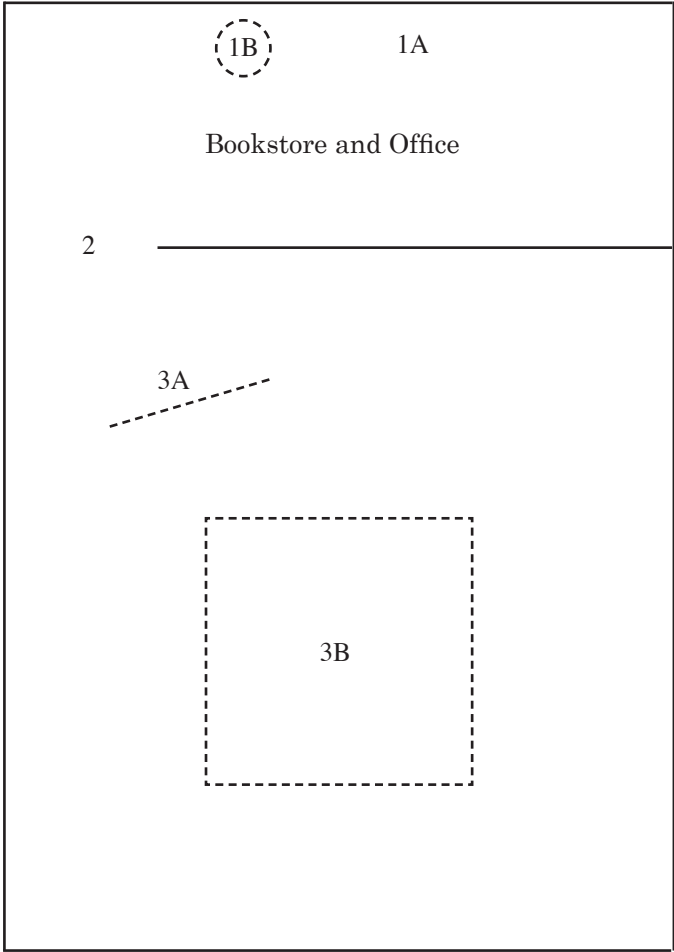


SERENA LEE  
OCT 22, 2021 - JAN 22, 2022  
*WAVE HANDS,*  
*LIKE EYES,*  
*NOT CLOUDS*

**Or Gallery//**





## 1. *ENTERING*

- 1A Ingredients for scent gestures
- 1B Satin curtains featuring a magazine spread of a scenic landscape in Guangdong Province, and a painting commissioned by the artist's grandfather.  
Slippers for visitors, please remove your shoes  
Audio guide (approx. 1:50 mins.)

## 2. *IN BETWEEN*

- Eucalyptus stalks
- Handmade incense by Megan Hepburn  
(to be lit upon entering)
- Cedar chips

## 3. *BELLY*

- Curtain wall, straw mats and LED lighting
- 4-channel soundtrack featuring artist playing the *guqin*
- Cushions
- 3A Moon Gate: stained wood and juiceboxes
- 3B Fountain: plywood, mylar, electric pumps and LED lighting

*Now that you're here,  
take off your shoes, take off your coat,  
let go of your bag, let go of the things you carried in.  
Now that you're here, let yourself sit, let yourself sink.  
Feel yourself sink  
Notice your pace  
Notice how the ground feels  
Breathe in,  
expand,  
a feeling of horizon  
Breathe out,  
sink,  
without intention  
Do it again  
Doing again, you are in between  
Notice it happening  
Notice things changing with time  
how slow, how small  
Inside of you, outside of you  
What you think is the centre, changing  
What feels like the centre, changing  
moving through, moving around, moving with, moving within,  
Notice the question, what does this do?  
Notice the question, what should I do?  
Notice what you are carrying  
Remember to notice*



***wave hands,  
like eyes,  
not clouds***

wave hands, like clouds, not eyes is a sequence of haptic encounters that trace the internal processes experienced by the artist when practising *taijiquan*, an internal martial art meant for both healing and injuring, incorporating daoist principles of non-purposeful action (無為 *wu wei*) and natural spontaneity (自然 *zi ran*), and the dualist interplay of yin yang cosmology. Through shifting textures, sound and scents, emphasizing contact with the ground, air, and the passage through both time and space, these sensorial experiences focus awareness on training bodily agency and the relation of the microcosmic to the wider horizon. Moving through a space of objects that are in flux at different paces, also dispersed throughout are things that have become shorthand for the mix of heritage and daily use that describe 'Chinatown' and its place in the diasporic imaginary.

