Meryl McMaster (b.1988)

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY :

Sculptural photographer, Meryl McMaster explores the construction of selfhood, conjoining hybrid inheritances First Nations Cree, European, female with the immediacy of the lived body animated by the natural world. For McMaster, identity and subjectivity are never complete, always in process and formed and re-formed from within, inseparable from without. In the series *Wanderings* and *In Between Worlds*, she is garmented as much by heritage and imagination manifest as sculptural constructions ranging from abstractions to the shamanic grafting of animals as by the ever-changeful sky and snow and waters. The morphological signs of water and snow are central to the landscape of Ottawa, Canada where she lives. And in *Ancestral* the snowstorm appears to move within: McMaster whites-out identity to create a receptive screen onto which is projected the faces of ancestors, whether human or animal. Employing near-invisibility to create heightened presence, she subverts the colonial gaze. Employing projection, she inverts its directionality: identity appears to seep outwards from inside, fluid and ungraspable, defying the fixed boundaries of historical chronology.

McMaster is the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships including the Canon Canada Prize, the Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellowship, the Doris McCarthy Scholarship, the OCAD U Medal, and the Charles Pachter Prize for Emerging Artists. McMaster's work has been included in exhibitions throughout Canada and the United States, including the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Indian, the Art Gallery of Ontario, Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art, the Eiteljorg Museum, the Ottawa Art Gallery, the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, the Mendel Art Gallery and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Her work has been acquired by various public collections, including the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Canada Council Art Bank, the Eiteljorg Museum, the National Museum of the American Indian, the Ottawa Art Gallery and the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Art Collection.

CV

EDUCATION:

2010 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Majoring in Photography, Ontario College of Art and Design University, Toronto, ON

SOLO EXHIBITIONS | SELECTED

2016 *Wanderings*, Artspace, Peterborough, ON

2015 *Meryl McMaster: Ancestral*, Bockley Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
Wanderings, Katzman Contemporary, Toronto, ON
Wanderings, Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Santa Fe, NM
Meryl McMaster: Second Self, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, New York, NY

2013 *In-Between Worlds,* Art Gallery of Hamilton Design Annex, Hamilton, ON
In-Between Worlds, Peterborough Art Gallery, Peterborough, ON
In-Between Worlds, Katzman Kamen Gallery, Toronto, ON

2012 *In-Between Worlds*, Station Gallery, Whitby, ON

2011 *Second Self, The* Latcham Gallery, Stouffville, ON
Second Self, Leo Kamen Gallery, Toronto, ON
In-Between Worlds, Project Space, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, ON

GROUP EXHIBITIONS | SELECTED

2016 *Future 33*, YTB Gallery, Toronto, ON
Miller Time, Katzman Contemporary, Toronto, ON
Fifth World, Kitchen Waterloo Art Gallery, Kitchener, ON
Material Girls, Doris McCarthy Gallery, Toronto, ON
Temporal (Re)Imaginings, Canada Council for the Arts, Âjagemô Art Space, Ottawa, ON
This is Us Now, Karsh-Masson Gallery, Ottawa, ON

2015 *ORANGE 2015 – Visceral*, ORANGE Pavilion, Saint-Hyacinthe, QC
Gazing Back, Looking Forward, Fort York National Historic Site Gallery, Toronto, ON
Identity: Art Inspired by the Great Lakes, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario's Vice Regal Suite, Toronto, ON
Ontario in Âjagemô, Canada Council for the Arts Gallery, Ottawa, ON
Fifth World, Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, SK
Imago Mundi: Map of The New Art, Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venezia, Italy
The Rebel Yells: Dress and Political Re-dress in Contemporary Indigenous Art, FOFA Gallery, Montréal, QC
in-between-in-between, Katzman Contemporary, Toronto, ON
Material Girls, Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, SK
In Another Place, And Here, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Victoria, B.C.

2014 *I:ke - I have motion,* ASpace/ IMAGINENative Film Festival, Toronto, ON
Flash Forward 10th Anniversary Exhibition: Uncanny Worlds, OCAD University ONSITE Gallery, Toronto, ON
Storytelling: Contemporary Native Art Biennale, Ottawa School of Art Shenkman Arts Centre, Ottawa, ON
The Ontario-Jiangsu Photography Project, Ontario Ministry of Tourism/Ontario Arts Council online exhibition, Toronto, ON
Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival: Identity, MOCCA, Toronto, ON
Storytelling: Contemporary Native Art Biennal, Art Mûr, Montréal, QC

2013 *RED: Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellowship*, The Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis, IN
AGO First Thursday, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, ON
Trade Marks, Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art, Toronto, ON
In The Flesh, Ottawa Art Gallery, *Ottawa, ON*
Face to Face, Durham Art Gallery, Durham, ON

