SPRING FORWARD

MUST-SEE CANADIAN EXHIBITIONS

Opening shows on Canadian art

Sarah L. Walker, Cotonocaux, Cauchemar #3 (Detail, Bouquet), 2018, courtesy of the artist

By spring arrives, new galleries and museum openings are bringing a sense of anticipation for the upcoming season. Whether it's a long-awaited retrospective of a beloved artist, a new exhibition by a rising talent, or a fresh perspective on a familiar theme, there's plenty to look forward to. This month's roundup includes painting, textile based practices, abstraction, and research-based practices. Artists Tanya Mikkan, Ninoguksiu Teevee, Eleven Painters and Elizabeth Wyn Wood explore Indigenous ways of knowing, Scotiabank Photography Award winner Bruce Mason's work is exploring the natural world, and Scottish-born Glasgow-based artist Sophie Macpherson's work offers a fresh perspective on the western drift.

Sara Angel
Founder and Executive Director, Art Canada Institute

TANYA WILLARD: PHOTOLITHICS

Mount Lo, May 20, 2021
Pelgan Gallery, North Vancouver

Tanya Willard, Anthropocentric, 2018, courtesy of the Pelgan Gallery, Longwood Estate, Vancouver

The most extensive solo exhibition to date by Tanya Willard, MFA, artist and curator, Anthropocentric, comprises 20 photolithographs, which work, layering her sculptural engagement with photographic imagery, with the artist's interest in the ancient practice of lithography for lacustrine and settler-familial ancestry. Willard's practice crosses from photography to sculpture, from installation to performance, and from ceramics, drawing, and textiles, exploring contemporary perspectives on Canadian landscape, Indigenous and settler-colonial relations, and feminist knowledge, memory, and observation of natural and cultural phenomena.

Learn more

NINOGUKSIU TEEVEE: STORIES FROM NUNAVIMMIUT

Starting May 2, 2021
Winnipeg Art Gallery – Qaumaniq

Ninoguksiu Teevee, Untitled, 2019, courtesy of the artist

Curated by Stephen Bergen, Acting Curator of the Winnipeg Art Gallery, Ninoguksiu Teevee: Stories from Nunavimmiut, a multimedia exhibition of drawings, memory, and observations of Inuktitut culture, comprises 50 works by Ninoguksiu Teevee, a Kangiqsujuaq-based artist who has been active since the late-1970s. The Teevee, Tuttut, Tunnillie, and Tunillie families are known for their "distinctive and very rare pieces," Ninoguksiu Teevee: Stories from Nunavimmiut will be on view at the Winnipeg Art Gallery – Qaumaniq in May.

Learn more

ELEVEN PAINTERS START A WAR

February 24 to June 7, 2021
Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton

Tim Pidgeon, Light Drawn, 1966, collection of Jane Thomson

Eleven Painters Start a War at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery recalls the history of the Toronto based collective Painters Eleven. Formed in 1953 in response to a lecture given by Clement Greenberg, the group's members were active up to their 1960s. 1970s. Tracy Cahill, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, has curated the show differently. Their non-representational paintings challenged conservative ideas about what constituted art in Canada, and the show's focus on staging a contested artistic season—because "war" is the theme—underscores the importance of the group's work.

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ELIZABETH WYN WOOD

Opening April 17, 2021
Art Gallery of Ontario

Elizabeth Wyn Wood, Northern Island, c.1940, the Gallery of Ontario.

Drawn from the Art Gallery of Ontario's own collection, this exhibition of sculpture by Elizabeth Wyn Wood, RCA, OSA, PRCA, PRCS, explores the organization of Canadian and British artists during the Second World War, and the ways in which Wyn Wood's work was influenced by wartime and national concerns. Her artwork sought a pictorial response, capturing the spirit of the war, the sacrifices made by people, and the hope for a better future. Curated by Sarah Milroy, Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Elizabeth Wyn Wood: Sculpture is a rare opportunity to see Wyn Wood's sculpture and design work.

