

EQUINOX GALLERY
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future relics of our time

Serisa Fitz-James, Jack Kenna, and Isabel Wynn
Curated by Andrea Valentine-Lewis

February 19 to March 19, 2022
Equinox Gallery, Vancouver

Equinox Gallery is pleased to present ***future relics of our time***, an exhibition of ceramic works by Serisa Fitz-James, Jack Kenna, and Isabel Wynn, curated by Andrea Valentine-Lewis. During the Middle Ages, objects associated with holy people and sites were deeply celebrated. Due to their association with saints or with heaven itself, relics, such as bits of hair or body parts, were considered divine. Because the term relic derives from the Latin word *relinquere*, meaning “that which is left behind,” these objects have become temporal markers for future generations. Reflecting on the material and affective dimensions of Medieval relics, one might wonder, what would constitute a future relic representative of our present time.

The ceramic works by Fitz-James, Kenna, and Wynn concretize a resonant dimension relating to our current—and precarious—social, political, and environmental climate. In its raw state, clay is impressionable and pliant, but once placed in the kiln, it is susceptible to disobedience. Ceramic artists are accustomed to the element of chance inherent in the firing process, and a cracked or caved-in result is typically viewed as unfit for presentation. Rather than disguising such flaws and rejecting the 'disorderly' qualities of clay, the works included in this exhibition embrace the negative chance effects of the material to convey both humour and melancholia. Such an acceptance of instability and volatility is in fact a valuable recognition of precarity and the inability to control everything, an attitude that is essential to navigate our changing planet this year, next year, and beyond.

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Serisa Fitz-James (they/them) is a Filipinx-Canadian interdisciplinary artist living and working in Vancouver. In 2021, Fitz-James was selected as Port Moody Art Centre's ceramic artist-in-residence, developing a solo exhibition *We Can Ask for More* (2021). Recent group exhibitions include *Earthbound* at Lipont Gallery in Richmond (2021), August Studios (2021), and *In Over Our Heads* at Franc Gallery in Vancouver (2020). Fitz-James will present work in a solo exhibition at Libby Leshgold Gallery (2022) and in a group exhibition at the Mitchell Art Gallery at MacEwan University in Edmonton (2022). Fitz-James holds a BFA from Emily Carr University of Art + Design (2020).

Jack Kenna (he/him) is a multi-disciplinary artist living and working in Vancouver. Recent solo exhibitions include *A Clog in the Machine* at The Alternator Centre for Contemporary Art in Kelowna (2020), *Gridworks* (2020) and *Dairyland* (2019) both at Slice of Life Gallery in Vancouver. Select group exhibitions include *I Like to Look* at Curve Line Space in Los Angeles (2020), *In Over Our Heads* at Franc Gallery in Vancouver (2020), and *Got it for Cheap* at 0.0 Gallery in Los Angeles (2018). Kenna is a current artist-in-residence at Burrard Arts Foundation and has participated in the Bonnie McComb Kreye Residency in Victoria (2021). Kenna holds a BFA from Emily Carr University of Art + Design. Kenna is represented by Equinox Gallery.

Isabel Wynn (she/her) is a Brazilian-Canadian ceramic artist living and working in Vancouver, where she is also the founder of Báhoo Studios, a school focusing on ceramics. Wynn's work was recently presented in collaboration with Demure Creative House (2021), and in a group show at TAS Vancouver (2021). Selected group exhibitions include *Earthbound* at Lipont Gallery in Richmond (2021), Slice of Life Gallery in Vancouver (2021), and August Studios (2021). In 2022, Wynn will present a collaborative work involving ceramic works and projected moving image with interdisciplinary artist Rodrigo Gares. Wynn holds a BFA from Emily Carr University of Art + Design.

Andrea Valentine-Lewis (she/her) is an independent curator and writer living and working in Vancouver, where she is the gallery manager at Burrard Arts Foundation and on the board of directors at UNIT/PITT. Past projects include *UTOPOS* at Deluge Contemporary Art in Victoria (2020) and *Green Piece* at Unit 17 in Vancouver (2019). Her critical writing has appeared in *Peripheral Review*, *Relssue*, *Galleries West*, and as didactic texts for exhibitions in Seoul, Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. Her upcoming curatorial project will be presented in collaboration with Capture Photography Festival at Marine Drive Station. Valentine-Lewis holds an MA in Art History from McGill University that was supported by SSHRC (2020) and a BA in Art, Performance and Cinema Studies from Simon Fraser University.