

RYLAND FORTIE | EPOCH GNAW

8 JULY 2023 – 29 SEPTEMBER 2023

Ryland Fortie's paintings, sculptures, and installation works exist in a new biomechanical mythology. Referencing science fiction, Fortie's objects seem distantly abstracted from any original purpose, as if they were part of an archeology of a future dark age. His first major solo exhibition, Fortie's *Epoch Gnow* looks to natural systems like the rock formations of Tafone to think about a hybridized mythology of science, technology, and natural forces.

Ryland Fortie was the Southern Alberta Art Gallery Maansikaitapiitsinikssin's Gushul Studio Artist in Residence for 2023. The Gushul Residency is a long-standing program that invites artists from around the world to visit the mountain town of Blairmore, Alberta in preparation for an exhibition at the Gallery.

Curated by Adam Whitford, Interim Curator

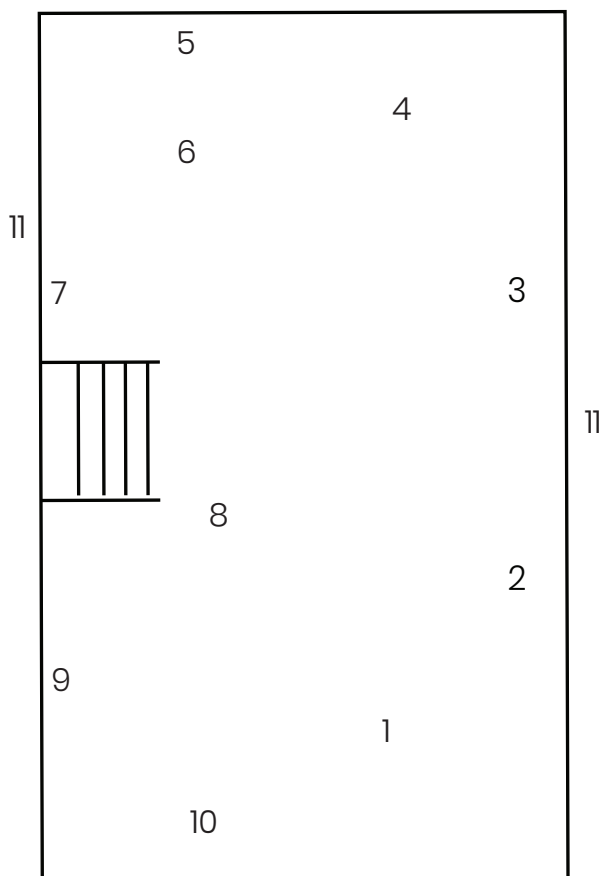
Ryland Fortie works in painting and sculpture utilizing combinations of natural forms with tactics commonly found in science fiction and fantasy. In doing so, he seeks new perspectives of the human experience through our relationship with culture and the environment. Fortie grew up in the badland landscapes of Kamloops, BC, before spending the last several years in Edmonton. Fortie is currently an MFA candidate at the University of Victoria.

We acknowledge the support of the City of Lethbridge, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

SAAG

SOUTHERN ALBERTA ART GALLERY
MAANSIKAITAPIITSINIKSSIN

UPPER GALLERY | SECOND FLOOR



1. *a thousand insides*, SPF, driftwood, dye, varnish, 2022.

A wooden offering bowl carved in a Tafoni pattern with driftwood legs. The wood is burnt using the Shou Sugi Ban technique to emphasize the wood grain.

2. *void chrysalis*, cedar, varnish, steel and hardware, 2022.
3. *prairie*, oil on canvas, frame, 2022.

4. *monomer (erosion is regenerative)*, concrete, sand, salt, ash, dye, epoxy resin, tubing, acrylic, rain barrel, and hardware, 2023.

5. *chassis*, oil on canvas, frame, 2023.

A crushed car and a dinosaur skull meld into one another. Fortie connects the dinosaur to fossil fuels but also thinks about the technologies of today as part of an archeology of the distant future. Cars may eventually be uncovered and studied in the same way dinosaur bones are.

6. *the manifest*, smoke on cotton, HO scale model train, cast plastic, acrylic, and oil, 2023.

A combination of Fortie's "smoke drawings" and a model train, the artist reflects on Canadian summers as combinations of trains, grasshoppers, and forest fires. The train is imagined as a hybrid mechanical beast that roams the landscape.

7. *between each nothing*, SPF, dye, varnish, steel, and hardware, 2022.

8. *propagate specimen*, concrete, acrylic, epoxy resin, ash, lava stone, and hardware, 2022.

Placed in a network of igneous rocks, these organically-shaped concrete and acrylic tablets were created from synthetic processes. The concrete was cast in dissolved Rigid insulation foam and the acrylic is etched with a gestalt drawing of Tafoni patterns.

9. *drivetrain*, oil on canvas, frame, 2023.

10. *integument*, smoke on cotton, hardware, 2023.

11. *untitled*, HDPE vessels, Schrader air valves, 2023.

All works courtesy of the artist.