

Spring/Summer 2026 Exhibitions Launch

Two Alberta Premieres - Major Exhibitions by Shirley Moorhouse; and Zadie Xa with Benito Mayor Vallejo



Shirley Moorhouse, *Pure Energy*, 2000. Collection of Indigenous Art Collection, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. Photo: The Rooms.



Zadie Xa and Benito Mayor Vallejo, *Moonlit Confessions Across Deep Sea Echoes: Your Ancestors Are Whales, and Earth Remembers Everything* (detail), 2025
Courtesy of the artists and Thaddaeus Ropac. Photo by: Eva Herzog

Esker Foundation is pleased to present: Δᵛ – Eyes – Shirley Moorhouse. Featuring three decades of distinctive wall hangings by Inuk artist Shirley Moorhouse, that serve as visual stories of family memories, the impacts of colonization, and of environmental stewardship, this major survey is realized in collaboration between the artist and curator Rose Bouthillier, and is circulated by The Rooms, St. John's, NL.

Zadie Xa with Benito Mayor Vallejo: *Moonlit Confessions Across Deep Sea Echoes: Your Ancestors Are Whales, and Earth Remembers Everything* presents vivid immersive large-scale installations integrating painting, textiles, sculpture, light, and sound to explore themes of diasporic identity, mythology, and marine ecology. The exhibition highlights the visionary practice for which Xa was named a 2025 Turner Prize nominee, and is organized and developed in partnership with The Power Plant, Toronto and PHI, Montréal.

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY 22 MAY, 6-9PM
The artists will be present.



Shirley Moorhouse, *Dancing to the Moon*, 2020. Black stroud, smoke-tanned caribou hide, various materials. Artists' Collection.

Δ↗ – Eyes – Shirley Moorhouse

23 May-23 August 2026

Realized as a collaboration between the artist and Rose Bouthillier,
Guest Curator.

This exhibition showcases 30 years of [Shirley Moorhouse's](#) innovative art practice, from her earliest pieces to new and recently restored artworks. Moorhouse is renowned for her distinctive wall hangings, which incorporate embroidery, beading, and smoke-tanned caribou hide, along with unconventional materials and found objects.

Her vibrant imagery delves into complex themes, including environmental stewardship, resource extraction, geopolitics, spirituality,

and cultural continuity. Through her work, Moorhouse also extends the invitation “to reflect, to dream, and to celebrate the beauty and mysteries of life.”

Circulated by The Rooms, St. John’s, Newfoundland.



www.therooms.ca

BIOS

Shirley Moorhouse (b. Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Nunatsiavut; 1955 -) is a highly respected member of the national arts community. Her work has been featured in exhibitions such as the 2023 Bonavista Biennale (Bonavista Peninsula, NL), *INUA: Inuit Nunangat Ungammmuaktut Atautikkut* (Inuit Moving Forward Together), (Qaumajuq/Winnipeg Art Gallery, 2020); and *SakKijâjuk: Art and Craft from Nunatsiavut* (2017), a nationally traveling exhibition that originated at The Rooms. Moorhouse’s work is held in public collections such as The Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum, Bowdoin College (Brunswick, ME); Indigenous Art Collection, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (Gatineau, QC); the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Collection; and Sir Wilfred Grenfell Art Collection (Corner Brook, NL). In 2025, Moorhouse was longlisted for the Sobey Art Award, Circumpolar region.

Rose Bouthillier is an independent curator based in Maberly, NL. Throughout her career, her focus has been on working closely with artists to develop and present new projects, promoting under-recognized voices and creating thoughtful inter-generational dialogues. Previously, she served as Artistic Director of the Bonavista Biennale; Curator (Exhibitions) at Remai Modern; and Associate Curator and Publications Manager at the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland.

READ MORE:

<https://eskerfoundation.com/exhibition/eyes-shirley-moorhouse/>



Zadie Xa, *The Expulsion of Evil (May you receive what you wish for others) 2*, 2025.
Courtesy of the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac. Photo by: Eva Herzog.

Zadie Xa with Benito Mayor Vallejo

Moonlit Confessions Across Deep Sea Echoes: Your Ancestors Are Whales, and Earth Remembers Everything

23 May-23 August 2026

[Zadie Xa](#) creates vivid, immersive installations that incorporate a wide range of materials and media, including painting, textiles, sculpture, light, and sound. Often these installations offer a space for shared reflection on larger spiritual practices and intergenerational storytelling. Informed by

her Korean heritage and her upbringing on the West Coast, Xa's work weaves together narratives of interspecies communication, mythology, shamanism, and folklore with diasporic identity and marine ecology.

The exhibition is a continuation of *Moonlit Confessions Across Deep Sea Echoes: Your Ancestors Are Whales, and Earth Remembers Everything* (2025), which was exhibited in 2025 at [Sharjah Biennial 16](#) and won the artist a nomination for the prestigious [British Turner Prize](#). This is the first major solo exhibition in Alberta of the Vancouver-born, London-based artist, made in collaboration with artist and long-term collaborator [Benito Mayor Vallejo](#).

The exhibition is organized and developed in partnership with The Power Plant, Toronto where it will be on view from 16 October 2026 to 21 March 2027, and at PHI, Montréal from 21 April to 21 September 2027.

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BIOS

Zadie Xa has developed an expansive practice that addresses the nature of diasporic identities, global histories, familial legacies, and interspecies communication. For her, art offers a means to analyse socio-political conditions and cultural behaviours through a lens of masquerade, play, costuming, and storytelling. Embracing a highly collaborative mode of working, she has developed ongoing exchanges with dancers and musicians and has worked with Benito Mayor Vallejo since 2006.

