

Language of historic monuments explored in art exhibition

Ericka Walker: A decaying fort and a lack of guidance
April 10 to July 11, 2021

April 15, 2021 – Kelowna, BC: Local audiences are invited to see a new exhibition at the Kelowna Art Gallery by Nova Scotia-based printmaker Ericka Walker.

Walker's solo show is called *A decaying fort and a lack of guidance* and it features a series of original prints on handmade paper that examine the language of public monuments.

Viewers will encounter a succession of works, which feature rubbings of text taken from historical sites laid on top of screen-printed imagery. At first glance, the work is visually subtle, however upon closer inspection, the import is forceful.

In *A decaying fort and a lack of guidance*, Walker takes a look at the defining moments of European colonial activity and Canadian sovereignty. She responds through her work by isolating groups of words from memorial site texts and rearranging them like a set of magnetic refrigerator poetry. Even the exhibition's title is a mash-up of text she discovered while combing monuments located near Halifax and along her travels.

"The reconstituted language is meant to deprive monumental sentiment of its assuredness, and to confuse its pride," says Walker. "The action of reassembling this historic language asserts the notion that heritage can be thought of as a living entity, that it is not static, and can be re-evaluated and reframed."

Ericka Walker is an Associate Professor of Art, at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, in Halifax. She has exhibited widely throughout North America and her prints are housed in a number of public and private collections. Walker was the winner of the Okanagan Print Triennial (OPT) in 2018, which some may recall seeing when it was exhibited at the Kelowna Art Gallery.

A decaying fort and a lack of guidance can be seen until July 11, 2021.

The public is invited to attend a virtual tour of Ericka Walker's Halifax art studio and hear her speak about her artistic practice on Thursday, May 6th, at 3 pm. The event will be broadcast live via Zoom. Pre-registration is required via the Gallery's website.

The Kelowna Art Gallery is located at 1315 Water Street. For more information, visit www.kelownaartgallery.com or call the Gallery at 250-762-2226.

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