2012 *Spotlight on 40 Years: Artworks from the Canada Council Art Bank,* Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa, ON
New Faces: Portraits from the Collection of the Canada Council Art Bank, Jardins de Métis Reford Gardens, Grand-Métis, QC
Flash Forward 2011 Group Show, Fairmont Battery Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts
1812-2012: A Contemporary Perspective, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, ON
Fashionality: Dress and Identity in Contemporary Canadian Art, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg, ON
Flash Forward 2011, The Salt Institute For Documentary Studies, Portland, ME

ART FAIRS

2015 *Feature Contemporary Art Fair*, Toronto, Ontario
Papier 15 Art Fair, Montréal, Canada

2012 *Art Toronto 2012: Toronto International Art Fair,* Toronto, Canada

AWARDS | SELECTED

2015 Visual Artists: Emerging Grant, Ontario Arts Council
Creation and Production Fund for Professional Artists, City of Ottawa

2013 Creation & Production Grant for Emerging Artists, City of Ottawa
Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellow, The Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art

2012 Charles Pachter Prize For Emerging Artists, The Hnatyshyn Foundation
Exhibition Assistance Grant, Ontario Arts Council

2010 Canon Canada Prize
Nora E. Vaughan Award
Ontario College of Art and Design Medal, Photography
Spoke Club Membership Prize
Vaughan Imagination Zone Award
Vistek Photography Award

COLLECTIONS

Lerners LLP Art Collection
BMO Art Collection
Munich Re Art Collection
The Canadian Museum of History
The Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Art Collection
The National Museum of American Indian
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
AIMIA Art Collection
Art Gallery of Ontario
Justina M. Barnicke Gallery
City of Ottawa Fine Art Collection
Eiteljorg Museum
Canada Council Art Bank
The Donovan Collection
Ottawa Art Gallery
Private Collections

PRESS & PUBLICATIONS | SELECTED

2016 Dick, Terence, *Canadian Belonging(s) at the Art Gallery of Mississauga,* Akimblog, June 8.
In Translation, Room 38.1 Magazine, Vancouver, B.C., March.
Jaeger, Ann, *Meryl McMaster's Wanderings,* The Capilano Review 3.28, Winter.
Robb, Peter, *Ottawa artist Meryl McMaster on the long list for 2016 Sobey Award*, Ottawa Citizen, April14.
Jaeger, Ann, *Meryl McMaster – Wanderings*, Electric City Magazine, Mar 23.

2015 Hunter, Benjamin, *Meryl McMaster's Next Chapter*, Canadian Art, Nov 2.
Limón, Enrique, *Appropriate This: Seven Native American Artists Confront Stereotypes Head- On*, Santa Fe Reporter, pg. 24 25, August 19-25.
Spivey, Whitney, *Summer Shows at MoCNA*, Santa Fean Magazine, pg. 44 45, Summer.
Meier, Allison, *Drawn Self-Portraits Materialized as Masks*, Hyperallergic, August 11.
Walker, Ellyn, *Identity as Contingency: Meryl McMaster's In-Between Worlds*, Black Flash Magazine, pg. 5 9, Volume 32, Issue 3, August December.
Simpson, Peter, *Meryl McMaster takes New York with her elaborate self-portraits and portraits,* Ottawa Citizen Arts, June 12.
Fournier, Lauren, "*Material Girls* Takes up Space at the Dunlop", Canadian Art, April 2.

2014 Krunak-Hajagos, Emese, *In-Between Worlds: The Photographs of Meryl McMaster*, NY Arts. Magazine, Volume 21. N.I, pg. 40 41, Winter.
Flash Forward Tenth, The Magenta Foundation, Toronto, ON, Oct.
Colour & Two-Dimensional Design, OCAD University, Toronto, ON.

2011 *Flash Forward: Emerging Photographers 2011*, The Magenta Foundation, Toronto, ON, 2011. Min Joo Chae (Ed.).
Break The Rules, *ARTZINE* (Art + Magazine), October Issue No.3, pg. 92-97, Sun In Jang Creative Agency, Seoul, South Korea.

INSTALLATION VIEWS | SELECTED

Wanderings
2015.

Wanderings
2015.

WORKS | SELECTED

Time's Gravity
Ink Jet Print
30 x 45 inches
2015.

Consanguinity
Digital C-Print
24 x 24 inches
2010.

Under the Infinite Sky
Ink Jet Print
30 x 45 inches
2015.

Brumal Tattoo
Digital C-Print
50 x 36 inches
2013.

Secret Darkness of Birds
Ink Jet Print
45 x 30 inches
2015.