Kunstpreis (2012).

cast for a folly (2019/2022) was originally curated by Kim Nguyen and commissioned by CCA Wattis Institute.



August 28

Michelle
Bui

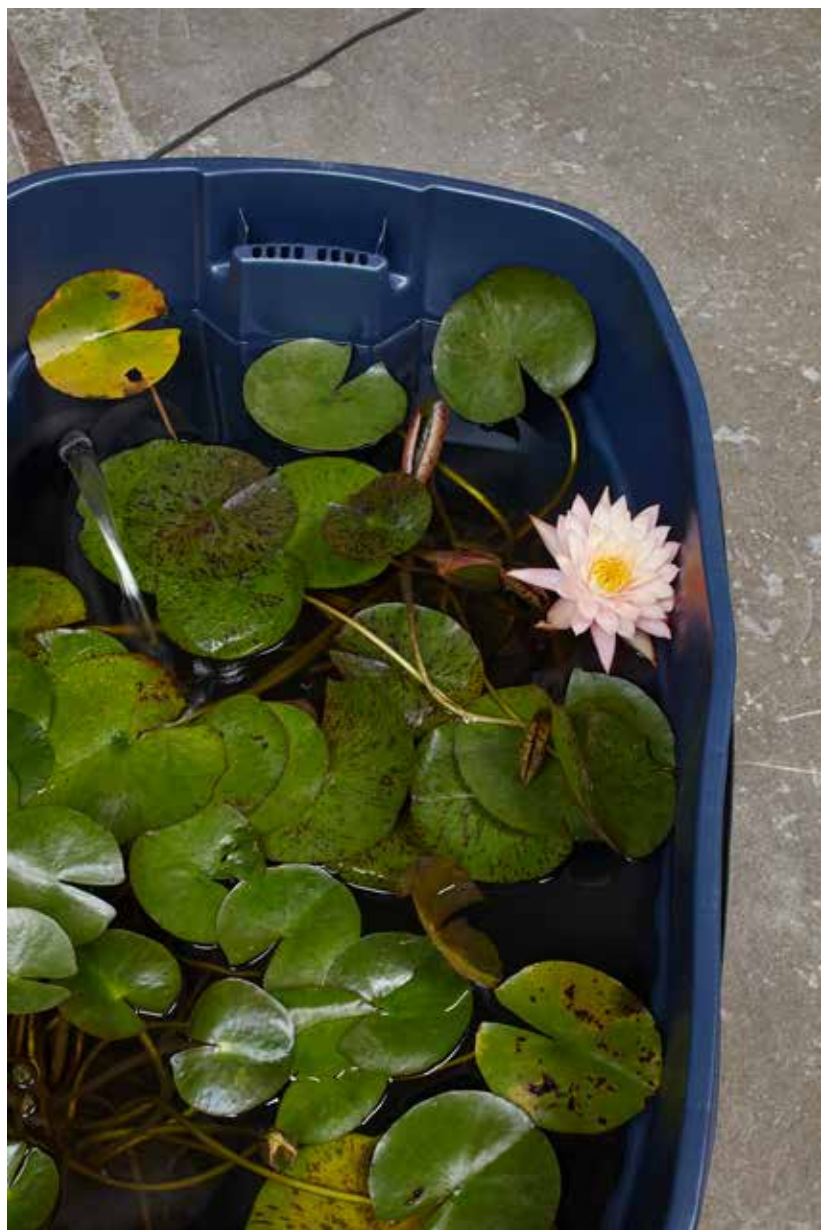
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Mutable Materialism



Through

Images













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Abbas Akhavan
cast for a folly
(installation detail), 2019/2022
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries



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(installation detail), 2019/2022
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cast for a folly
(installation detail), 2019/2022
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries



Michelle Bui
Envelop #3, 2022
Courtesy the artist



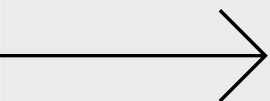
Michelle Bui
Envelop #7, 2022
Courtesy the artist

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 consume objects and images alike.

Michelle Bui: Mutable Materialism is produced in partnership with 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.

