

Matrilineal Threads: Mother Daughter Duo Engage Traditional Craft to Create Contemporary Art

Yarn is definitely not a conventional material for sculpture unless you're Alberta's Kasie Campbell. "Matrilineal Threads" is both a performative and sculptural installation coming to ARTSPLACE, and created by Campbell in collaboration with her late mother, Ginette Lund. Consisting of large yarn sculptures, the work explores Campbell's relationship with her mother and examines the links between gender, craft, domesticity and tradition.

Working distantly from Edmonton and Grande Prairie, the duo used thread, yarn, nylon, batting, and textiles as a way to embrace Lund's aptitude for crochet.

The exhibit is comprised of eight, large, free-standing sculptures and a series of sweaters. Some of these are typically objects of comfort made by those we love, like a blanket or a sweater—they are functional and warm.

"We wanted to take the concept of crochet and flip it on its head. The work is universally recognizable, however, the crochet holds secrets, fears and worries around motherhood. The sweaters aren't functional but share a story," said Campbell.

"Human anatomy is central to the art, and is rendered in the works that are flesh-like in their own right. The sculptures' crocheted skin, orifices, and textile appendages unravel the feelings of familiar comfort associated with the medium," said Sophie Paskins, Gallery Director.

Campbell's performance—donning the bodysuit she created with her mother—further evokes the provocative collaborative potential of traditional women's craft and experiences shared as mothers and daughters.

"My mother was always a terrific craftsperson and one of the most talented I've ever known. She spent a lot of her time teaching people how to knit and crochet. Being able to continue sharing the knowledge she left to me, feels like a beautiful way to circulate her energy," added Campbell.

Ginette Lund battled lupus for 35 years, and worked tirelessly with Campbell, determined to continue despite her pervasive cancer and carpal tunnel in both hands.

"If that isn't a testament to womens' strength and the power of art, I don't know what is." Campbell considers herself lucky to have collaborated on this project with her mother, and is proud that Lund's name will tour beside her own.

"Matrilineal Threads" opens Saturday, September 25 and runs through October 30. Also opening: Circles:Ulli Walker and Jaime Lee Lightle.

Kasie Campbell is an award-winning visual artist working on Treaty 6 Territory. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts, majoring in Sculpture at the University of Alberta. Campbell has exhibited her work throughout Canada and internationally at Grounds for Sculpture (south of NYC), Mana Contemporary in Hamilton, NJ, Mana Contemporary in Chicago, IL, New York City at the Westbeth Gallery, Viljandi, Estonia and more recently is a part of an upcoming group show titled "The Scene" at the Art Gallery of Alberta.

The exhibition is supported through Edmonton Arts Council and the City of Edmonton, Canada Council for the Arts and the Province of Nova Scotia.

ARTSPLACE is a public Art Gallery that is operated by the Annapolis Region Community Arts Council, a registered non-profit, charitable, community organization dedicated to encouraging and promoting the arts. Supported through the Province of Nova Scotia and the Canada Council for the Arts.

ARTSPLACE Gallery is located at 396 St. George Street in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia

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