

September 9, 2019

Art exhibition explores the afterlife of waste

Edmonton – The upcoming exhibition at the Mitchell Art Gallery in Allard Hall is all about garbage. *With All Things Considered* is the first exhibition featuring work by Leanne Olson from her Artist in Residence position at the Edmonton Waste Management Centre.

“This project was an act of bringing decay back into view through unraveling it and putting it in a gallery,” says Olson. “Decay is an equally important part of life, yet it is invisibilized, hidden from view, and shuffled away to be covered up.”

“Seeing decay is important to me as a remedy around consumption: to be comfortable with decay is to question the brevity of time that materials (waste) are interacted with,” added Olson. “To extend this time is to witness change and tend to materials as they are changing is an interaction in the cycle of consumption.”

“The exhibition denies the monumental, awe-filled feeling that comes from viewing an elegant aestheticizing of what we have disposed,” said Carolyn Jervis, curator, Mitchell Art Gallery. “Instead we are set amongst the ruins to contend with our impulse to reinscribe meaning onto the decaying objects otherwise rendered unintelligible. Waste gets removed and disappears from our lives each garbage day, but yet it still exists, sometimes in perpetuity.”

About the artist

Olson is an exhibiting artist and community arts facilitator. She has a BA in Film Studies from the University of Alberta and has maintained a photography practice since her youth. During the last five years, Olson’s work has focused on land and water bodies that are tasked with jobs: landfills, sulphurous springs, and recreational lakes. Her practice involves repeated visits and documentation of these sites.

Since 2017, she has been in a series of intensive artist residencies at the Banff Centre for the Arts, Artscape on Toronto Island, and most recently she held a one-year position as the first Artist in Residence at the Edmonton Waste Management Centre.

Artist in Residence program was supported by the Edmonton Arts Council.

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 12, 7 - 9 p.m.

The exhibition is on view September 13 until December 7.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, Noon - 5 p.m.

The Mitchell Art Gallery is free and open to the public.

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