



**Press Release: January, 2024**  
**Winter Exhibitions Launch at Esker Foundation**



Lucia Hierro, 10oz. *Cafe Bustelo*, 2022. Courtesy of the artist and Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles. Photo by: Shark Senesac.

**We are excited to present four solo exhibitions to light up this winter season. Featuring exhibitions by Lucia Hierro, Juan Ortiz-Apuy, Leonard Suryajaya, Rhonda Wepler and Trevor Mahovsky, additionally in the Project Space, Angeline Simon and upcoming Wei Li.**

**Join us to celebrate the launch on:**  
[Friday 19 January, 6-9pm, all welcome.](#)

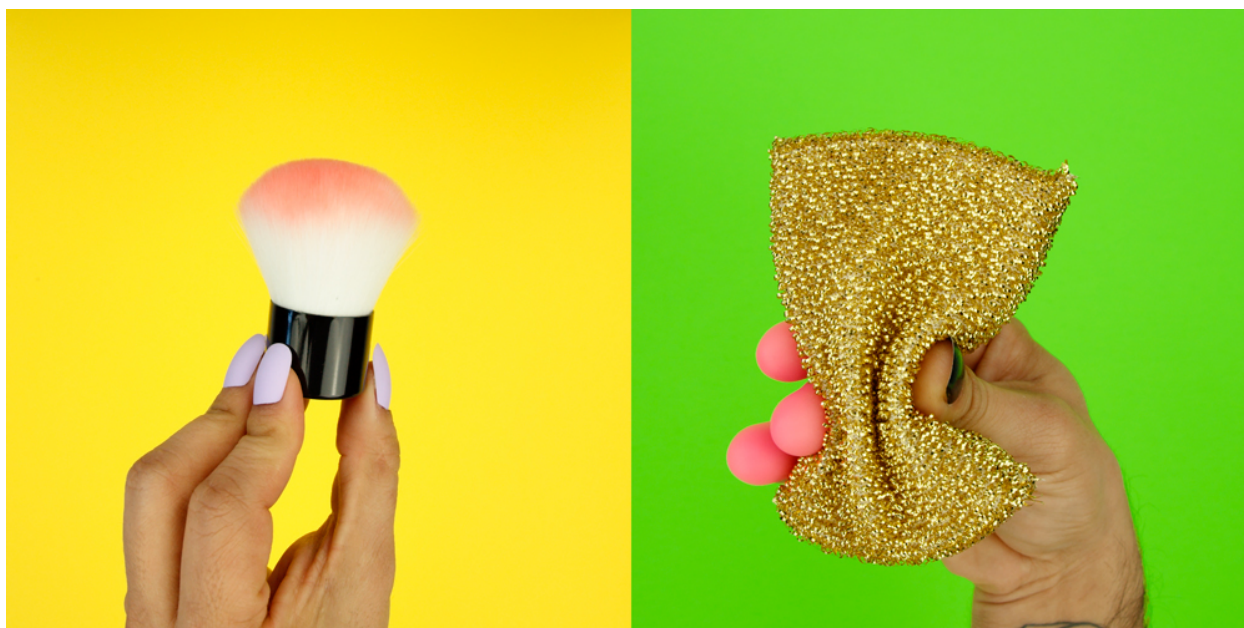
**Lucia Hierro**  
***Corotos y Ajuares***  
20 January – 28 April

***Corotos y Ajuares*** roughly translates to “odds and ends.” *Corotos* is a Spanish colloquialism for household objects – akin to how one might refer to everyday items in English as “stuff” or “things.” **Lucia Hierro** uses the visual language of consumption to dissect our complex relationships to these odds and ends. Working across textile, sculpture, and installation, Hierro points to the capacity of objects to serve as vectors for cultural knowledge, or reflections of self-image, and simultaneously, the ways in which our habits of consumption render us complicit in unsustainable, inequitable economies of production, consumption, and waste.

***Corotos y Ajuares*** brings together a series of soft sculptures and a site-specific mural that collectively focus on household items and consumer goods, like disposable takeout containers, a paper menu, and a pair of aprons. Many of these items reflect Hierro’s specific experiences as an artist within the Dominican diaspora in Manhattan and the Bronx. [Find out more.](#)



Lucia Hierro, *Sweet Beans Takeout*, 2023. Courtesy of the artist and Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles. Photo by: Shark Senesac.



Juan Ortiz-Apuy, *Tropicana*, 2020. Video still (detail). Courtesy of the artist.

