

## **Nadia Myre**

### ***After the Fire, and other work***

The exhibition “After the Fire, and other work” presents new paintings, and ceramic sculptures by Nadia Myre that stand as a profound exploration of the ebb and flow of identity, memory, and existence, where the moments of conclusion are preludes to new beginnings. It is within this liminal space that each artwork resonates with the complex narrative of transformation and the raw textures of reality.

In “When I Returned,” the visceral portrayal of revisiting one’s past is imbued with the colors of flesh and history, suggesting a tension between the act of returning and the harsh truths that such a journey can uncover. The painting’s stark reds, pinks, and ochres elicit a sense of corporeal urgency—a reminder that our experiences and histories leave tangible marks upon us and that healing often requires confronting the remnants of violence and struggle.

This sentiment of shedding past to make space for potential transformation echoes throughout the exhibition as each piece embodies the weight of passing from one phase to another. “After the Fire” captures the immediate aftermath of change, a time for reflection and of hope amidst the remnants of what once was. “At Dawn” re-contextualizes the first light as a harsh revelation, a division that illuminates the unresolved and the continuous evolution of self.

The ceramic sculptures complement this narrative, their gestural forms and earthy textures acting as manifestations of the silent language of identity and memory. They stand as markers of presence and absence, resilience and adaptation—tangible expressions of the cultural and personal forces that shape our existence.

“After the Fire, and other work” invites the audience into a contemplative realm where art serves as a mirror to our own journeys. Here, the viewer is called to engage with the artworks as reflections of the enduring spirit that persists through the challenges of loss and the courage required to embrace the new beginnings that follow. It is a space where the beauty and brutality of becoming coalesce, and where the ends of our stories are preludes to new chapters.

Nadia Myre (born 1974) is a contemporary visual artist from Montreal and an Algonquin member of the Kiti-gan Zibi Anishinaabeg First Nation, who lives and works in Montreal. Her multi-disciplinary practice has been inspired by participant involvement as well as recurring themes of identity, language, collective identity, resilience and the politics of belonging. Of the artist, David Garneau wrote the following: Myre has an allergy to sentences that attempt to engineer people and a love of the poetic, the suggestive, the seductive, the malleable and mis-taken. There is throughout her work a desire to signify, to come into presence but also to be imprecise and uncapturable, of having a self beyond words, being present but escaping comprehension.