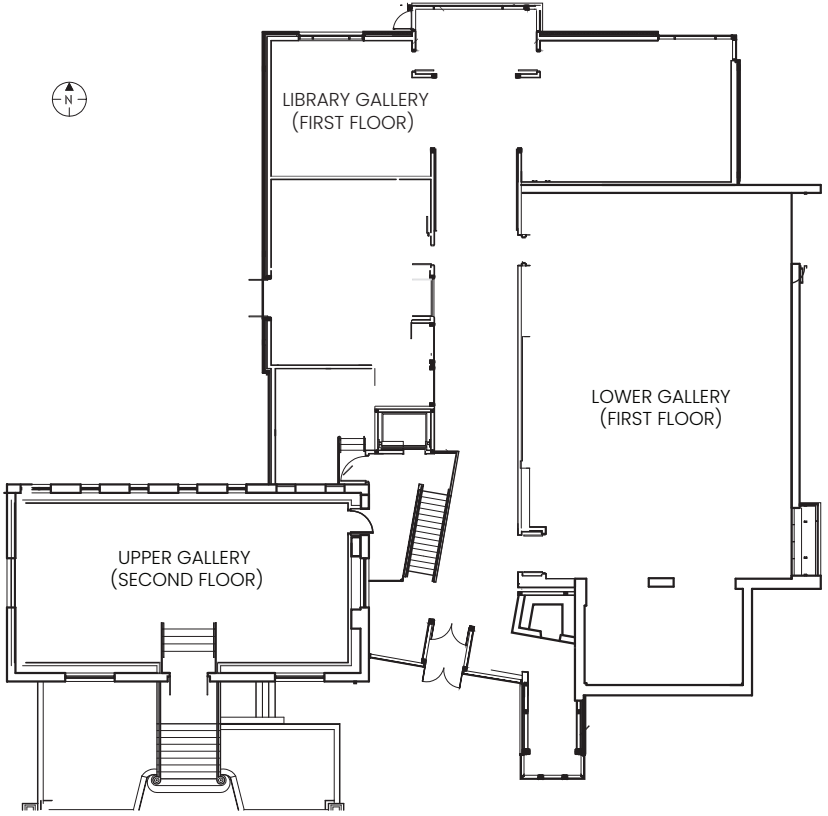




GALLERY GUIDE | 13 MAY 2023 – 24 JUNE 2023

SAAG SOUTHERN ALBERTA ART GALLERY
MAANSIKSİKAITSI TAPIITSINIKSSIN



LIBRARY GALLERY
(FIRST FLOOR)

LOWER GALLERY
(FIRST FLOOR)

UPPER GALLERY
(SECOND FLOOR)

ART'S ALIVE AND WELL IN THE SCHOOLS

Lethbridge area K – 12 students | Lower Gallery

Sponsored by 

APRIL MATISZ

Gathering near and far, still | Upper Gallery

LORNE POWER

#rainthatstuck | Library Gallery

EVENTS + PROGRAMS

- May 13** | Opening Reception | Art's Alive and Well in the Schools presented by ATB | 2 - 4 p.m.
 - May 13** | Opening Reception | April Matisz | Lorne Power | 7 - 9 p.m.
 - May 18** | Bletcher Hour Reading Group | 6 - 7 p.m.
 - May 20** | Articulations with April Matisz | 2 - 3 p.m.
 - May 27** | Crafternoon with April Matsiz | 1 - 4 p.m.
 - June 2** | SAAG Arts Writing Prize submission deadline | 5 p.m.
 - June 8** | Bletcher Hour Reading Group | 6 - 7 p.m.
 - June 9** | SAAG Summer Market | 4 - 8 p.m.
 - June 10** | SAAG Summer Market | 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 - June 22** | Curator's Tour | 6 - 7 p.m.
 - June 24** | Crafternoon: Pride Edition with Tyler Alexander | 1 - 4 p.m.
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ART'S ALIVE AND WELL IN THE SCHOOLS

Lethbridge area K – 12 students

13 MAY 2023 – 17 JUNE 2023 | LOWER GALLERY

Sponsored by ATB

OPENING RECEPTION: 13 MAY 2023 | 2 – 4 PM

In 1976 the Southern Alberta Art Gallery opened its doors. The following year we made a commitment to providing formative opportunities for Lethbridge students from kindergarten to grade 12. Through *Art's Alive and Well in the Schools*, we have been able to honour youthful creativity by exhibiting their work in a leading contemporary art gallery. Now in its 46th year, we estimate *Art's Alive* has exhibited nearly 17,000 pieces over the decades. This exhibition continually reminds us that art is a fundamental aspect of learning and development.

Organized by the Lethbridge School Division, in cooperation with the Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division, and École La Vérendrye and hosted by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery Maansiksikaitsitapiitsinikssin.



This exhibition was made possible with funding assistance from ATB, the City of Lethbridge, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

Art's Alive and Well in the Schools exhibition opening 2022. Photos courtesy of Tanya Plonka.



