



Centre d'exposition L'Imagier
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PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

OPENING OF *CAROLINE MONNET: PATTERNS OF BELONGING* ON NOVEMBER 4, 2022



Gatineau, October 7, 2022 - L'Imagier invites you to the opening night of *Caroline Monnet: Patterns of Belonging* by artist Caroline Monnet, curated by Amin Alsaden.

The exhibition *Patterns of Belonging* brings Caroline Monnet's artistic practice back to her hometown of Aylmer. The works honour the significance of this site, located on the Ottawa River's watershed, the traditional territory of the Algonquin people. Even though Indigenous communities have inhabited this terrain for thousands of years, there are barely any discernable traces of their contributions today in the urban environment, due to the ways in which the landscape was changed by settler colonialism, often beyond recognition. Monnet challenges that erasure by studying Anishinaabe geometric motifs passed down through generations of matriarchs in her family, but of which she was dispossessed through forced assimilation. This hybrid exhibition showcases *Shapeshifter* (2019), a video projected on L'Imagier's western façade, visible after sunset from the Parc de L'Imaginaire, as well as *Piwanego / Noogom (Autrefois / Maintenant)* (2021), visible through the window of L'Imagier's eastern façade on Front Street. The sculptural work is the seed for a larger body of work that Monnet will present at an upcoming solo exhibition at L'Imagier, exploring the links between her community, built form, and land.

Passers-by at the Parc de L'Imaginaire will be able to enjoy this nocturnal projection every night from November 4, 2022, to February 5, 2023, from sunset to 10 pm.

Activity

- **Opening:** Friday, November 4 at 6 pm, with the curator Amin Alsaden.

Artist Biography

Born to an Anishinaabe mother and a French father, Caroline Monnet is a multidisciplinary artist from Outaouais currently based in Montreal. After studying at the University of Ottawa and the University of Granada in Spain, she pursued a career in visual arts and film. Her work is regularly presented internationally and can also be found in prestigious museums, private and corporate collections. Her practice is often minimalist yet emotionally charged. Monnet has become known for her work with industrial materials, combining the vocabulary of popular and traditional visual cultures with the tropes of modernist abstraction to create unique hybrid forms. She is represented by Blouin Division Gallery.

Curator Biography

Amin Alsaden is a curator, educator, and scholar of art and architecture, whose work focuses on transnational solidarities and exchanges across cultural boundaries. With a commitment to advancing social justice through the arts, Alsaden's curatorial practice contributes to the dissemination of more diverse, inclusive, and global narratives, by decentring and expanding existing canons, and challenging hegemonic knowledge and power structures. He is particularly interested in how artists and architects interrogate collective agency in the public realm, while envisioning novel visual and spatial responses to the experiences of alienation and belonging.

About the Centre d'exposition L'Imagier

A catalyst for ideas and creative energies, L'Imagier is a non-profit organization in Aylmer (Gatineau) whose mission is to developing interest in contemporary art and promoting the plurality of the arts. This mission is embodied by activities of dissemination, research, cultural action, and educational workshops as well as cultural mediation.

Partners



L'Imagier would like to thank Blouin Division for the loan of *Piwanego / Noogom (Autrefois / Maintenant)* (2021), as well as the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and Ville de Gatineau for their financial support.

Image: graphic identity by Simon Guibord.

- 30 -

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