

paper_work.doc.

Eli Bjedov-Stanković, Réseidence Céline Bureau, Joé Côté-Rancourt, Pierina Corzo-Valero, CUCCR, María Andreína Escalona De Abreu, FMP Department, maya rae oppenheimer, Recycla, Jason Sikoak, Geneviève Wallen

Curated by María Andreína Escalona De Abreu

WHEREAS the Gallery wishes to exhibit this weird experiment, hereinafter referred to as the “Exhibition(s),” from **July 22nd, 2024, to September 6th, 2024.**

WHEREAS the Exhibitions wish to delve into the question “What sustains an exhibition?”

WHEREAS the Exhibitions wish to celebrate the creative process necessary to artmaking while honouring the often-overlooked contributions of cultural workers as outlined in the following three clauses.

NOW WHEREFORE THE PARTIES HERETO AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Researching, exploring, and playing

María Andreína Escalona De Abreu, hereinafter referred to as the “Curator” shall curate the Main Space Exhibition titled ***paper_work.doc.*** Experimentation, trust and collaboration will guide the creation of the in-situ works for the FOFA Gallery. The Exhibition shall change, fluctuate, mutate, and inhabit the gallery as follows:

- 1.1. The Black Box will be inhabited by the patterns of Jason Sikoak as an exploration of Inuk imagery, intergenerational knowledge, and the laborious creative process.
- 1.2. The Courtyard and the Main Space will be graced by Eli Bjedov-Stanković’s paper quilts as an offering to the outdoors, the indoors, the public, the private, the wind, the rain, the sun, the grass.
- 1.3. The nooks and crannies of the gallery will host the hidden helpers and tools made by Joé Côté-R as an homage to the often-invisible labour behind artmaking and exhibition-making.
- 1.4. The Main Space will be transformed into a paper studio created by Joé Côté-R, Eli Bjedov-Stanković, and the Curator with contributions from Concordia University Centre for Creative Reuse (CUCCR) and Céline Bureau Residency. In it, bureaucratic spaces and the white cube shall be reimagined as sites of creativity and community engagement; resulting in a playground to explore discarded paperwork, unwanted materials, along with the visible and invisible labour behind artworks and exhibitions.
- 1.5. The Main Space will also include a curated selection of books, samples, and research materials from the archives of Concordia’s Fibres &

Material Practices Department accompanied by furniture built by Recycla (formerly CP3, Concordia Precious Plastic Project), as well as graphic and printed matter designed by Pierina Corzo-Valero; as research processes and experimentation are essential for both artists and gallery workers.

2. Engaging with the public

The public programming, titled ***office_hours.ptt***, is an invitation to reflect on the intricacies of papermaking and sustainability but also on the broader implications of labour within cultural production through dialogue and interaction. Visitors are encouraged to witness the artistic process firsthand, engaging in workshops and discussions led by guest speakers. The programming shall include the following activities:

- 2.1. **Office hours of the paper studio:** the public is invited to join the Curator to learn about papermaking and the curatorial process as she produces paper sheets for the evolutive artwork *paper_office.doc*.
- 2.2. **Paper Quilt-Making Open Studio:** Eli Bjedov-Stanković and the Curator shall assemble a paper quilt in the Courtyard to be hung on the walls of the gallery. The public is invited to contribute to the making of the quilt.
- 2.3. **Roundtable with Le Livart:** a conversation with the artists of the exhibition *Choisir la douceur* to flesh out themes of care, slow-practices, and intentionality in the arts.
- 2.4. **Relational Ethics in the Arts with Geneviève Wallen:** the facilitator shall address collaboration and how to establish healthy relationships beyond and within the institution; through agreements and care clauses.
- 2.5. **Patterning workshop and talk with Jason Sikoak:** a demonstration on hand drawn Inukaluk patterns and Indigenous sustainable practices.
- 2.6. **The Gossip Monger [participatory artwork with maya rae oppenheimer]:** as gossip and the office environment go hand in hand, the Gossip Monger will collect donations of gossip to explore how it can save, insinuate, warn, harm, and educate. Donations will be transcribed in a registry of handmade paper to be dispensed at the end of the exhibition.

3. Caring for the artworks

Nicole Burisch shall curate the exhibition titled *Too Good to Waste* in the York Vitrines to explore beyond our confabulations and fascination for the handcrafted, the repurposed, the accumulated, and will include the artworks of Adam Basanta, Ari Bayuaji, Alexa Hatanaka, and Kelly Jazvac.

APENDIX A: CURATOR'S NOTE

At the heart of the exhibitions and programming hereinabove lies a close examination of labour, both visible and hidden. Both *paper_work.doc* and *Too Good to Waste*, as well as

the accompanying programming *office_hour.ptt*, are the result of a two-year residency; a period of incredible growth, fun challenges, nerdy conversations, and the most amazing connections. For the past two years, I have seen the gallery space shapeshifting through many exhibitions, hosting touching conversations, welcoming all sorts of publics, adapting to hardship, becoming a hub for sustainable practices, and continuously carrying on with its exhibition cycle. All of it thanks to the incredible team behind it. As an homage to these two years of witnessing the ins and outs of the gallery, and after many conversations on sustainability, curatorial work, bureaucracy, slow artmaking, craft, and collaboration, I offer this attempt to materialize such work in its administrative, collaborative, and artistic forms. I'm forever grateful to each person who has helped me create these spaces and explore how art, sustainability, and community converge to shape a more thoughtful and intentional future.

Signed in Montréal on the date indicated below.

Name: María Andreína Escalona De Abreu
Title: Curator in Residence
Date: 10 July 2024

Name:
Title:
Date:

María's acknowledgments: To Nicole Burisch, Geneviève Wallen, Pierina Corzo-Valero, Joé Côté-R, Jasmine Sihra, Philip Kitt, Josh Jensen, Surabhi Ghosh, Laurence Porier, Eli Bjedov-Stanković, Arrien Weeks, Eunice Bélidor, Surabhi Ghosh, our reception plants, the CDA team, the Print Shop team, Concordia's community in general, and anyone who made my time at FOFA a dream come true; I am forever grateful.