APRIL MATISZ

Gathering near and far, still

13 MAY 2023 - 24 JUNE 2023 | UPPER GALLERY

OPENING RECEPTION: 13 MAY 2023 | 7 - 9 PM

Long ago, we hunted and gathered. When considering our ancient past, hunters seem to get all of the attention. Gathering, however, deserves a closer look.

A necessary act for survival, gathering involves traversing a landscape, coming to know it by searching and assessing, selecting and collecting. The physical act of picking berries,



April Matisz, *A Kind of Sentience*, collage, 2020. Courtesy of the artist.

roots, and leaves gives way to storytelling as humans search for meaning in their actions.

Gathering near and far, still depicts characters enacting human needs, from collecting plants for food or medicine to migrating to new environments. Throughout these ongoing journeys, stories emerge that transform these acts into something profound.

Matisz's multimedia installation of drawings, ceramics, collages, and life-sized figures are set in a floral and seemingly distant past from which our biological and social systems emerged. Familiar human experiences such as child-rearing and encounters with danger are found in the intimate collages and life-sized cut-outs of Matisz's amorphous "ladies". Ceramic sculptures of feet on the floor of the gallery allude to the fossilised footprints of distant ancestors, possibly on a nomadic quest for survival and meaning. Together, the works suggest a continuing narrative of seeking, gathering, and a search for significance that perseveres into the current moment.

Gathering near and far, still is an occasion to consider how ancient interactions with the environment have shaped our present-day bodies and minds. The exhibition invites us to search for commonality with our ancestors, and by extension, each other. In referencing our evolutionary history, Matisz seeks to remind us of the ways this past echoes within us, despite the contemporary environment that we find ourselves in today.

Curated by Adam Whitford, Interim Curator

April Matisz is an artist and mother living in Lethbridge, Alberta. She holds a degree in Biology (UVIC 2005) and Art Studio (UofL 2009). She was awarded the RCA C.D. Howe Scholarship for Art and Design for her undergraduate art studio work and an internship at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. She is the recipient of two Alberta Foundation for the Arts grants. Her painting series, *Bodies Birthing Bodies*, was recently purchased by the AFA for their collection. She is currently pursuing her MFA at the Emily Carr University of Art and Design.

Matisz's practice spans drawing, printmaking, painting, and ceramics. Her research interests are varied: she explores the creatures and complex processes that make up the natural world, as well as the natural processes that have created us and continue to shape our lives. Her work draws on her knowledge of the sciences, as well as environmental philosophy and Phenomenology.

We acknowledge the support of the City of Lethbridge, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

LORNE POWER

#rainthatstuck

13 MAY 2023 - 24 JUNE 2023 | LIBRARY GALLERY

OPENING RECEPTION: 13 MAY 2023 | 7 - 9 PM

#rainthatstuck is an ongoing, participatory project asking anyone who is interested to reveal a story from a time when they were caught in the rain. Participants who wish to contribute to the project are mailed a postcard featuring a photograph of a panel van with a mysterious red liquid scattered across it and emblazoned with the hashtag, "*#rainthatstuck*".

Submitted stories about being caught in the rain are written as a caption on an Instagram post along with a photograph of the participant with their postcard. The library gallery space features some of the mailed postcards along with a diptych of the van photograph and a cut-up poem created by Lorne Power of previously submitted stories.

In the vein of mail art, *#rainthatstuck* is premised on aesthetic expression as an accessible and personal experience outside of traditional spaces. Shared stories of the rain chart the chain reactions possible through social circles. The continuity of the project relies on factors outside of the initiator's control: chance, digital shares, likes, word of mouth, and the good will and vulnerability of its participants. The project is also an equalizing one. Everyone has a story about getting caught in the rain and anyone can share that story. In spite of the unauthenticity of social media, sharing can be radical and *#rainthatstuck* enables a more genuine creative network.

If you would like to participate in *#rainthatstuck* and share your own story of getting caught in the rain, send an Instagram message to Lorne Power (@portlower) indicating your interest in participating. Power will mail you your own postcard with instructions on how to post and tag your own story.

Curated by Adam Whitford, Interim Curator

Lorne Power, *Rain That Stuck*, digital photograph, 2022.
Courtesy of the artist.



Lorne Power wanders around photographing ostensibly insignificant stuff. His practice is grounded in a documentary style that mixes ironic humour, aspects of psychogeography, rhopography, photo-text, and conceptual strategies to explore the mysterious relationships between everyday physical and social space. Before Lorne made images, he wrote poetry while working as a baggage handler for the bus industry. He studied creative writing at Humber College, photography at The New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, and is an MFA candidate at the University of Lethbridge. Lorne is married to dance artist, Sarah Power (she/her). They perform together regularly combining movement, photography, and video installation. Lorne has had two solo exhibitions and been included in several group shows. He is a fifth-generation settler of French and Scottish ancestry living in Menaquesk/Saint John on the traditional territories of the Wolastoqiyik, in New Brunswick.

We acknowledge the support of the City of Lethbridge, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery Maansiksikaitsitapiitsinikssin honours and acknowledges the Siksikaitsitapi peoples that have resided and cared for these lands since time immemorial. We recognize that these lands are home to many Indigenous peoples, including the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3.

We acknowledge the support of the City of Lethbridge, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the Rozsa Foundation.



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