

EQUINOX GALLERY
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Zoë Kreye

Well, beloved, it is that which we want to call the secret growing

September 9 to October 7, 2023

Reception for the artist: Saturday September 9th, 2 to 4pm

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Equinox Gallery is very pleased to present a special project with **Zoë Kreye**. The opening of the exhibition is on Saturday, September 9th from 2 to 4pm.

Zoë Kreye's practice is informed by her studies in somatics, a field within the bodywork and movement studies that emphasizes internal physical perceptions and experiences. Using visual language pulled from sculpture, performance, and somatics, her works foreground a connection between the spirit and beauty. The artist explains, "I see aesthetics as spirit work, in which I am a keen and dedicated student. Beauty is essential, it is an assertion of living, it is transmuting essence, it is worlding." She cites many artists as guides to her practice, explaining that she spends time invoking and inviting influential artists such as Hilma af Klint and Phyllida Barlow into her space before beginning a project.

Moved by a sense of purpose that includes connection, spirit, and care, Zoë Kreye uses an embodied ritual studio practice to create objects and installations that capture sensations in the body, both in the way that the works are produced and how they are experienced. The installation of the works are a way of guiding and inviting bodies to occupy space in different ways. Highlighting the body's capacity to experience space in a holistic way, Kreye's use of varied materials, like gauzy voile, rough linen, twill and cotton is important because of the physiological response the body has to these materials: they can be sensed, even without touch. By including the body as a tool for sensing resonance within visual aesthetics, the artist engages a multitude of senses in the act of viewing, bringing awareness to the self and others, and opening the conceptual and formal possibilities within the works. Expressive in scale and composition, the experience of the exhibition and works shift, subtly infiltrating the psyche and the body with each visit.

The title of the exhibition, *Well, beloved, it is that which we want to call the secret growing*, is taken from a 1903 journal entry by the Swedish artist af Klint that describes the enigmatic forces in life:

"The phenomenon we are trying to explain is truly bewildering. What is this phenomenon, you ask? Well, beloved, it is that which we want to call the secret growing. How often have we heard you say that everything is futile, that nothing comes of all your labours. Yet like amorphous buds your endeavors sprout in all directions. You see everything as formless and you forget that this is a sign of life."

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Zoë Kreye received a Master's in Public Art & New Artistic Strategies from the Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany in 2009 where she specialized in Social Practice. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Arts at Concordia University, Montréal, Québec in 2003. Recent exhibitions include *I Know About Lots of Things I've Never Seen. And So Do You.* (Kamloops Art Gallery, 2023), *Uncommon Language* (Vancouver Art Gallery, 2021), *Art By Post* (Southbank Centre London, Leicester Gallery De Montfort University, 2021), *The School of WE* (<rotor> Graz Austria, 2021), *Person/ne* (Griffin Art Projects, North Vancouver, 2019), *Cloth Culture* (Lake Country Art Gallery, 2019), *Myths* (WAAP Vancouver, 2018).

Kreye has been an instructor and lead artist for residencies and programming at Emily Carr University of Art + Design, University of British Columbia, Artscape Gibraltar Point, Vancouver Art Gallery, Museum of Vancouver, Graz University of Technology Austria, Bauhaus University Weimar, Haus der Kulturen der Welt Berlin, and Vancouver Parks Board. Recently collaborators include Lisa Prentice, Alexa Mardon, Luciana Freire D'Anunciação, and Guadalupe Martinez.