Solo exhibitions of Xa's work have been presented at Whitechapel Gallery, London; The Box, Plymouth; Leeds Art Gallery; Remail Modern, Saskatoon; Tramway, Glasgow; and Yarat Contemporary Art Space, Baku. Xa has also participated in the Jeju Biennale (2022), the 13th Shanghai Biennale, and the Sharjah Biennial 16, for which she was

nominated for the Turner Prize 2025. Xa has a BFA from Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design, Vancouver, and an MFA in Painting from the Royal College of Art, London.

Benito Mayor Vallejo completed a BFA at the Université Polytechnique de Valencia and an MA from Chelsea College of Arts, London. He has participated in exchange programmes at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze and Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design, Vancouver. Since 2006, alongside his own practice, he has worked in close collaboration with Zadie Xa exploring painting, installation, performance, and sculpture.

Read more:

<https://eskerfoundation.com/exhibition/zadie-xa-benito-mayor/>

IN THE PROJECT SPACE



Bomi Yook, *K-DIALECTIC*, 2025-26. Details.
Photos by: Blaine Campbell.

Bomi Yook
K-DIALECTIC
Until 21 June 2026

K-DIALECTIC is part of a multidisciplinary project that traces the afterlives of Japanese colonialism in Korea. This exhibition is one component of a broader inquiry: a photographic installation that draws from archival materials centring histories of forced labour and wartime sexual violence. Gathered through collaborations with Korean archives, activist networks, and cultural institutions, these materials are approached as fragments of history that reveal something unsettled and marked by rupture, recurrence, and erasure, rather than as a stable or complete account.

At the centre of the installation is an experimental image-making process Bomi Yook calls “Split Photography.” Archival photographs are reproduced, cut, interlaced, partially obscured, and reconfigured into a field of images that refuses to cohere into a single, unified view. These disrupted compositions evoke the ways traumatic histories are experienced and remembered, not as complete narratives, but as gaps, absences, and dislocations.

BIO

Bomi Yook holds an MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a BFA from Alberta University of the Arts, Calgary. Her work has shown internationally, including in Los Angeles, Seoul, Toronto, Montreal, Santa Fe, Greece, and Calgary. Her work has been presented with the UNESCO Global Geopark of Kefalonia-Ithaca in Greece. Commissioned by the City of West Hollywood, her video art was showcased at Moving Image Media Art, a Netflix-owned public art screen on Los Angeles’s iconic Sunset Boulevard. Her work has also been featured in international festivals including *MUTEK*, Montreal; *CURRENTS New Media*, Santa Fe; *Particle/Wave*, EMMEDIA, Calgary; and *FICFA Acadie*, Moncton. Yook is the recipient of the Emerging Digital Artist Award, the Vagner Mendonça-Whitehead New Media Caucus Award, the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Creative Encouragement Award, and the Künstlerdorf Schöppingen Fellowship in Germany.

In her ongoing research on Japanese colonization and intergenerational memory, Yook has collaborated with prominent museums, archives, and activist groups, including the War and Women’s Human Rights Museum, Justice Memory Solidarity Foundation, National Museum of Forced Mobilization History, National Foundation for Victims of Forced Mobilization, and the Civic Museum of Japanese Colonial History.

Read more:

<https://eskerfoundation.com/exhibition/bomi-yook-k-dialectic/>

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. **Opening Reception: Friday 22 May, 6-9pm**, all welcome, free. Complimentary snacks will be served. All artists will be present.
2. **In Conversation with Rose Bouthillier, Shirley Moorhouse and Zadie Xa**, Saturday 23 May, 1-2:30 pm. Free.
3. **Artist Talk with Bomi Yook**, Thursday 28 May, 6-7pm. Free.
4. **FREE Exhibitions Tours:**
Director/Curator Naomi Potter: Thursday 11 June, 6-7pm
Curators Elizabeth Diggon & Shauna Thompson:
Thursday 13 August, 6-7pm.
Guided Poetry Exhibitions Tour with Adetola Adedipe:
Friday 25 June, 6-7:30pm
Behind The Scenes Exhibitions Tour: Thursday 16 July, 6-7pm
5. **FREE Family, Adult, Youth Programs:**
Bring the Baby Art Tour & Tummy Time
Create Together: Families with children 0-12 years
Kids Studio: Ages 7-12.
Find dates and times on www.eskerfoundation.com

Workshops:

Introduction to Modern Bojagi with Emma Goudie
Thursday 18 June & Saturday 20 June.

Youth Summer Camp: August.

Storytelling Through Textiles

About Esker Foundation

Founded in May 2012, Esker Foundation owes its vision to its founders, Calgary-based collectors & philanthropists, Jim and Susan Hill, who wanted to create an accessible and welcoming space for people to experience contemporary art exhibitions and programming. An

important part of this vision is to ensure that barriers to access are as low as possible. To that end, Esker is proud to offer free admission, programs, and parking to all visitors.

Through exhibitions, public programs, publishing, and commissioning activities, the Foundation supports artists and audiences through a variety of learning, connecting, and collaborative models. The gallery reflects on current developments in local, regional, and international culture; creates opportunities for public dialogue; and supports the production of groundbreaking new work, ideas, and research.

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Please direct press requests and image enquiries to:

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Download images and full press release at:

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



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@eskerfoundation

Free admission

Hours: Wednesday to Friday: 11-6pm

Saturday & Sunday: 12-5pm