

JULIE FAVREAU

The Intuitions

The first solo exhibition since 2018 dedicated to the recent work of Québec artist Julie Favreau, *Les intuitions* [The Intuitions] brings together video, photo installations, and sculptural works, most of which are being presented in Québec for the first time.

Since 2019, issues around artificial intelligence—the disconcerting relationship between cognition, machine, humanity, and sensations—have fascinated Julie Favreau and fuelled her practice. While the prosthesis as an extension of the body or a tool to amplify its senses has been a recurring motif in her work, its focus now includes the potential effects of a new technological era on our bodies. Favreau is particularly inspired by the Italian philosopher Federico Campagna, the author of *Technic and Magic: The Reconstruction of Reality* (2018), and *A Sermon for the Parents of Young Machines* (2020). Both texts are speculative studies that explore potential interactions between humans and machines: a creator/creature parental relationship, a master/student authoritarian relationship, a pleasurable relationship, or one with a spiritual dimension. Campagna proposes that every relationship comprises both an erotic dimension—the pursuit of mutually gratifying pleasure—and an enlightening, spiritual dimension that contributes to the growth and betterment of each participant. This is the fertile ground in which we can interpret Favreau’s production from the past three years.

In this exhibition, Julie Favreau's approach involves speculating on the potential emancipation or empowerment of a type of technological intelligence with which we'd need to learn to communicate. Her recent work illustrates this quest for a new language: in her videos, every gesture seems to be the foundation of a vocabulary that allows humans to interact with a thing—a blob portrayed at different points in its evolution—that corresponds to the imaginary materialisation of this parallel intelligence. Sidestepping the trap of depicting a dystopian or utopian world, Favreau's characters move through a familiar natural environment that locates them in the not-too-distant future. Other forms of intelligence—namely from plants and animals—already coexist alongside human intelligence. The latest addition is artificial intelligence, whose rapid advances give rise to many ethical questions that aren't entirely different from the challenges raised by cohabiting with other living species that are essential to maintaining human existence as we know it. Julie Favreau believes it's worth considering these issues from the point of view of their effects on the body, which is why her videos aren't so much narratives as they are embodied sensorial experiences, one of which has been produced in virtual reality for those who want to experience the artist's first foray into the medium.

Anne-Marie St-Jean-Aubre, Guest Curator
Marianne Cloutier, Interim Curator of Contemporary Art

JULIE FAVREAU

Québec, Québec, 1981

1. *Solbritt et Smari*, 2022

[Solbritt and Smari]

Inkjet print on transparent silk, 140 x 236 cm

2. *Membrane*, 2022

4K video, 9 min 51 s

Voice: Marie DuPasquier

Text: "A Sermon For the Parents of Young Machines" by Federico Campagna

Textures and 3D animation: Anastasios Logothetis

3D modeling: Jean-François Gauthier

The artist thanks the Canada Council for the Arts for their support.

3. *Our Collection*, 2020

Inkjet print on canvas, steel, silicone, rubber, rock, polymer plastic, copper, epoxy paste and fabrics, 60 x 145 x 212 cm

4. *Quickening*, 2022

360 stereoscopic video, ambisonic sound and 3D element, 3 min 50 s

Technological integration: Guillaume Lévesque

Sound Designer: Bruno Bélanger

Produced as part of the interactive cinematic virtual reality residency offered by PRIM and Sporobole.

5. *Pièce archéologique un*, 2023

[Archaeological Piece One]

Tree bark, obsidian stone, shell, polymer paste, silicone, elastic fabric, blob residue, moss and quartz, 33 x 28 x 7 cm

6. *Sensing Shifts*, 2023

4K Video, 17 min 07 s

Featuring: Ernestas Keturka, Hubert Lagin, Severina Špakovska, Božna Wydrowska and Bea Xu

Director of Photography : Odetta Riskute

Sound Engineer : Auksė Jureviciute

Colorist : Thomas L. Archambault

Colorist Supervisor : Marianne Lévesque

Sound Designer : Bruno Bélanger

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Federico Campana (ideas)

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FLOOR PLAN

1st floor

Salle EBI



