

Mercer Union, a centre for contemporary art
1286 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6H 1N9 Canada
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from root to lip

Jennifer Rose Sciarrino

22 June – 10 August 2019

Opening Reception: 21 June 2019, 7PM

Curated by Julia Paoli



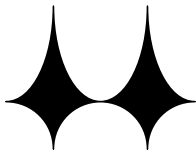
Making kin is perhaps the hardest and most urgent part.¹

from root to lip presents Jennifer Rose Sciarrino's formal inquiry into the notions of entanglement and techno-organic hybridity that have long been tended to by feminist writers of critical thought and science fiction. In a series of sculptures referencing biotic matter—seeds, spores, cells, pollen, bacteria and yeast—Sciarrino interprets scientific imaging and illustration of such phenomena towards new fictions in blown glass and carved stone.

Posed at the tips of long steel armatures that twist and bend towards one another, these budding figures emerge from a low-lying platform that anchors this environment. Here, Sciarrino figures the dazzling morphology of the less-than-visible biota through shifts of scale and substance, architecting anew the relational space between human and nonhuman actors vital to a living world.

How might artistic practice approach post-anthropocentric imaginings to provide compelling alternatives to those shaped by current rhetoric surrounding the Anthropocene? Beginning with the suggestion that exchange is a promise latent in adjacency, *from root to lip* advocates for a distributed, entangled future that is grounded in synchronicity and co-becoming.

¹ Donna Haraway, "Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Plantationocene, Chthulucene: Making Kin." *Environmental Humanities* 1 May 2015; 6 (1): 165.



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BIOGRAPHIES

Jennifer Rose Sciarrino's sculpture, video, and installation works consider the living world through its entanglements in nature and technology. Recent solo and two-person exhibitions include ***Ruffled Follicles and a Tangled Tongue*** at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Lethbridge (2019); and ***But both are sensitive***, Projet Pangée, Montréal (2019). Her work has been included in exhibitions at venues including Art Museum, Toronto (2016); Blackwood Gallery, University of Toronto, Mississauga (2015); Jackman Humanities Institute, Toronto (2015); Oakville Galleries (2015); Bâtiment d'art Contemporain, Genève (2014); Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina (2014); and The Power Plant, Toronto (2011, 2013), among others. Sciarrino lives and works in Toronto, and is represented there by Daniel Faria Gallery.

Jennifer Rose Sciarrino would like to acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$153 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country. Works in the exhibition have been produced with the support of the Government of Ontario through the Ontario Arts Council, and the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council.

Julia Paoli is the Director of Exhibitions & Programs at Mercer Union, a centre for contemporary art.

Mercer Union, a centre for contemporary art, Toronto

Mercer Union is a non-profit, artist-centred space in Toronto. We have a unique track record of presenting innovative exhibitions by diverse Canadian and international artists in formative and established stages of their careers. We are dedicated to supporting the production of new and experimental work, assisting artists in realizing pivotal projects.

Mercer Union has the will and flexibility to take on ambitious projects. We foster an intimate and supportive space for artists to develop and take risks with their work. In turn, their exhibitions play a role in shaping the cultural landscape of Toronto, Canada and beyond.

Mercer Union. Cultivating artists and challenging audiences since 1979.

Please send all requests for images and interviews to:
[**press@mercunion.org**](mailto:press@mercunion.org)

For more information please visit:
[**mercunion.org**](http://mercunion.org)

Mercer Union acknowledges the support of its staff, volunteers and members, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Government of Ontario through the Ontario Arts Council and the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

Image: Jennifer Rose Sciarrino, ***Ruffled Follicles and a Tangled Tongue*** (2019). Installation view: Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Lethbridge. Courtesy the artist.