Learn more

SCOTIABANK PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD: DANIEL L. PETROS

May to August, 2021
Bruce Peninsula, Ontario

Daniel L. Petros, Hawk, courtesy of Daniel L. Petros

The retrospective exhibition original, signals – Beats in the Blood' traces the artist's photographic practice from 1980 to 2020. Petros's photographic practice combines environmental awareness, documentary photography, and a sense of wonder. Petros's photographs are a call to action to explore volcanoes, conservation medicine, and social issues that affect our planet. Petros's work has been exhibited in Canada and abroad in numerous solo and group shows, and is in public and private collections, including the Canada Council Art Bank, the Bank of Montreal, and the Ontario Arts Council. Petros's compositions, Cultured shows how colonial, social, and cultural histories are represented in the Bruce Peninsula, Ontario, Canada.

Learn more

MISIGAK MISOHK / BEADS IN THE BLOOD: A RUTH CUTHAND RETROSPECTIVE

April 24 to October 4, 2021
Art Gallery of Hamilton

Ruth Cuthand, Beads in the Blood, 2020, collection of Christina Fedorchuk and Philip Rasch

The retrospective exhibition original, signals – Beads in the Blood' traces the artist's photographic practice from 1980 to 2020. Petros's photographic practice combines environmental awareness, documentary photography, and a sense of wonder. Petros's photographs are a call to action to explore volcanoes, conservation medicine, and social issues that affect our planet. Petros's work has been exhibited in Canada and abroad in numerous solo and group shows, and is in public and private collections, including the Canada Council Art Bank, the Bank of Montreal, and the Ontario Arts Council. Petros's compositions, Cultured shows how colonial, social, and cultural histories are represented in the Bruce Peninsula, Ontario, Canada.

Learn more

FRESH AIR: NEW ACQUISITIONS IN CONTEXT

April 13 to July 5, 2021
McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg

Sarah Milroy, Bruce Mason, Sophie Macpherson, Sarah Lewis, Ruth Cuthand, Sophie Calle, Sandra Brewster, Kelly Mitchell

Multidisciplinary artist Sarah Milroy has selected 60 artworks alongside an e-flying book and archival ephemera, the work is a collection of conversations between artists, curators, and collectors, and it explores the ways in which material knowledge, memory, and Indigenous artistic sovereignty. Layered with personal and institutional histories, Milroy's curatorial practice is deeply contextual. The exhibition is arranged in four sections: Bear, Bones, Bones, Bones; Ancestors; Ancestors; Ancestors; Ancestors; Ancestors; Ancestors.

Learn more

MONTREAL 1976: AN OLYMPIC FEAT

March 27 to September 27, 2021
McGill Arts Museum, Montreal

Design of the 1976 Montreal Olympics Mark, Montreal, 1976 (Jacques Chaumont, Jean-Paul Lemieux, Jacques Rousseau, Jacques Tétreault)

With the recent Olympic Games still on our minds, the McGill Museum of Contemporary Art's exhibition Montreal 1976: An Olympic Feat, curated by Jacques Rousseau, Professor Emeritus, McGill University, and Jacques Tétreault, Professor Emeritus, Université du Québec à Montréal, will be a fascinating look at the 1976 Olympics. The exhibition's artworks will include photographs, posters, and other ephemera, and will explore the ways in which the Olympics shaped the city of Montreal, and the ways in which the city shaped the Olympics.

Learn more

SHARY BOYLE: HOW WE ARE

February 14 to May 30, 2024
Art Gallery of Hamilton

Shary Boyle, Bitter Sweetness, 2020, Art Gallery of Hamilton

Imaginal creatures, shifting bodies, and stories that feel both familiar and otherworldly come together in Shary Boyle: How We Are. The work of Toronto based artist Shary Boyle, RCA, OSA, PRCA, PRCS, PRCA, PRCS, PRCA, PRCS