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**Lauren Chipeur, The Doodys, Mark Dudiak, Élise Provencher, Stefan Sollenius, Tom Watson.**

For our summer exhibition this year we are thrilled to be presenting the work of 7 young artists: Lauren Chipeur, The Doodys, Mark Dudiak, Élise Provencher, Stefan Sollenius and Tom Watson.

The artists in the exhibition are all MFA candidates at Concordia University, 6 of the artists are in the sculpture department and one in the painting department (Mark Dudiak). All of the artists (except Mark Dudiak) are just coming back from exhibiting their work at SHIM in Brooklyn, New-York in the exhibition *The furniture We are Forever Rearranging* (through July 10) organized by Michael A. Robinson. Many of the artists were also in the group exhibition *Maureen*, the MFA Department of Studio Arts exhibition presented in Montreal in May 2016.

A vernissage will be held Saturday July 2 from 3-6pm. The exhibition will run from June 30 to July 30th and by appointment for the month of August.

**Lauren Chipeur** received the Clara Strozyk Graduate Scholarship and the SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier: Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master. She has shown her work in Canada and internationally; notably at Zwitschermaschine in Berlin, Embassy Gallery in Edinburgh UK, Stride Gallery in Calgary AB and Wanusay in Montreal QC. Lauren was a resident artist at GlogauAIR in Berlin funded by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts; Sculpture Space in Utica, NY and VSVSVS in Toronto, ON.

"My work looks at how the objects and materials I use contain a logic that informs my own making process. What I previously thought of as coincidence or luck I reframe as a reaction between myself and the materials. Rather than describing these moments as intuitive, I prefer to see the material itself as setting my decision making into motion. The process through which the the work materializes enables me to discern the consequences as a collaborative act--or maybe just a sequence of the possible potentialities contained within each space or material.

In the sculptural installations I produce, I use packing materials and other equally processed matter like plastics and paper. Once collected the relationship between the materials and myself changes-shifting from quotidian and nonprecious to remarkable intimate. The inherent qualities of these materials, such as being light and modifiable, cause the works to resist collapse by supporting themselves and each other. Their precarious postures embody impermanence and address notions of duration, endurance and support. I see my work as a way to understand the systems formed to care for material as it moves, shifts and transforms both in transit and in the moments in which it rests."

**The Doodys** Jordan Blue & David James Doody are both graduates from the University of British Columbia in Critical and Creative Studies. Although each artist offers a uniquely individual approach to the discourse of visual arts, they share a common focus on the materialism of cultural codification. Their combined individual practices have been heavily influenced by world travel and the cross pollination of mass media, ritual and fetishistic cultures. Their practice moves freely between new media, sculpture, and painting.

“As a collaborative team for the past 14 years, we believe that communication has been the foundation of our artistic relationship. A common thread that can be traced throughout our work is that of collage. By sampling freely from a multitude of different sources, we are able to access unlimited individual histories, societal contexts and cultural symbols. For us, collage is more than just cut and paste, it is an immediate sense of being; it is our way of participating in the re-contextualization of our unfolding culture.”

Through their open processes of art-making they allow happenstance to regurgitate cultural intuition in an act of artistic survival.

### **Mark Dudiak**

Mark Dudiak (b.1979) is a Montreal based artist who works in painting, photography and video. He obtained his BFA from the Emily Carr University in Vancouver and is currently an MFA candidate at Concordia University in Montreal.

Exploring portraiture, public statuary and funerary architecture, Dudiak's work looks to the past to ask if we still believe in a future. He was artist in residence at the Centre for Art and Urbanism (ZK/U) in Berlin, Germany and at LUFF Architecture and Projects, Toronto. Dudiak has presented his work widely across Canada in such venues as the Access Artist Run Centre (Vancouver), the Museum of Canadian Contemporary Art (Toronto), the Mackenzie Art Gallery (Regina), Toronto Nuit Blanche and most recently at the Forest City Gallery (London, Ontario).

### **Élise Provencher**

Elise Provencher was born in Ste-Therese Quebec and now lives in Montreal. She received her Bachelor Degree in Visual and Media Arts at UQAM, Montreal. Upcoming solo exhibitions include Regart Artist run centre in Levis Quebec and L'Écart Art Actuel in Rouyn-Noranda Quebec.

"My work is populated of multiple creatures with smiling faces, dark gazes, distorted postures and composed with various materials, from fine traditional ceramics and glazes to plaster, resins, used wood and found object.

I am interested in the signs more than in concepts, and in images more than in ideas. The imagery presented is tinted with dark humour and horror, refers to a certain existentialism and raises the questions of identity, reflects on self representation and plays with the codes of the decorative object, classical sculpture and popular art. Through installations where the architectural plinths take part in the sculpture composition, my ideas work as syntheses of common cultural and historical knowledge, personal anecdotes and images derived from the unconscious.

### **Stefan Sollenius**

Stefan Sollenius is from British Columbia. He apprenticed as a stone carver at a young age. He continued working as a carver before finishing at Emily Carr University.

'In my studio practice I try to include elements of temporal change in connection to space in which the work resides. I often tamper with my selected materials in the early stages of making to speed up their decay. This is an attempt to use entropy to hold a viewer on a marker of time while providing a spatial experience. My work often contains as aesthetic reflection on the environments in which I live in. Domestic spaces and industrial zones are sometimes made to fit together and work out their usual divisions by being assembled as a sculpture.'

### **Tom Watson**

Born in the UK, Tom Watson received a BA in Sculpture from Sheffield Hallam University in 2004. Exhibitions include Cable Factory, Helsinki, Finland, Flux Factory, NYC, Spanien 19c, Aarhus, Denmark, Central University, Medellin, Columbia. He has also showed his work in the UK at Trade City, The Manchester International Festival, Mill 24, IslingtonMill, Salford, Hackney Wick(ed) Festival, London, Plan-9, Bristol. UL projects include : The Conclate of Cornerhouse, Manchester and Transmission in Glasgow.

'L.I.E.S. (Life Impotency Extinction Sex) 2015 is a multiple part sculptural installation, in which I conflate the role of a knife thrower, the target to be avoided and the mass produced design icon of a croc shoe. The knife thrower titillates spectators with near-death role-play, and as the croc shoe fails to become the object of desire for a human target audience instead it becomes a substitute sexual partner for a pet tortoise now infamous on youtube, as sexual energy is spent fulfilling a desire bind that consumables long to have with people. The impotence of both gestures of knife throwing and humping a wretched shoe that is best described as a 'natural contraceptive', is exemplified by the size of the shoe, scaled up to match the shell size of Lonesome George , the last of the Pinta Island Giant Tortoises.'