***MATERIAL DETAILS***

Incense handmade by Megan Hepburn. Ingredients: cedar, fir, fir resin, frankincense *carterii*, gum Arabic, jasmine *grandiflorum*, makko, osmanthus, sandalwood, vetiver and rose water.

Stones and cedar chips from *xw̱m̱əθkw̱əy'ə̱m* (Musqueam), *Skwxwú7mesh* (Squamish) and *Selilwitulh* (Tsleil-Waututh) territory. Stones selected by Kitt Peacock, and cedar collected by Megan Hepburn.

The artist gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.



Canada Council for the Arts  
Conseil des arts du Canada

Please visit artist's website for ongoing project research:  
[www.serenalee.com](http://www.serenalee.com)  
Instagram: @serenaplum



## BIOGRAPHIES

**Serena Lee** // Lee's practice stems from a fascination with polyphony and its radical potential for mapping power, perception and belonging. She plays with movement, language, cinema, voice, and space.

Serena collaborates as part of Read-in, a collective researching political, embodied, and situated practices of reading; and with artist Christina Battle as SHATTERED MOON ALLIANCE, a framework for sci-fi world-building through living research and transmedia publication. Born and raised in Tkaronto/Toronto, Serena is currently a PhD candidate at the Akademie der bildenden künste Wien (Vienna, AT) and holds an Associate Diploma in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Recent engagements:

La Kunsthalle Mulhouse (Alsace, FR), Casco Art Institute (Utrecht, NL), Centre Régional d'Art Contemporain Occitanie (Sète, FR), Mitchell Art Gallery (Edmonton, CA), SAW Video (Ottawa, CA), Cubitt (London, UK), transmediale (Berlin, DE), Harbourfront Centre (Toronto, CA), Whitechapel Gallery (London, UK).

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Megan Hepburn** // Megan Hepburn is an artist living in the unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Selilwitulh/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xwməθkwəy'əm (Musqueam) Nations. Her practice is based in expanded painting and perfumery. Recent exhibitions include contributions to The Pandemic is a Portal at SFU Galleries and Passing Through Smoke, at CSA Space, Vancouver. Hepburn started the botanical perfume line Cracher Dans La Soupe Parfum in 2018 as an extension of her artistic practice that engages people in a format other than the exhibition. She is currently combining the worlds of scent, textiles, painting, ceramics and pharmakeia in her work to explore questions around time, craftsmanship, women's work, feminized labour, loss and parenting.



**Gina Badger** // Gina

Badger (she/they) is a queer non-binary femme and white settler of Norman, Huguenot and Anglo-Saxon born on Cree territory and currently living in the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh Nations (Vancouver, BC). A visual artist and an energetic clinical herbalist, she holds degrees from MIT (2010) and Concordia (2008), and is forever a student of the plants.

Projects such as *Relanding with Mugwort*, *Mongrels*, and *Rates of Accumulation* initiate encounters with marginal landscapes and flora, abandoning received histories of North America in favour of unsettling and abstracted narratives. Operating on an entirely different scale, *Plants In Your Pants* is a hands-on intervention into the politics of vaginal ecologies in patriarchal times, and prefaces Gina's ongoing clinical work. She occasionally leads workshops, edits artists' books, publishes essays, interviews and research, and works as a consultant for gallery installations involving plant medicine or live plants.

Director/Curator: Denise Ryner  
Projects Assistant: Katrina Goetjen  
BCAC Curator-In-Residence: Kitt Peacock  
A/V and Installation Techs:  
Trevor Discoe & Jordan Milner

## Or Gallery//

Please sign up to Or Gallery's email list & visit our social media for updates on online talks and performances related to this project.

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Or Gallery acknowledges its presence on the unceded territory of the x<sup>w</sup>m θk<sup>w</sup> y' m (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations.