

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

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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

"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 31st, the exhibition will feature two new bodies of work - 18 paintings and nine photographs documenting a poignant decade in her life.

Test Patterns and *Grips* highlight a unique approach to painting and craftsmanship. Michelle Forsyth reveals the complex layers of her life in this autobiographical exploration. Forsyth uncovers her relationships and physical challenges dealing with early onset Parkinson's.

The paintings in *Test Patterns* have two main elements: the central square and surrounding plane. The central squares are inspired by the actual patterns from the garments in her life. In *Red and White Florals...*, 2023, the interior square painting, a pattern from her former husband's shirt, sits in stark contrast to the flamboyant painting that surrounds it. In the painting *Pink, Yellow, and Black Plaid...*, 2023, Forsyth combines patterns from two garments - one from a skirt belonging to her best friend, another from her own beloved shirt, enclosing the painting in a bright pink frame. These artworks combine memories and recollections, becoming alive in their own right.

While the abstract designs are seductive, they are more than abstract paintings - they are deeply personal artifacts transformed into art that narrates the life story of the artist.

In *Grips*, the photographs are made with the natural light in her home studio. *Grips* are made with plasticine and placed on a plane as sculptural elements. Michelle Forsyth makes the shapes by gripping the material and leaving her finger impressions in the sculpture. The name *Grips* is important. It

references the artist's ability to maneuver her materials as she thinks about the gradual progression of her condition.

These two bodies of work document a decade long exploration of identity. For Michelle Forsyth, her present independence and new physical reality is a transition from her former married life. Through her artwork, Forsyth reframes the patterns of her past, claiming them as her own and redefining their meaning. These works present a profound statement of the artist's transformation and personal resilience.

Michelle Forsyth is an Associate Professor of Contemporary Painting Practice at OCAD University.

Test Patterns and Grips opens July 31st at Corkin Gallery

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The artist will be present

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, WA, and the Nick Novak Fellowship, 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

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