

EQUINOX GALLERY
3642 Commercial Street
Vancouver, BC V5N 4G2

604.736.2405 t
info@equinoxgallery.com e
www.equinoxgallery.com w

Devon Knowles: *Gone and Going*

October 22 to November 19, 2022

Reception for the artist: Saturday, October 22nd, 2 to 4pm

Equinox Gallery, Vancouver

Equinox Gallery is pleased to present *Gone and Going*, Devon Knowles' first solo exhibition at the gallery.

The main concern of Devon Knowles' work can be summarized by an observation made by the artist in 2020 that, "texture, colour, their source and the small variations in their physical dimensions are all important. Texture can blow out the colour as the physical light glares on its surface, making it impenetrable from certain points of view. What becomes evident at that moment, where it is all surface and you cannot see beyond the glare of external light bouncing, is a temporary boundary." This idea of boundaries permeates Knowles' work where her thoughtful use of materials drives the careful examination of spaces, edges, and their human presence.

In Devon Knowles' new body of work, the engineering of materials is implicit as both the subject and process of the work. Through a sustained process of observation, Knowles documents urban sites and neighbourhoods in transition, intuitively noting the recurrence of colours and patterns present in her chosen locations. Her walks through neighbourhoods are filtered through multiple technologies, as she fragments and reassembles the changing landscapes into stained-glass compositions. These glass compositions then serve as the basis for moulds from which aluminum pieces are cast, creating a sculptural interpretation of the stained-glass work in a much more utilitarian material. The aluminum cast of the stained-glass face is bound to stacked casting of internal construction materials such as Styrofoam and duct tape, offering archeological-like insight into what may lie behind the walls. Returning to the original urban sites at a later date gives Knowles the opportunity to revisit the colours and compositions in order to create a third element made from yet another process of fusing glass. The fused glass process creates a smoother, more polished result reflecting the ways that many urban sites are developed into sleeker "final products." The three elements used in the triptychs *Between '17 and '22* and *Between '18 and '22* use density, opacity and volume to chronicle variances in time as the sites transition from one stage to the next. The edges and lines produced in the works *Winter Butterfly* and *Is, Was, Here* works are more supple in texture, suggesting malleable boundaries that have not been strictly defined. More distinct layers are present in *Is, Was, Here* where the glass is stacked horizontally rather than set to be viewed vertically as in the wall works. The archeological stacking continues through the extended plinths, echoing the building materials used by Knowles throughout the exhibition, each material selected for its potential to be recycled and reused as it transforms the city. The range of materials used by Devon Knowles' reflects her interest in the tangible process of making. While stained glass offers degrees of transparency and opacity, she chooses to further her inquiry into materiality and methodology by recycling and reinterpreting her original composition, keeping it in flux and giving visibility to previous incarnations across the city that would otherwise be lost.

EQUINOX GALLERY
3642 Commercial Street
Vancouver, BC V5N 4G2

604.736.2405 t
info@equinoxgallery.com e
www.equinoxgallery.com w

Knowles has presented her work in solo exhibitions in Berlin, Toronto, Brooklyn, and Vancouver. Group exhibitions include venues such as Vancouver Art Gallery, Night Gallery in Los Angeles, and SFU Gallery, Charles H. Scott Gallery, Western Front, Or Gallery and Unit Pitt all in Vancouver. Knowles has participated in residency programs in Europe and she has received grants from the Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council, British Columbia Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts and was awarded the Mayor's Arts Award as an Emerging Artist in Public Art. She has taught at Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Simon Fraser University, and University of Victoria and is currently a faculty member at Langara College, snəweyət lələm. Knowles' work is included in the collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery. Devon Knowles lives and works in Vancouver, Canada.

The artist wishes to acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.