

CAROLINE MONNET Materials of Memory

January 17 - February 28, 2026
Opening Saturday January 17, 4-7pm

Macaulay + Co. is thrilled to present a solo exhibition of work by Mooniyang/Montreal-based Anishinaabe/French artist Caroline Monnet. *Materials of Memory* brings together photo and textile-based works that 'engages a buoyant feeling for the future'. Reframing materials and images that have been controlled or exploited, Monnet reclaims them as sites of presence, resistance, and future-making. Anishinaabe geometric patterns override contractor grade building supplies with sacred symbolism, offering a glimpse back and a path forward grounded in Indigenous women's knowledge, and lived experience.

Ikwewak

Staring directly into the lens, in contrast to the anthropological, Eurocentric and overwhelmingly patriarchal approach of the past, these women resist the colonial hold that contemporary society has over them. Through a sociological reflection on power, Monnet brings the colonized female body into the light, revealing that it is doubly threatened and historically tied to the land in colonial and patriarchal spatial configurations. This reality contributes to the belief that the bodies of indigenous women are up for grabs, just like objects or landscapes, to be owned and controlled. The series brings these female bodies back into our cities, our lives, our families, and our imaginaries. It engages a buoyant feeling for the future we will build together for the seven generations to come.

Embroideries on barrier membranes, roofing underlayment and Weavings

Monnet alters construction supplies, investing them with new meaning. The techniques of weaving and embroidering become forms of connection and transmission, of communication across time, space and psychological rifts. The divided territory is reassembled and sutured through traditional designs carrying long-suppressed Indigenous knowledge. While colonial cultures have used geometry as a way to map, parcel and claim, Monnet deploys it to arrive at a deeper understanding of the land itself. Geometric motifs inspired by Anishinaabe patterns passed down through generations override corporate logos, investing contractor

grade supplies with sacred symbolism. They articulate a cartography of memory. Colourful strands embroider an unfolding encryption on sturdy roofing felt, calling to mind a microchip that may store and transfer knowledge, offering a glimpse back and a path forward.

Circular piece using sewing

Using commercial building materials—like Tyvek, plastic, and foil insulation— I transfigure through laborious handwork: cutting, piecing, and sewing. The intricately layered materials cohere into a geometric circle and lines. It is a meditation on the interconnectedness of all living things...a way to transmit cultural knowledge and values across generations, reinforcing a sense of community and belonging.