

Galerie Eli Kerr

Through distant trees

Alexis Auréoline, Eric Allan Cameron, Erin Hunt, Kristen Keegan
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Galerie Eli Kerr is pleased to present *Through Distant Trees*, a group exhibition that brings together works by Alexis Auréoline, Eric Allan Cameron, Erin Hunt, and Kristen Keegan. Across varying and expanded approaches to painting, the exhibition considers ways of working that approach landscape not as merely image or location, but as an idea that constructs the condition of perception, where process, materiality, time and memory meet to provide form.

In a pair of small oil on linen paintings Eric Allan Cameron compresses the immensity of his subjects: bodies of water, distant land masses, the night sky, into atmospheric works that exist on an intimate memory-like scale. He describes the making of these works as a time-based practice where the studio becomes a place for the recalibration of personal recollections¹. With an interest in how painting can hold experiences that exist at the edge of language, Cameron's work encourages sustained attention allowing something fragile, quiet, and provisional to come into view.

Memory emerges as material and trace in Alexis Auréoline's work *Charcoal Painting #1*. In 2020 the artist began the process of collecting Manitoba maple wood and firing it into a large oil drum to make his own charcoal. Back in the studio he began repeatedly and methodically dragging the charcoal down the surface of a canvas, a process he likens to developing a print in darkroom photography. Beneath the canvas is a sheet of plywood that the artist had been using as a studio table for many years. As the charcoal moves across the surface, it records the grain, knots, and wear of the wood underneath. Each vertical line is made one after another, creating a dense, striated surface. The charcoal gradually wears down, causing subtle shifts in tone from grey to brown. Although abstract, the works suggest landscape, wood grain, a tree's torso, holding traces of time, use, and material contact.

In Kristen Keegan's *Fruiting Body*, colour emerges through material process, gravity, and time. The work is composed of lengths of silk dyed with plant-based materials including birch bark, yarrow, twinberry honeysuckle, and coral mushroom, organic materials gathered in northwestern Alberta where the work was made on a residency this past summer. Suspended between wooden supports, the fabric hangs freely, allowing the dyes to settle, bleed, and shift according to the properties of the silk and the chemistry of each pigment. Rather than being applied as fixed colour, the hues develop through staining and absorption, remaining responsive to light and movement. The work references natural cycles of growth and transformation, using colour as a sensory and bodily experience. *Fruiting Body* invites slow looking, positioning colour as something lived, relational, and in flux rather than static or symbolic.

Erin Hunt's work similarly emerges from sustained engagement with her surrounding environment. Based on Fogo Island, Newfoundland, she regularly walks local shorelines, collecting weathered debris such as fragments of plastic, rope, driftwood, and other remnants carried in by the sea. These gathered materials are not incorporated

¹from the artist's notes

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directly into the paintings, but are brought back to the studio where they are studied, arranged, and translated through rubbings, silhouettes, colour studies, and material experiments. Working with oil, pigment, pastel, and water-based media, Hunt builds her paintings through layering, erasure, and slow adjustment, allowing environmental traces to inform structure, colour, and balance. Rather than depicting landscape, her works function as small environments shaped by attention, internal sensing, and the subtle interplay between lived experience and material response.

Alexis Auréoline (Métis) is an artist based in Tiohtiá:ke/Montréal and the heartland of the Métis people. Alexis's recent exhibitions include *Maison de plage* at Galerie Eli Kerr (2024), *Au(Chevron)* at L'Université de Saint-Boniface (2022), *Lune/Lumière/Photo/Paysage* at the Théâtre Cercle Molière (2021), *Waves/River* at La Maison des artistes visuels francophones (2021), *Through A Glass Darkly* at Four Seasons NY (2018) and *Peeks of Past Sheets of Present* at Air Antwerp (2018). Residencies include; *Territoire visuels, territoires transformés* in Saskatoon, the Banff Centre for the Arts and Air Antwerp in Belgium. Alexis holds a BFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and attended the Cooper Union School of Art and Architecture as well as Hunter College in New York.

Eric Allan Cameron is an artist based in Southwestern Ontario originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba. His small-scale paintings explore the atmospheric terrain between inner experience and the external world, holding traces of memory, emotion, and fragments of lived experience. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) from the School of Art at the University of Manitoba and is currently completing a Master of Fine Arts at Western University. His work has been exhibited across Canada, most recently at Art Toronto, and was featured in a solo presentation at the 11th edition of NADA New York. His work is held in private collections internationally.

Erin Hunt lives on Fogo Island, Newfoundland and has presented work at the 2023 Bonavista Biennale, The Rooms in St. John's, JK Contemporary on Fogo Island, the plumb in Toronto, Fogo Island Art Gallery, The Painting Center in New York City, and Front Gallery in Houston. In 2025 Hunt was long listed for the Sobey Art Award. Hunt's work is held in the public collections of The Rooms and the City of Ottawa.

Hunt's small, vivid oil paintings explore the emergent nature of image and form through a distinctive language of colour and material relationships. Developed through an elemental engagement with materials, her work is informed by the shifting conditions of environment, objects, perception, and everyday life.

Kristen Keegan (b. 1988, Canada) has been based in Norway since 2017. She completed her Master's in Fine Art at the University of Bergen in 2019 and has since exhibited at venues throughout Scandinavia, including Entrée, Kunsthuset Kabuso, LNM, Konstepidemin, Årsutstillingen, Høstutstillingen, and Hordaland Kunstsenter. In 2026, she will participate in group exhibitions in Montreal, Canada (Galerie Eli Kerr) and in Oslo (SOFT). She has participated in several residencies in Finland (Mustarinda), Iceland (NES), Norway (KH Messen), and Canada (Banff Centre). Her work is held in public collections including the University of Bergen, Stavanger Library, and KODE Museum.