

Symposium: Toward Future Bodies

The Gardiner Museum is pleased to host Toward Future Bodies, a symposium supported by the Raphael Yu Centre for Canadian Ceramics, and in collaboration with A-B Projects. The symposium takes place during the International Ceramic Art Fair (ICAF) and will feature a roster of local and international speakers, fostering a deeper appreciation for Canadian ceramics within a larger artistic ecosystem through discussions on the body in relation to the land, home, animals, the machine, and the future.

Symposium Schedule

Friday June 9, 2023

6 – 8 pm

What's The Function?

Keynote speaker: Nicole Seisler

Ceramic objects have always been in dialogue with the world around them—the cup in the hand, the pot ensconced by fire, the sherd buried in soil—but now more than ever artists worldwide are deliberately exploring how objects, the materials from which they are made, and the places or conditions from which they emanate can exemplify and animate the interconnectedness of the world with in which we reside. In this talk, Los Angeles-based artist/educator/curator Nicole Seisler examines these shifts, thereby reframing the meaning of 'functional' ceramics in the contemporary field.

Saturday June 10, 2023

9:30 – 10 am

Doors open

Registration, continental breakfast

10 am

Welcome Remarks

Sequoia Miller, Nicole Seisler

10:15 – 11:30 am

Panel: Ecological Bodies

Speakers: KC Adams, Saffronia Downing and Sameer Farooq

Moderator: Nehal El-Hadi

The panel will explore ways that we emerge from, relate to, and return to the earth. The minerals and water that enter our body also form the geology that surrounds us; how do we see ourselves as water and rock, not just connected to the geology of this

planet, but actually constitutive of it? How do we leave our collective memory in the land, and how does its memory mark us, through objects and other traces?

11:30 – 12:45 pm

Panel: Animal Bodies (Part 1): Subsumed

Speakers: Mary Anne Barkhouse, Susan Collett and Jess Riva Cooper

Moderator: Carmela Laganse

Humans often prefer to believe that they are in control—of themselves, of their circumstances, of their futures. The truth is that much, if not most, lies beyond our control. This panel considers the ways in which all animal bodies are subsumed by time and place, as well as the possibilities that can arise from such inseparability.

12:45 – 2 pm

Lunch

2 – 2:30 pm

Presenting: The Raphael Yu Collection

Speaker: Julie Hollenbach

This presentation will focus on a group of artworks in the Raphael Yu Collection at the Gardiner Museum to explore how Canadian artists have been engaging questions of human and animal autonomy and interdependence.

2:30 – 3:45 pm

Panel: Animal Bodies (Part 2): Constructed

Speakers: David Harper, Janet Macpherson, Nurielle Stern

Moderator: Suzanne Carte

The constructed animal body lies somewhere between the real and the

imagined. The artists on this panel approach this liminal space by composing fragments, staging a still life, or entering a dreamscape. Collectively, they question how the animal body exists beyond the physical realm.

3:45 – 4 pm

Break

4 – 4:30 pm

Presenting: Future Bodies

Speaker: Stephanie Hanes

Artist Stephanie Hanes delves into the radical place of in-betweens, movement, and how futuristic bodies can open access to unknown aspects of ourselves and the politics of our inter-relation.

4:30 – 5 pm

Presenting: Limitless Bodies

Speaker: Stacy Jo Scott

If each of us is a universe, our bodies may not stop but rather expand. Could our container be limitless? Do the digital and ethereal point to a new horizon? Join Stacey Jo Scott on the limitless body.

5 – 5:30 pm

Follow-up Conversation

with Stephanie Hanes and Stacy Jo Scott

5:30 pm

Closing Remarks

Sequoia Miller, Nicole Seisler