

For Immediate Release: September 29, 2022

Art Gallery of Regina Opens Exhibition the We Are All Electric Beings on October 13, Inviting Consideration for Plants As Equals

Four Western Canadian artists working in textiles, collage, electronics and performance reflect on humanity's diverse relationships with plants - from nurturing and familial to exploitative and destructive - in the exhibition, *We Are All Electric Beings*.

Regina, SK:

On October 13, the Art Gallery of Regina (AGR) opens a group exhibition by Rachel Broussard, Alyssa Ellis, Heather Shillinglaw and Laurel Terlesky that draws on traditional knowledge, Western science, and empathy to elucidate the complex interconnectedness of humans and plants through textile, collage, electronics and performance artworks.

This exhibition, *We Are All Electric Beings*, sponsored by TD Asset Management, answers the interest many people have today in understanding their place in the world, their responsibilities to others, and their role in the ecosystem. Sometimes messages about land and the environment can be sanctimonious; the artworks presented in *We Are All Electric Beings* are remarkable for their air of welcoming kindness for viewers to explore human plant interfaces.

An ethics of care - for viewers, collaborators, plants, other living creatures and the land - colour much of the exhibition. The exhibition's title, *We Are All Electric Beings*, is drawn from knowledge passed from Elder Shirley Shillinglaw to artist Heather Shillinglaw as she researched and created her large-scale embroideries of medicine plants foraged by her ancestors.

The electricity that animates living cells, whether mammal or vegetal, is made explicit in Laurel Terlesky's botanical drawings that illuminate when touched, making visible that all living beings carry an electrical charge on the surface of their cells.

Similarly, Rachel Broussard uses plant and animal bodies cut from the pages of photographic books to spell messages of environmental doom in shadows, recognizing the interdependence and vulnerability of all species in an ecosystem.

Artist and horticulturist Alyssa Ellis delves into the codependent relationship of care between humans and houseplants with her relational aesthetics artworks *Plant Spa* and *Plant Adoption*. Gallery visitors can treat their houseplants to a spa treatment in the gallery at the opening reception. The following day, Ellis will re-home plants rescued and rehabilitated from dumpsters.

Not merely a static exhibition, *We Are All Electric Beings* invites community engagement. Share and participate in understanding kinship among all species through free, online and in-person activities sponsored by Culture Days.

Watch a recorded conversation about how we value and represent plants between the exhibiting artists and Dr. Mel Hart, a member of the George F. Ledingham Herbarium committee at the University of Regina, through the Art Gallery of Regina's YouTube channel or website. A recording of the AGR's September 26 listening party of musical albums composed for plants can also be viewed on the gallery's website under the Culture Days 2022 tab. Book a free appointment to have artist Alyssa Ellis give your companion plant a spa treatment at the exhibition's opening reception on Thursday, October 13 (reception begins at 7 PM and spa treatments run from 7:30 - 8:30 PM). Drop in to adopt a plant from 4-5 PM on Friday, October 14. Join Métis artist Heather Shillinglaw and her mother Shirley Shillinglaw for a Stitching and Sharing Circle, copresented with Sâkêwêwak Artists' Collective from 2-4 PM on Saturday, October 15. We welcome children of all ages to create collage garlands inspired by Rachel Broussard's artworks on Sunday, October 16, from 2-4 PM. Visit the Art Gallery of Regina's website for details on how to participate: www.artgalleryofregina.ca/culture-days-2022

Join us to celebrate these artists, and a caring relationship with all beings that make up our world at the *We Are All Electric Beings* opening reception on Thursday, October 13, from 7-9 PM at the Art Gallery of Regina (2420 Elphinstone Street).

Located on Treaty 4, traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Nakota, Lakota and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Métis people, the Art Gallery of Regina (AGR) is a dynamic cultural hub, promoting the development and appreciation of contemporary art, primarily created by Saskatchewan artists. AGR provides a range of opportunities for Regina's citizens and visitors to engage with contemporary art through its free exhibitions and artists' talks, critical writing and educational programming.

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Interviews with the artists in English can be arranged.

Links: artists' bios, images, video

For Calendar Listings:

Exhibition title: *We Are All Electric Beings*

Artist(s): Rachel Broussard, Alyssa Ellis, Heather Shillinglaw, Laurel Terlesky

Short description: Drawing on traditional knowledge, explanations of Western science, and empathetic relationships with plants, the artists in this group exhibition elucidate the complex interconnectedness of humans and plants.

Dates: October 13, 2022 - January 8, 2023

Opening reception: Thursday, October 13, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Artists' talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Khkwo2PYLSk>

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