Michelle Bui is a Montreal-based artist working in photography and sculpture. Her research revolves around the inseparable conjuncture between material culture and identity, opening it to a shifted place where sensory identity can unfold. Recent solo exhibitions include *Objects for an Audience*, Galerie Rad Hourani, Montreal (2020); *Spilled Plenitude*, Franz Kaka, Toronto (2020); *Centerfold*, Parisian Laundry, Montreal (2019); *Plein Soleil*, Circa, Montreal (2019); *Pool of Plenty*, Galerie de l'UQAM, Montreal (2018). Her work was also included in group shows at Maison de la culture Claude-Léveillé, Montreal; Paul Robeson Galleries at Rutgers University, Newark; Projet Pangée, Montreal; and Vu Photo, Quebec City. Bui completed her MA at Université du Québec à Montréal and at Beaux-arts de Paris, and her BFA at Concordia University.



August 28

Talks

In Conversation:

Abbas Akhavan with Kim Nguyen
and Matthew Hyland

Sat 4 Jun • 12 pm

Join us for a conversation between Abbas Akhavan and curators Kim Nguyen and Matthew Hyland on the occasion of Akhavan's exhibition *cast for a folly*.

Lecture:

Sara Farhan, "Archive Fever"

Wed 6 Jul • 6:30 pm

Scholar Sara Farhan will deliver a talk drawn from her current research "Archive Fever," which repositions Sigmund Freud's *Thanatos* (death drive) as interpreted by Jacques Derrida to contextualize the feverish obsession with "recovering" and "restoring" archives in regions experiencing conflict, specifically Iraq.

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 information contact
learning@cagvancouver.org

Curatorial Tours

Matthew Hyland

Tue 14 Jun • 6 pm

CAG Executive Director Matthew Hyland will lead a tour of the summer 2022 exhibitions, including *Abbas Akhavan: cast for a folly*.

Julia Lamare

Tue 26 Jul • 6 pm

Join CAG's Acting Associate Curator Julia Lamare for a guided tour of the current exhibitions, including *Michelle Bui: Mutable Materialism*.

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.

Marina Roy on Abbas Akhavan

Sat 25 Jun • 12 pm

Alex Gibson on Michelle Bui

Sat 9 Jul • 12 pm

CAG Reads

A book club where artists invite us to read alongside them, CAG Reads welcomes an artist each month to propose a book for our collective reading pleasure, culminating in a virtual hangout grounded in their chosen reading material. Selections are announced each month on our website and through our social media channels.

June CAG Reads

Dana Qaddah

Sun 5 Jun • 4 pm → 5:30 pm

Online via Zoom

July CAG Reads

Qian Cheng

Sun 24 Jul • 4 pm → 5:30 pm

Online via Zoom

For more details or to register, visit cagvancouver.org

Open Studio

Open Studio is a monthly program for young visitors and families inspired by contemporary art practices and CAG's current exhibitions. Workshops will take place onsite at CAG once a month from June to August. This season, CAG is pleased to welcome guest artists Debbie C., Aakansha Ghosh and Faune Ybarra to deliver these programs.

Flower Pounding

Faune Ybarra

Sat 18 Jun • 1 pm → 3 pm

Ghosts, Pigments and Plastics

Debbie C.

Sat 9 Jul • 1 pm → 3 pm

Images as Found Objects

Aakansha Ghosh

Sat 13 Aug • 1 pm → 3 pm

For more details or to register, visit cagvancouver.org

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.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous multi-year support of BMO Financial Group.



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An agency of the Province of British Columbia



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 **TRANSITBC**

Capture Photography Festival

At the Contemporary Art Gallery, we carry out our work on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We are engaged in an active learning process about our responsibilities to the stewards of the land we occupy.

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Calendar

Jun 4

In Conversation:
Abbas Akhavan with
Matthew Hyland and
Kim Nguyen

12 pm

Jun 5

CAG Reads with
Dana Qaddah

4 pm → 5:30 pm

Jun 14

Curatorial Tour with
Matthew Hyland

6 pm

Jun 18

Open Studio with
Faune Ybarra

1 pm → 3 pm

Jun 25

Saturday Session with
Marina Roy

12 pm

Jul 6

Lecture: Sara Farhan,
“Archive Fever”

6:30 pm

Jul 9

Saturday Session with
Alex Gibson

12 pm

Jul 9

Open Studio with
Debbie C.

1 pm → 3 pm

Jul 24

CAG Reads with
Qian Cheng

4 pm → 5:30 pm

Jul 26

Curatorial Tour with
Julia Lamare

6 pm

Aug 13

Open Studio with
Aakansha Ghosh

1 pm → 3 pm

Contemporary
Art Gallery

555 Nelson Street
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cagvancouver.org
contact@cagvancouver.org

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