

For Immediate Release: January 4, 2022

Katherine Boyer Debuts Exhibition of Entirely New Artworks About Identity at the Art Gallery of Regina

Katherine Boyer reveals her Queer Métis experiences in newly-created, nature-focused beadworks, cyanotypes and nods to residential construction her solo exhibition, *How the Sky Carries The Sun* opening on January 13.

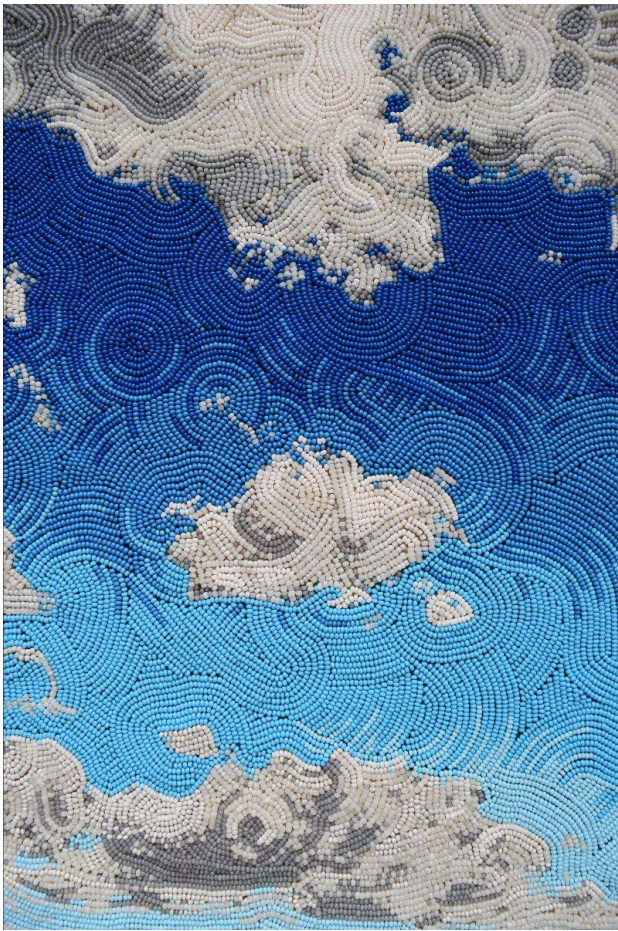


Image: Katherine Boyer, *The Sky Vest* [detail], fir 2x4 boards, seed beads on smoked hide, 2021.

Regina, SK: This January, Katherine Boyer makes a long-awaited return to Regina to exhibit a newly completed body of work, *How the Sky Carries the Sun*, at the Art Gallery of Regina (2420 Elphinstone St). Boyer previously studied fine arts at the University of Regina and worked at the

First Nations University Art Gallery in Regina before completing a Master of Fine Arts in Winnipeg and accepting a tenure track position at the University of Manitoba School of Art. Textiles, woodworking, and beadwork are signature methods of Boyer's art practice, expressing at once her Métis identity and connecting to family histories. By laboriously making objects by hand, she invests each artwork with care and signals her queer identity through an alliance to crafty aesthetics.

Boyer's exhibition is long-awaited by design. The artist's process is to understand herself through complex and ever-changing relationships with the world, society, history, and materials. Boyer was guided by the weather, seasons, and sun throughout a sustained creative process that required constant nurturing attention. Making everything by hand in time-consuming processes allows Boyer to research and feel her way through each work, investing each stitch, knot, plant and architectural construction with her complex identity.

Processes that respect natural resources are crucial to the work Boyer has created. For example, *How the Sky Carries the Sun* includes images created using the camera-less photographic process, known as cyanotype, to expose stylized silhouettes of plants on cotton. The iron-based solutions of the cyanotype process are less toxic than chemicals used in other photographic methods.

Each artwork in *How the Sky Carries the Sun* contains "hard" and "soft" components in a complementary relationship of mutual support. Nothing in this exhibition is just one thing: lightboxes use quilting but act as structural trusses. A vest intricately beaded with swirling masses of clouds is both a garment and a heraldic celebration. Even the crates used to ship the exhibition are transformed by the artist into artworks when they reach their destination.