## **Juan Ortiz-Apuy**

### ***Tropicana***

20 January – 28 April

This youth exhibition, specially designed for kids and teenagers aged 6 to 14, casts a critical eye on modern consumer society and advertising aimed at children, which often features animals, colours, sounds, and shapes designed to appeal to them. For the occasion, Montréal-based Costa Rican artist **Juan Ortiz-Apuy** has created a visual and sound environment allowing visitors to explore the language of advertising and its ability to act on us, in sometimes unexpected ways. The artist based his research on new marketing strategies that have emerged in the social media era, i.e., the phenomenon of “unboxing” and ASMR (Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response) videos. A genuine foray into the world of objects, this exhibition seeks to examine the way we consume today—always with a touch of humour—to better understand its future impacts.

**[Find out more.](#)**

The *Tropicana* exhibition tour is supported by the Canada Council for the Arts and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. The exhibition was produced in 2020 by VOX, centre de l'image contemporaine with financial support from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.





Leonard Suryajaya, Family Tree, 2023. Courtesy of the artist.

**Leonard Suryajaya**  
***Parting Gift for Quarantine Blues***  
20 January–28 April

**Leonard Suryajaya** creates lush, fantastical images that meditate on intimacy, belonging, and home. Vibrating with colour, pattern, and texture, his photographs pay close attention to everyday objects and their relational significance to his subjects, who are family, friends, and community members. Through Suryajaya's camera lens, these mundane items become conduits for love, kinship, boredom, anxiety, or grief, channelling the oft-inexpressible contours of intimate or familial bonds.

***Parting Gift for Quarantine Blues*** is a site-specific installation that cumulatively reflects on Suryajaya's past, present, and future relations.

[Find out more](#)



Rhonda Wepler and Trevor Mahovsky, Camera from Museum of Lost Things. Courtesy of the artists.

## **Rhonda Wepler and Trevor Mahovsky**

### ***Edelweiss***

20 January–28 April

***Edelweiss*** is an immersive and evolving exhibition that invites audiences into a dream-like reflection on memory, home, and the passage of time. As a permutation of **Wepler and Mahovsky's** *Twilight*, a series of life-scale mock antique and thrift stores stocked with handmade lanterns assembled from photographs of locally collected objects, this installation continues the artists' investigation of mimicry, alternative economies, communities, and relationships that can form around familiar objects, and the flow of these objects through our lives.

As visitors step into the dimmed gallery space, they are invited into an impossibly black shed—a structure that stands in sharp contrast to the luminous objects housed within it. ***Edelweiss*** begins with a single lantern emerging from the darkness. Over the course of the exhibition, the shed will gradually fill with more; its shadowy interior slowly illuminated by an ethereal, ever-changing glow. Each lantern—crafted by the artists using traditional lantern materials of mulberry paper, wax, and wire—is a sculpture of an object selected from Trevor Mahovsky's childhood home on **Calgary's Edelweiss Road**. [Find out more](#)

## **In the Project Space:**

**Angeline Simon**

*take more*

Until 4 February

**Angeline Simon's** artistic practice considers her family's diasporic experience, and the capacity of food and other everyday items to serve as conduits to her ancestral past. In this new site-specific installation, Simon layers together large-scale photo-collage with a collection of hand-built ceramics that reference foods shared with her maternal family while on summer trips to Malaysia. [Find out more.](#)

## **Upcoming in the Project Space:**

**Wei Li**

*Skinbound*

12 February – 9 June

**Wei Li's** captivating digital work *Skinbound*, explores a world where the human body and everyday objects coalesce in evocative, visceral, and emotionally provocative hybrids. [Find out more.](#)

[Explore and download the Winter Exhibition Brochure here.](#)

## **About Esker Foundation:**

Esker Foundation, established in 2012 by Jim and Susan Hill, is a privately funded contemporary art gallery located in Calgary, Canada. 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.

--30--

## Gallery hours:

Wednesday to Friday: 11am-6pm

Saturday & Sunday: 12-5pm

Accessibility: the gallery is barrier-free.

Admission and programs are free.

Press contact:

Jill Henderson, Head of Communications & Marketing  
Tel: 403 930 2499  
[jhenderson@eskerfoundation.com](mailto:jhenderson@eskerfoundation.com)

>> [PRESS PAGE & IMAGE DOWNLOAD LINK.](#) <<

**Esker Foundation**  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1011 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

@EskerFoundation  
[www.eskerfoundation.com](http://www.eskerfoundation.com)