

## Evocative traces of the architectural past: *Alexia Laferté-Coutu. Leurs ombres centenaires* at Galerie de l'UQAM

**Dates:** May 16 – June 16, 2018

**Opening:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

Montréal, April 26, 2018 – Galerie de l'UQAM presents the exhibition *Alexia Laferté-Coutu. Leurs ombres centenaires*. A graduating student from UQAM's MFA program in Visual and Media Arts, the artist offers a complex reflection on our relationship to architecture and history. Through the gesture of applying soft clay on the exterior surface of buildings, Alexia Laferté-Coutu seeks to generate an active relationship to sculpture.

### The exhibition

The enigmatic forms of Alexia Laferté-Coutu's sculptures are rooted in a process of material addition and subtraction from the surfaces of historic architectural structures. Moulded shapes harden, carrying within them the mark of liquid glass and the mould's lacework, or that of the architecture's forms and the gesture of moulding itself. These characteristics remind us of the base material's former liquid state, a state that it may indeed someday reclaim. Evoking as they do the reversibility of matter and its forms, casting techniques are associated with a way viewing the world that is always shifting, a way of imagining its transformative potential as being sculptural in and of itself.

Casting is much like the poultice, that medical technique of yore where one would apply a mixture of clay and plant matter to an affected area of the body, to absorb toxins and stimulate blood flow. The poultice — casting's cousin — here becomes a sensory and tangible mode of recording by which energy capable of penetrating stone, clay and glass is stored and transferred. The resulting sculptures act as bridges for the movement of an imperceptible relationship between fluid and hardened substance, between gesture and architecture, between history and the sculptural object.

As the fragmentation of elements multiplies ways of being born into the visible, so sculpture presents itself here as an act of fragmentation of reality, an act that opens up new associative possibilities and initiates outward movement. A fluid and pluralistic relationship is thus created, a relationship to architecture and history—structures that are perhaps not as rigid and linear as they seem.

### The artist

**Alexia Laferté-Coutu** was born in 1990 in Montréal (Canada), where she also currently lives and works. Following musical training, she studied sculpture at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, and completed a BFA at Concordia University in 2013. Laferté-Coutu's installations, sculptures and performances have been presented in numerous group shows in Canada and Germany.

[alexialafertecoutu.com](http://alexialafertecoutu.com)

### Public activities

Artists Talk: Alexia Laferté-Coutu

Part of the *L'art observe* event series

Tuesday, June 12, 2018, 12:45 p.m.

Galerie de l'UQAM

In French

Free admission

### Guided tours of the exhibition for groups

Available anytime, in French and English, free of charge.

Reservations required with Philippe Dumaine

514 987-3000, ext 3280, or [dumaine\\_allard.philippe@uqam.ca](mailto:dumaine_allard.philippe@uqam.ca)

### Support provided by



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### Address and opening hours

Galerie de l'UQAM

Judith-Jasmin Pavilion, Room J-R120

1400 Berri Street (corner of Sainte-Catherine East), Montréal

Berri-UQAM metro

Tuesday to Saturday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Free admission

### Information

Phone: 514 987-6150

[galerie.uqam.ca](http://galerie.uqam.ca) / [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#)

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