

## Sensorineural sculptural installation opens at art gallery

*Kelsie Balehowsky: Sensorineural*  
May 30 to September 18, 2022

**June 1, 2022 – Kelowna, BC:** Sensorineural. Sensori-what? You wouldn't be alone if the word seems unfamiliar and the meaning doesn't jump out at you. However, that's something a Kelowna-based artist hopes to change through a new art exhibition at the Kelowna Art Gallery.

"Hearing loss affects people of all ages and demographics," says **Kelsie Balehowsky**, the artist behind the exhibition. "Something like sensorineural hearing loss, for example, is not something you can tell immediately just by looking at someone. This exhibition aims to spread awareness of hearing health and reduce stigma."

Visitors will be able to get their first glance at *Sensorineural* this week. It is presented in the Gallery's street-level Glass Gallery space that is viewable from outside of the building.

The site-specific installation is inspired by Balehowsky's son who was born with sensorineural hearing loss. It features oversized mixed media sculptures of the tiny bones that make up the middle and inner ear. They are finished in a lustrous golden coat of paint and suspended against a rich lavender backdrop. However, viewers will have to work a little to get a clear view. The front of the glass has a frosty opaque finish with only vertical "audio" slats to get a glimpse through. Balehowsky has included a QR code that links to an online hearing loss simulator to add a further dimension to the experience.

*Sensorineural* can be experienced now through September 18, 2022.



Kelsie Balehowsky is an artist and arts educator based in the Okanagan on the unceded and ancestral territory of the Syilx people. Her work is primarily concerned with themes of the uncanny, technology, and connection. Balehowsky says her "artistic practice is a means to observe, express, interpret, and process the human experience."

The Kelowna Art Gallery is located at 1315 Water Street, in downtown Kelowna, B.C.

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### Media Inquiries

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