

The Waiting Room

July 16 - August 22, 2026

Artists:

Anne Dahl, Colin Canary,
Josi Smit, Masha Granich

Curator: Emma Ongman

McBride Contemporain is thrilled to present *The Waiting Room*, a group exhibition featuring Anne Dahl, Colin Canary, Josi Smit and Masha Granich. Curated by Emma Ongman, the exhibition brings together four Montreal-based artists working across painting, drawing, sculpture and photography. Rather than passive suspension, waiting is presented as a shared condition of human experience where meaning accumulates, relationships shift, and personal and collective transformation quietly takes shape.

Anne Dahl builds sculptural assemblages from reclaimed materials that bring fragility, weight, and value into tension, questioning how digital technology culture shapes our relationship to objects and to ourselves. Drawing on traditional methods of timekeeping, her wood and wax sculptures incorporate candles embedded with pieces of metal, evoking historical devices that measured the passage of time through the gradual melting of wax and the falling of metal markers. Held in a state of anticipation, the sculptures suggest the possibility of time itself becoming an active collaborator.

Colin Canary approaches the image as an unstable presence, his photo-paintings remaining in a perpetual state of becoming. Translating photographs into hazy, repetitive forms, his works are constructed through the simultaneous addition and removal of layers of paint, allowing traces of their previous states to remain visible. The images persist beneath the surface without ever fully disappearing, inhabiting a space between recollection



Colin Canary, *Angels Blades Sew Dreams Into My Nape* (detail), 2025

and forgetting, where their afterimage emerges through a slow process of sedimentation and erosion.

Josi Smit combines vernacular photography, sculpture, and installation to construct quiet spaces where memory hovers at the threshold of revelation. A printed photograph on textile veils a dried flower enclosed within a handcrafted wooden frame, delaying its discovery. A window blind installation echoes the slow passage of daylight and invites viewers into a nonlinear experience of time, where perception and remembrance become inseparable.

Masha Granich constructs autofictional worlds rooted in memory, folklore, and displacement. Their ballpoint pen drawings on canvas, mounted into antique wooden objects, hold narrative in suspense: an egg yet to hatch, a whispered secret, a closed door concealing peeking children, a calm horse before the threat of a sting. These works interweave superstition and healing, using domestic symbols to form a visual language in which heritage, mythmaking, and prayer are reflected on.

Across their varied practices, these artists approach material as something that gathers meaning through patience and repetition. *The Waiting Room* explores how belief and memory are shaped during moments of anticipation, where transformation and potential coexist. As a meditation on presence and absence, appearance and disappearance, the exhibition invites us to reflect on what moments of uncertainty reveal, and on the futures that remain possible before they unfold.

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Anne Dahl studied Jewellery Design & Metalsmithing and Intermedia at Nova Scotia College of Art & Design University and is currently completing an MFA in Sculpture at Concordia University. In 2025, she received the Tom Hopkins Memorial Graduate Award, and her work has been supported by the Canada Council for the Arts. Recent exhibitions include *IGNITION 20* at the Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, curated by Anne-Marie St-Jean Aubre and Nicole Burisch, as well as exhibitions in New York, Montréal, Ottawa, and Gatineau. Her work has been featured in ESPACE art actuel, Metalsmith Magazine, The Globe and Mail, FASHION Magazine, and Clin d'œil.

Colin Canary (b. Halifax, Nova Scotia) holds a BFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design University and an MFA in Studio Arts from Concordia University, where he received the Lillian Vineberg Graduate Award in Painting and Drawing and was twice awarded the Tom Hopkins Memorial Graduate Award. Recent exhibitions include *Ignition 19* at the Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, curated by Mojeanne Behzadi, and *Reverb* at Art Mûr as part of the *Pictura* Triennale de peinture. His work is held in the Nova Scotia Art Bank's collection. In 2026, he completed a residency at DUPLEX AIR in Lisbon, Portugal.

Josi Smit holds a BFA in Sculpture/Installation from OCAD University, where she was awarded the Program Medal and the BMO 1st Art Ontario award for her thesis work. Their work has been supported by two Canada Council for the Arts Research and Creation grants, as well as the Ontario Arts Council. Recent exhibitions include *Reminds Me of Home* at Olga Korper Gallery (Toronto, ON), *Milestone Nerve* at the Visual Arts Centre of Clarington (Bowmanville, ON), *Feedback Loop* at MKG127 (Toronto, ON), *A View to a Room* at Zalucky Contemporary (Toronto, ON), and *Crawling Out of a Hidden Place* at Arsenal Contemporary (Toronto, ON). Smit is currently expanding their studio practice while studying cabinetmaking.

Masha Granich (b. Kherson, Ukraine) is a queer and trans multidisciplinary artist who holds a BFA in Art Publications from OCAD University. Recent solo exhibitions include *A Wound of Blood and Water* at Maison de la culture Marie-Uguay and *Like a Dove* in La Vitrine of La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse. Their work has also been presented at Maison de la culture du Plateau-Mont-Royal. In 2024, they were selected for the ARTCH cohort and completed a residency at Gare de Matapédia in 2025. Their work is held in the collection of Maison de la culture Marie-Uguay.