



“The idea of persistence is a useful one to ponder during a time of dramatic societal change,” says Daina Augaitis, Chief Curator/Associate Director. “It is interesting to observe what ideas and objects persist over time or do not, and why. Each of the three artworks in this exhibition offers diverse and insightful propositions about persistence, whether it is inscribed in nature, or determined by a capitalist economy, or formed through sustained historical knowledge.”

### Three Installations on View

#### **Julia Feyrer / Tamara Henderson's *The Last Waves: Laboratory*, 2015-2016:**

Exploring different forms of perception, Vancouver-based artists Julia Feyrer and Tamara Henderson's collaborations often tap into the unconscious. *The Last Waves: Laboratory* (2015-2016) consists of a group of found tables brimming with an array of salvaged and fabricated objects that summon different characters. Calling to mind theatre, play, myth and ritual, this installation recycles and animates mundane objects in a capricious, sometimes disorienting, response to materials.

#### **Shelagh Keeley's *Notes on Obsolescence*, 2014:**

Toronto-based artist Shelagh Keeley's collaged installation *Notes on Obsolescence* (2014) features photographs of textile looms at an abandoned German factory, prompting references to technological and capitalist cycles. By mixing industrial images with drawings that trace the threads of the everyday, the artist interrupts these cycles to mark other temporalities.

#### **Germaine Koh's *Fair-weather forces (water level)*, 2008:**

Vancouver artist Germaine Koh's *Fair-weather forces (water level)* (2008) recasts the familiar in unpredictable ways. The work is a series of velvet ropes, hanging between a row of stanchions, which rise and fall in response to tidal levels recorded at a nearby dock in False Creek. Echoing natural systems in a gallery environment, Koh's work dramatizes the persistence of nature's processes and their profound ability to shape and regulate our lives, even in the face of human efforts to control them.

*Persistence* is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Daina Augaitis, Chief Curator/Associate Director.

### The Artists

#### **Julia Feyrer / Tamara Henderson**

Canadian artists Julia Feyrer and Tamara Henderson began working together in 2009 when they were both students at the Städelschule in Frankfurt, Germany. While maintaining active solo practices, these emerging artists have produced a series of interconnected installations, films and performances through their collaborations. In their artworks, things continually shift in form and meaning, lending themselves to exploring the channels between the unconscious and the everyday.

Julia Feyrer was born in Victoria, British Columbia. She completed a Bachelor of Media Arts from Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Vancouver, after which she continued her studies at the Städelschule, Frankfurt. Her work has been presented in numerous solo and group exhibitions, primarily in Western Canada and in New York.

Tamara Henderson was born in Sackville, New Brunswick. She studied at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Halifax; the Städelschule, Frankfurt; and the Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm. Her

work has been included in exhibitions throughout North America and Europe, including documenta 13 and Glasgow International.

### **Shelagh Keeley**

Shelagh Keeley is an established Canadian artist whose interdisciplinary approach promotes a sensory awareness of lived experience and layered, cultural histories. Shelagh Keeley was born in Oakville, Ontario and graduated in 1977 from York University, Toronto, where she now resides. Having lived in New York and Paris for twenty-two years in the 1980s and 90s, she has exhibited throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Her artworks are held in prominent public and private collections in North America and Europe. In 2017 Keeley was recognized with the Governor General's Award in Visual Art.

### **Germaine Koh**

Germaine Koh's conceptually driven practice often challenges the boundaries between art and everyday life by linking the interior spaces of the art world—the gallery, the museum, the studio—to larger social and environmental contexts. Germaine Koh was born in Malaysia and currently lives in Vancouver, working in a variety of media including installation, sculpture and performance. She studied fine art and art history at the University of Ottawa and received her MFA from Hunter College in New York. She has exhibited her work in numerous exhibitions since the early 1990s across Canada, in Europe and Asia. She was the 2010 recipient of the Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation VIVA Award.

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### **About the Vancouver Art Gallery**

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most respected and innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's innovative ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on the historical and contemporary art of British Columbia and international centres, with special attention to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists and the art of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art founded in 2014. The Gallery's programs also explore the impacts of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture. [www.vanartgallery.bc.ca](http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca)

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