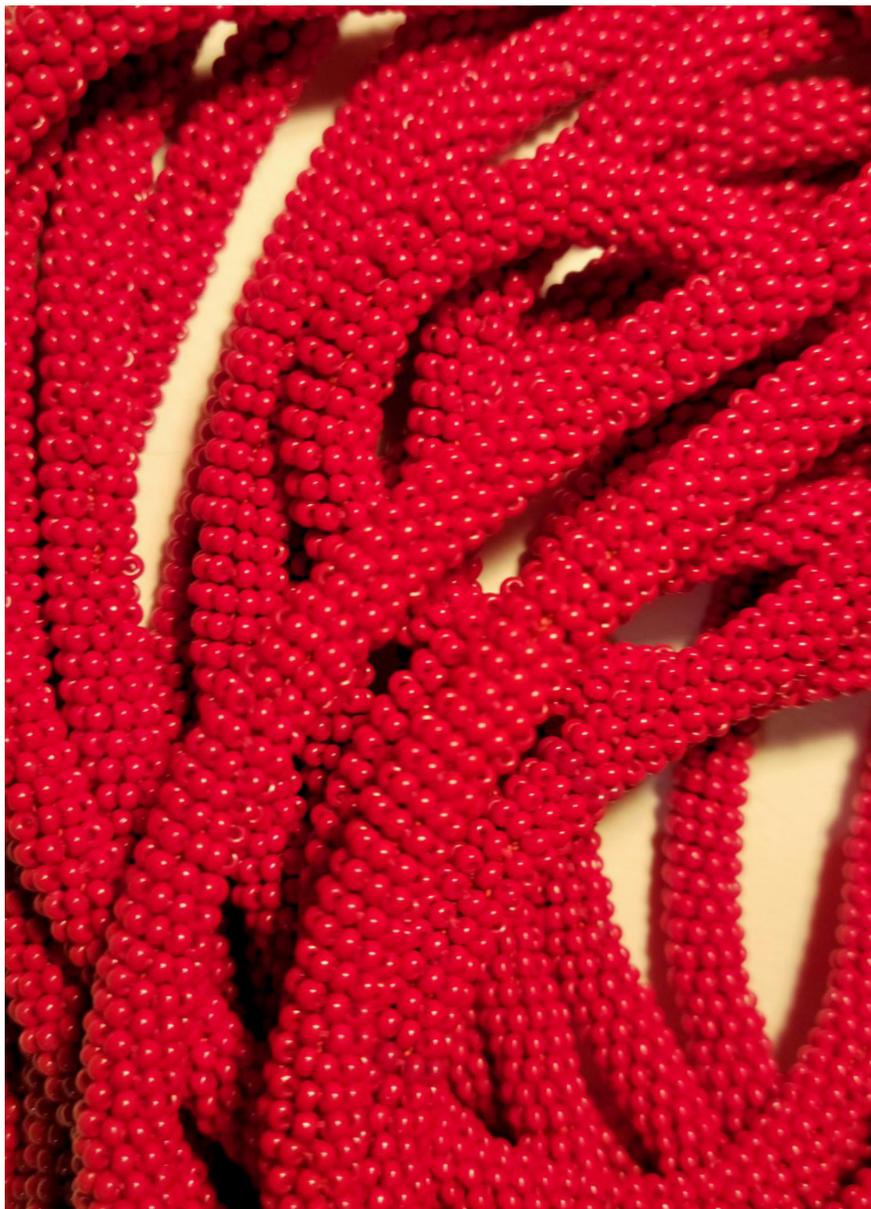


Faye HeavyShield

New Work



In a career spanning more than thirty years, artist Faye HeavyShield has developed a practice of profound influence, renowned as readily for its poetic use of form and material as its evocative embodiments of memory, community and place.

A powerfully concise aesthetic vocabulary gives shape to HeavyShield's work, one rooted in the topography and texture of her homeland in the foothills of Southern Alberta and her upbringing in the Kainai community. Whether drawing on the winds, grasses and rivers of the Northern Plains; staging scenes redolent of gathering or exchange; or exploring elemental geometries that signal continuities and connections, the objects, images and installations of HeavyShield's work manifest as extensions of land, language and body.

At the Contemporary Art Gallery, HeavyShield presents a pair of new works in sculpture and drawing, each a meditation on lineage and line. An unbound sculpture, ropelike in form, anchors the exhibition, accompanied by a series of gestural drawings that recall the shape of a memory. Bearing the hallmarks of HeavyShield's practice—repetition, distillation and material humility—these works extend the artist's career-long reflections on continuance, on that which connects and sustains.

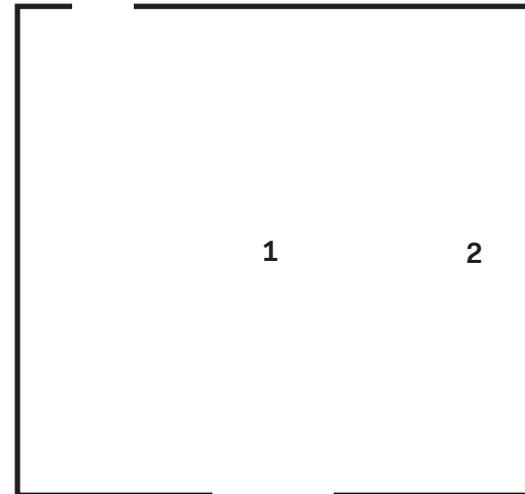
1 *the red line* 2021
beads, cord

Cutting a loose form through the center of the gallery, *the red line* extends from a process of methodical, habitual beading undertaken by HeavyShield over a period of many months. At once an introspective act and a generative one, the resulting sculpture embodies an unbroken line: continuous, circuitous, persistent.

2 *I'll know you when I see you* 2021
mixed media on paper

I'll know you when I see you unfolds as a series of freely rendered silhouettes, taking as their point of departure a photo of the artist's mother as a child. The repetition of HeavyShield's gesture here is both searching and meditative, recalling shifts of time, memory and relation.

Alvin Balkind Gallery



September 17, 2021 – January 2, 2022

Cover image: Faye HeavyShield, *the red line* (detail), 2021

All works courtesy the artist