



Winter 2023 Exhibitions Launch at Esker Foundation
Interiors by Margaux Williamson



Margaux Williamson, *Fire*, 2021, oil on canvas, 177.8 x 213.4 cm, Collection of Christine and Andrew W. Dunn.

Esker Foundation is pleased to present our Winter 2023 exhibition season with an exhibition of over 40 paintings by Toronto painter, filmmaker, and writer Margaux Williamson.

Margaux Williamson's *Interiors*, guest curated by Jessica Bradley, presents a 17-year overview of paintings, writings, drawings, and ephemera. With a main focus on interiors, a dominant theme in Williamson's work, these spaces are comfortably familiar yet strangely disorientating, and as curator Jessica Bradley states:

"for Williamson the brush stroke, the act of putting paint on canvas, anticipates both figuration and abstraction: the depiction of real objects situated in the fluid pictorial space and time unique to her work."

This exhibition has been organized and circulated by the McMichael Canadian Art Collection.

About the exhibition:

PRESS PAGE & HIGH RES IMAGES DOWNLOAD LINK:

<https://eskerfoundation.com/press-release/winter-2023/>

Margaux Williamson *Interiors*

21 January – 30 April 2023

<https://eskerfoundation.com/exhibition/margaux/>

Organized and circulated by McMichael Canadian Art Collection.

Guest Curated by Jessica Bradley.

Margaux Williamson is a painter who also writes and makes videos. Her community includes writers, artists, and musicians with whom she has collaborated, notably on her 2008 feature-length video, *Teenager Hamlet*, which captures the existential questioning and curiosity of young urban friends thinking through their experience of the world. She has also made performances and published movie reviews. Within this multifaceted practice, Williamson's painting has evolved through long rhythms; her bodies of work are produced over years interspersed with pauses, often for as many years.

Williamson has said that painting can be a place to consider what is real and what has value. Such consideration leads her to make images unconstrained by the dictates of a preconceived composition and instead to build progressively with details that stay in the mind. In her studio, an unobtrusive garage behind her house on a downtown Toronto side street, Williamson yields to the slow process demanded by large oil paintings, constructing images that, like thoughts, unfold organically. The interiors that have become a dominant theme in her recent work are both literal spaces, somewhere comfortably familiar, and places of imaginative interiority where her inanimate subjects are brought under the spell of her anarchic treatment of space.

PUBLICATION:

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue with contributions from Jessica Bradley, Sheila Heti, and writer/poet Ben Lerner. Introductory essay by Sarah Milroy, the book features 38 full-colour images, and documentation of Williamson's studio by Toronto photographer Craig Boyko.

Order here: <https://eskerfoundation.com/product/margaux-williamson-interiors/>

The publication is available at the [Bookshop at Esker](#), in the gallery and online.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Margaux Williamson was born in Pittsburgh in 1976 and lives in Toronto. Her first book of paintings, *I Could See Everything*, was published by Coach House Press in 2014, alongside at the Mulherin+Pollard Gallery in New York, and Frith Street Gallery in London. In 2021, White Cube, London, mounted an online exhibition of her recent paintings. Her feature-length film, *Teenager Hamlet*, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and is archived on *UbuWeb* and she also contributed movie reviews to the cultural site *Back to the World*. She was artist-in-residence at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto; Klondike Institute of Art & Culture, Dawson City; and MacDowell, Peterborough, New Hampshire. Her work has been covered by *New York Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, *BOMB Magazine*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Believer*, *The Huffington Post*, and more. Williamson completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Queen's University, Kingston, and was the recipient of an exchange scholarship to Glasgow School of Art. Her work has been presented in solo and group exhibitions in Toronto, London, and New York.

CURATOR BIOGRAPHY

Jessica Bradley, curator of Margaux Williamson: *Interiors*, is an independent curator based in Toronto. Formerly, she served as Curator of Contemporary Art at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto (1995-2004) and as Associate Curator of Contemporary Art at the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa (1980-87). She was commissioner for Canada's representation at the Venice Biennale on three occasions. Bradley has published extensively and organized numerous solo and group exhibitions in Canada and abroad. She founded her own commercial gallery in Toronto (2005-15), where she mounted more than eighty exhibitions featuring a rising generation of artists.

About The McMichael Canadian Art Collection

The McMichael Canadian Art Collection is an agency of the Government of Ontario and acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and the McMichael Canadian Art Foundation. It is the only major museum in the country devoted exclusively to Canadian art. In addition to touring exhibitions, the McMichael houses a permanent collection of more than 6,500 works by historic and contemporary Canadian artists, including Tom Thomson, the Group of Seven and their contemporaries, Indigenous artists and artists from the many diasporic communities. The Gallery is located on 100 acres of forested landscape and hiking trails at 10365 Islington Avenue, Kleinburg, north of Major Mackenzie Drive in the City of Vaughan. For more information, please visit www.mcmichael.com

Organized and circulated by:

McMichael
CANADIAN ART COLLECTION D'ART CANADIEN

Presenting Sponsor:

HATCH

Notes for Editors:

1. Exhibitions Launch: **Friday 20 January, 6-9PM, free.**
Esker Foundation, artist present.

2. **Artist & Curator Talks:**
Painting Time: Conversation and Q & A with Margaux Williamson and Jessica Bradley - Saturday 21 January, 5-6 PM, free.
Join us at Esker Foundation for a conversation and Q & A with *Interiors* curator, Jessica Bradley, and artist Margaux Williamson.

3. **Exhibition Tours:**
When All is Said and Done: Exhibition Tour with Shauna Thompson.
Thursdays 23 February & 27 April, 6-7PM, free.
Dust in the Sunlight: Exhibition Tour with Naomi Potter.
Thursday 16 March, 6-7PM, free.

Esker Foundation presents an extensive range of free online programs for all ages. Developed in response to our exhibitions they are designed to increase accessibility and to encourage participation in contemporary art.

Visit www.eskerfoundation.art/program/current to find out more and to register.

About Esker Foundation

Esker Foundation is a privately funded contemporary art gallery located in Calgary, Canada. The gallery connects the public to contemporary art through relevant, accessible, and educational exhibitions, programs, and publications. Esker Foundation reflects on current developments in local, regional, and international culture; creates opportunities for public dialogue; and supports the production of ground-breaking new work, ideas, and research. Founded in 2012 by Jim and Susan Hill, Esker Foundation is a new model for institutional relevance, curatorial focus, and audience engagement. Find out more at www.eskerfoundation.art or follow us at @EskerFoundation.

Hours:

Wednesday to Friday: 11-6pm

Saturday & Sunday: 12-5pm

ADMISSION IS FREE

Accessibility: the gallery is barrier-free

-30-

Press contact: Jill Henderson – Tel: 403 930 2499

Communications & Marketing

jhenderson@eskerfoundation.com

- PRESS PAGE & HIGH RES IMAGES DOWNLOAD LINK:
<https://eskerfoundation.com/press-release/winter-2023/>



Esker Foundation

4th Floor, 1011 9th Ave SE

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

@EskerFoundation

www.eskerfoundation.com