

EQUINOX GALLERY
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ISABEL WYNN

February 17th to March 16th, 2024

Reception for the artist: Saturday, February 17th, 2024, 2 to 4pm

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Equinox Gallery is pleased to announce Isabel Wynn's first solo exhibition with the gallery. Born in São Paulo, Brazil and raised in Steveston, British Columbia, Isabel Wynn studied ceramics at Langara College and Emily Carr University where the foundations for the methodologies shaping her current sculptural practice were laid. Through the medium of clay, she explores the balance between control and uncertainty, tipping the scale towards the unorthodox and the extravagant.

Primarily constructed on the potter's wheel, Wynn's work involves a process of throwing, attaching, and warping in order to create dynamic and expressive forms. Through prolonged and repeated glazing and firing, the work takes on a patina of unpredictability, yet in fact, the results are highly controlled with little left to chance. As a result, rich textures animate the surface of the work, and you might get a tinge of sea foam, peeled Arbutus bark, gravel, gleaming river rock, or even pock-marked skin. The artist explains: "I was initially drawn to large, pot-like, wheel-thrown shapes, however my interest in achieving the required perfection gradually shifted as interventions into these traditional forms revealed more exciting outcomes." The scale of her work grew, implicating her physical interaction with the material where some imprints on the clay can be viewed as bodily folds, slumps, arches, even wounds. The resulting sculptures still echo traditional elements, however they often perch on the precipice of collapse, and swim in pebbly, flowing glazes that in other contexts might be deemed as failures. This flirtation with failure--searching for the tipping point--is fundamental to Wynn's work, pointing to a world that is not fixed in accepted ideologies or long-standing traditions, but is open to unconventional influences and unorthodox notions of beauty.

In 2021, Isabel Wynn established Báhoo Studio, a ceramics studio and school that has evolved into a thriving artist space. Serving as its founder and director, she has transformed the studio into a community hub where artists gather to explore the materiality of clay under her mentorship.