



Boreal Harvest

Lori Claerhout

In *Boreal Harvest*, Lori Claerhout invites viewers to consider how collective knowledge plays out in local food literacy. This work looks at memories and imaginaries of collaboration and community around food procurement, preparation, and consumption, as well as food security and societal cohesiveness.

A quite literal pictorial method plays out on the wall, with linocut prints of the jam-making process colléed there. From the top, we are shown the raw ingredients of rhubarb and strawberries, then several steps along the way to finally making jam that is spread on toast, ready to eat. Screen printed portraits applied to used canning jar lids represent multiples of family, friends, and community members who Lori has either picked fruit, made jam, or shared recipes with and hang in a semicircle around the jam making process. Canning jars are wrapped with letterpress-printed cooking idioms that apply to both to kitchen activity and working within community.

Lori has been printmaking since 2019. Having studied and edited university courses, signing up for a class--a beginner's one--in printmaking that year seemed a natural turn, and one that spurred much more exploration and practice, especially in linocut and screen printing.

Around the same time, Lori started more regularly visiting a swimming friend of hers with a substantial artist career behind her: Maureen Harvey. Lori took instruction from the lifetime artist in drawing, composition, assemblage, and curation. Later, a week-long course with Lyndal Osborne helped Lori to think in terms of found matter used to depict meaning in ordinary objects. Similarly, Lori uses salvaged materials as parts to larger installations. Local Peter von Tiesenhausen inspires Lori as much by his senses of space and material as his visions for better futures within community.

As for jam-making: growing up in central Alberta as a child to first-generation farm-raised European settlers, Lori learned how to grow a big garden and tend to its produce. At university, she learned how to talk about it. As an artist, she's compelled to examine systems at play, like where our food comes from and how to have enough to go around.

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