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Philippe Raphanel: *Gardens*

January 31 to February 28, 2026

Reception for the artist: Saturday February 7, 2 to 4pm
Equinox Gallery, Vancouver

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Gardens is an exhibition of new paintings by Philippe Raphanel at Equinox Gallery, extending the artist's long-standing engagement with the natural world into a focused meditation on the life of the garden. For over 30 years, Raphanel's painting practice has been marked by an awareness and sensitivity to the natural landscape; in this new body of work, he turns toward the intimate, daily rituals of tending a garden as a way to think about time, place, and renewal.

Working with thinned paint and a highly layered process, Raphanel builds his images through delicate veils of colour that create a remarkable sense of depth with very little physical buildup on the surface. Each thin line is individually painted by hand, forming a subtle lattice that runs through the background—a structure that supports rather than competes with the flowers and foliage in the foreground, and that can suggest shafts of light, falling rain, or filtered sunrays. Iridescent pigments and alternatingly opaque and translucent layers allow the paintings to shift with the viewer's position and in response to changing light, echoing his ongoing interest in atmospheric space and in imagery related to oceanic and celestial maps.

There is a distinct feeling of tapestry in these works, like an established garden where old and new plants and seasons overlap and embrace each other. In a time of instability, the daily, monthly, and seasonal rituals of the garden take on heightened significance, grounding attention in what is close at hand. *Gardens* reflects a growing interest in the local—yards, parks, and nearby ecosystems—foregrounding the importance of these shared environments. Taken together, these paintings chart shifts in time, light, and growth while remaining anchored in Raphanel's coherent abstract language, in which line and colour create an atmosphere that is at once mapped, measured, and deeply felt.

Philippe Raphanel immigrated to Canada from France in 1981 and has since exhibited his work across Canada, the United States, and Australia. He has been the recipient of numerous Canada Council grants and was awarded the VIVA Award in 1996. Raphanel taught painting at Emily Carr University of Art + Design for 25 years. His work has been shown at Equinox Gallery since 2002 and is included in public collections such as the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, the Burnaby Art Gallery, the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, and the Kamloops Art Gallery. Raphanel lives and works in East Vancouver.

The exhibition will be on view from January 31 to February 28, 2026. A reception with the artist will be held on Saturday, February 7 between 2 and 4pm.