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B(r)east
Nikki Peck
MFA Thesis Exhibition

We are thrilled to showcase and share with you an online exhibition that celebrates the completion of our gallery director Nikki Peck's MFA at Emily Carr University of Art + Design this spring. The thesis project entitled, *B(r)east*, is a culmination of artworks created over the course of a two-year intensive program to be featured online and by appointment at the gallery until May 20th, 2020.

Peck's work examines and explores the depiction of sexuality and the female form in contemporary society. Specifically focusing on the female-identified form in current society, Peck's work investigates the plurality of ways in which the gaze, feminist art practices, sexuality, censorship, and historical events have shaped, defined, and conditioned the perception of the female nude in art. By studying and researching the theories behind the gazes, her work intends to subvert and refuse the male gaze, in an attempt to place the feminine queer gaze at the forefront of artistic inquiry.

Peck seeks to add her voice to the post-feminist and fourth-wave movement by illustrating the power and importance of sexuality as forms of identity, liberation, and freedom from patriarchal hegemony. Through the medium of drawing, she explores the various artistic techniques in which sexually confident feminine bodies can be seen or viewed as subjects full of emotion and determination, rather than objectified for male visual pleasure. In *B(r)east*, Peck focuses on parts of the female body that are fetishized and overly sexualized by Western society, such as the nipple, and the ever-present meaning and associations behind the breast.