The exhibition title, *How the Sky Carries the Sun*, illustrates the artist's refusal to view her queer, Métis identity as a binary construction. The lived experience of identity is non-hierarchical and disorganized. By asking, "Am I the sky or am I the sun?" the artist embraces her identity. "These living dichotomies yield a buoyancy state of my internalized contradictory experiences that are not just cultural (Métis and white Settler) - they are my queerness and my craftiness, my own hard and softness, and my stillness that isn't still at all." Different aspects of who she is, like her hard and soft materials, exist in interdependence and equivalency.

Join the Art Gallery of Regina in celebrating this careful record of experience, history, selfhood, and time at the opening reception for *How the Sky Carries the Sun* from 7-9 PM on January 13. This exhibition of newly created work by a rising star of the Canadian art scene runs from January 13 - March 13, 2022. Admission to the Art Gallery of Regina is always free; masks are mandatory and all visitors aged 12 and over must provide proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test result.

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Interviews with the artist (Katherine Boyer) in English over email arranged upon request.

Links:

Images for reproduction and image credits:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/112HVnQ8b05Mo0bcBxrtRrQmuOh3ysgQp?usp=sharing>

Artist's Headshot:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CqIFgPFMX_mJJrClRbe9tpjb2okpFin9/view?usp=sharing

Artist's Bio:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ELjxsbOLL_3FlnetN7NIKqVOElqU3odf/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100162772614665632957&rtpof=true&sd=true

Artist's Curriculum Vitae:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yE7LF86pc6grum5SXgpMZXAxR1p_2ape/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100162772614665632957&rtpof=true&sd=true

Art Gallery of Regina's website:

www.artgalleryofregina.ca

The artist acknowledges the support of the University of Manitoba's School of Art and the Terry G. Falconer Emerging Researcher Award.



Katherine Boyer (Métis/Settler) is a multidisciplinary artist whose work focuses on methods bound to textile arts and the handmade - primarily woodworking and beadwork. Boyer's art and research encompass personal family narratives entwined with Métis history, material culture, architectural spaces (human-made and natural). Her work often explores boundaries between two opposing things as she seeks to understand both sides of perceived dichotomous identity. This effort to destabilize binary terms manifests itself in her art practise as long, slow, and considerate laborious processes that attempt to unravel and better understand history, environmental influences, and personal memories.

Boyer has received a BFA from the University of Regina (Sculpture) and an MFA at the University of Manitoba. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Manitoba, School of Art.

For Calendar Listings

Exhibition title: *How the Sky Carries the Sun*

Artist(s): Katherine Boyer

Dates: January 13 - March 13, 2022

Opening reception: Thursday, January 13, 7-9 PM (contact gallery for up-to-date restrictions pending announcements by the Saskatchewan Health Authority)

Artist's talk: An online artist-led exhibition tour launches Thursday, February 17, in conjunction with Sâkêwêwak First Nations Artists' Collectives' Storytellers' Festival.

Short description:

Like the artist herself, nothing in this exhibition is just one thing. Textiles and roof trusses, botanical silhouettes, a cloudy sky rendered in seed beads, and hooked rugs: these are the laboriously created artworks through which Boyer connects place and the lived experience of her body. Each stitch, knot, plant and architectural construction in her solo exhibition, *How the Sky Carries the Sun* at the Art Gallery of Regina (2420 Elphinstone Street) is an intimate record of her research.

Website: www.artgalleryofregina.ca

AGR

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Located on Treaty 4, the traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Nakota, Lakota and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Métis people, the Art Gallery of Regina (AGR) promotes the development and appreciation of contemporary art, with an emphasis on Saskatchewan artists. Our programming focuses on the voices and experiences of Saskatchewan artists and visitors. AGR programming encompasses exhibitions (featuring established, emerging and recreational artists), education, publishing, workshops and artists talks.

For over 45 years, the AGR has advocated for the role of art in society through free public exhibitions, support for artists, and connecting artists and our communities through meaningful learning and exchange.

The Art Gallery of Regina is an autonomous, independent public art gallery with non-profit and charitable status. We are a tenant in the Neil Balkwill Civic Arts Centre located within the vibrant Cathedral Village neighbourhood in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.



The Art Gallery of Regina gratefully acknowledges the support of its core funders and sponsors:

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