

CORKIN GALLERY

Corkin Gallery to Present “Test Patterns” and “Grips,” New Works by Michelle Forsyth in Toronto

[Download Press Images](#)



"These newer works are me coming into my own, they are reframing the items that surround me in a way that are now a representation of me rather than pieces that are external to me." - Michelle Forsyth

Toronto, ON – Corkin Gallery is proud to present *Test Patterns* and *Grips*, a solo exhibition by Michelle Forsyth. Opening July 31 through August 31, the exhibition will feature 18 works, a collection of paintings and photographs documenting a poignant decade of Forsyth's life from 2013 to 2024.

Test Patterns and *Grips* highlight Forsyth's unique approach to painting and craftsmanship. Her work is an intimate and autobiographical exploration, reflecting the intricate patterns of her personal experiences. Her art carries a hidden depth, revealing the complex layers of her life, relationships, and physical challenges.

Works featured in *Test Patterns* are inspired by the prints and patterns of Forsyth's surroundings, including interior patterns inspired by her former-husband's shirts, externally contrasted with patterns created to contrast with his tastes. Despite the seemingly flawless execution from afar, with a closer look, the painted patterns display blurred or crooked lines, capturing Forsyth's unsteady hand movements. Forsyth employs no tape or tools to stabilize her hand, making each piece a testament to her physical reality.

Test Patterns includes vibrant pieces like a bright pink frame housing a black plaid pattern, merging elements from a skirt once belonging to her best friend and a beloved plaid shirt. Another features a red flower pattern often seen in her previous body of work, juxtaposed with a black and white geometric image. These elements are more than abstract designs; they are deeply personal artifacts, transformed into art that narrates Forsyth's life story.

Forsyth's *Grips*, shot in natural light within her studio-home, add another layer to her narrative. These images capture the intimate setting where she creates, despite the constraints of her mobility. Her

evolving ability to grip and maneuver her tools is evident in the delicate details of her work, reflecting the gradual progression of her condition.

Test Patterns and *Grips* mark a significant period in Forsyth's creative and personal journey. They document a decade-long exploration of identity and self-expression, transitioning from her married life to her present independence and new physical reality. Through her work, Forsyth reframes the patterns of her past, claiming them as her own and redefining their meaning, a profound statement of the artist's personal resilience and transformation.

MICHELLE FORSYTH

Test Patterns and *Grips*

July 31 - August 31, 2024

7 Tank House Lane

Distillery District

Toronto, ON

Michele Forsyth

Multi-disciplinary artist Michelle Forsyth works at the cross-section of sculpture, printmaking, photography, and performance. With a keen interest in fashion and pattern, Forsyth makes clothes from textiles with designs that excite her, which she then replicates in hand-painted backdrops. The resulting works are sculptural compositions of multiple repeated patterns. Forsyth's practice explores the creative potential of her tremor in dialogue with the fine motor skills of her hand after being diagnosed with early Parkinson's disease.

Forsyth holds an MFA from Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ); and a BFA from the University of Victoria (Victoria, BC). Her work has been exhibited internationally in the USA, Portugal and Qatar. Forsyth has been the recipient of grants from the Canada Council for the Arts (Ottawa, ON), and Artist Trust (Seattle, WA). Her printing practice has been supported and awarded from the Larry Sommers Memorial Fellowship (Seattle Print Arts, WA) and the Nick Novak Fellowship (Open Studio, Toronto, ON). Forsyth has been a resident at the Frans Masereel Centrum (Kasterlee, Belgium), The Banff Centre (Banff, AB), The Textile Centre (Blöndos, Iceland), and The University of Southern Maine (Gorham, ME). She currently holds a tenured position at OCAD University (Toronto, ON).

#MichelleForsyth @corkingallery

Image Credits (L-R):

Michelle Forsyth

Red and White Florals, on Red and Green Plaid, 2017-2023

Gouache on Paper with custom frame

18 x 18 in.

Michelle Forsyth

Multi-coloured Grips, 2023

archival inkjet print

18 x 18 in.

Ed. of 3 + AP

Press

Corkin Gallery

info@corkingallery.com

ElevenThirtySix

Ayofemi Kirby | ayofemi@itseleventhirtysix.com | +1 646 494 3776