



Image credits: Cait McKinney and Hazel Meyer, Husbandry (still), 2024. 8mm film transferred to digital video. Courtesy of the artists.

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

New exhibition at MacEwan University’s Mitchell Art Gallery tells the story of two ground-breaking women architects in Edmonton

Edmonton – The Mitchell Art Gallery at MacEwan University is proud to present its latest exhibition, *GLAD YOU CLOSER HOME / NEW WHITE WHISKER MARY*. With a title borrowed from a telegram in architects Mary Imrie and Jean Wallbridge’s archive, Cait McKinney and Hazel Meyer’s immersive exhibition playfully imagines and speculates in the spaces between the correspondence, amateur 8mm film recordings and modernist buildings that these remarkable women have left behind.

Mary Imrie (1918–1988) and Jean Wallbridge (1912–1979) operated their architecture firm – the first run by women in Canada – at Six Acres, the home overlooking the North Saskatchewan River in west Edmonton which they built for their work and life together. When Imrie passed away, she bequeathed the records of their remarkable architectural practice and adventurous life, along with their home, to the province of Alberta.

McKinney and Meyer’s collaborative practice is rooted in how queer history lives in research and archives, with past projects exploring topics such as ruins, the feminist sex wars in 1980s Vancouver and the Canadian Lesbian & Gay Archives porn VHS collection. Their work treats archives as more than places to establish official historical narratives, but also as sites for fantasizing, questioning and feeling amongst objects and ephemera and the relevance those items hold in our contemporary moment. When drawing from the archive of Imrie and Wallbridge, McKinney and Meyer’s approach to artmaking

amplifies the resonance of these lovers and architects' exceptional lives in ways that documents alone cannot.

The exhibition runs from September 20 to December 7, 2024, Tuesday to Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. with extended hours on Thursdays, noon to 7 p.m.

There will be an artist talk and reception with Cait McKinney and Hazel Meyer:

Thursday, September 19

5 p.m. (artist talk in Roundhouse Event Space)

6 p.m. (reception)

Mitchell Art Gallery, Allard Hall Atrium

11110 104 Avenue

For more information, please contact archerj24@macewan.ca

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.