

CYNTHIA GIRARD-RENARD



PETITES BALEINES À DENTS *Volet 2*
LITTLE TOOTHED WHALES *Second Edition*

Commissaire / Curator: MANEL BENCHABANE

Little Toothed Whales – Second Edition

Cynthia Girard-Renard

March 12 - May 1, 2022

The Stewart Hall Art Gallery is pleased to present *Little Toothed Whales*, by the artist Cynthia Girard-Renard. In this second edition, the artist pursue their recent research on marine mammals, and propose an immersion into the world of cetaceans of the St. Lawrence.

Following the exhibition *Sans toit ni loi* presented at Fonderie Darling in 2020, it is with a deep commitment to raising awareness about marine mammal conservation that Cynthia G. Renard features seven of the thirteen species of cetaceans that inhabit the river. Seven mobiles of two-dimensional toothed whales draw us into a giant depiction of an underwater universe teeming with a constellation of cetacean elements. The exhibition space is completely transformed.

With this new exhibition, by adopting a child's perspective in creating an experience that is pleasing to audiences both young and old, the artist empowers her young public and confirms the environmentalist role many of them have already endorsed for some time. Beyond political concerns, the visual poetry that is always at play in Cynthia Girard-Renard's work is present here as well. The animals, made entirely of paper and painted with gouache, are skillfully crafted, and deliberately reveal traces of the artist's hand. The paper is sometimes wrinkled, sometimes folded—bringing the mobiles to life.

Through this imaginary political and poetic scene, Cynthia Girard-Renard prompts us to reflect and to marvel at a story that takes on a life of its own. Their discourse, while it certainly reminds us of the urgency to act, remains positive and hopeful, highlighting the wondrous and, above all, expressing the artist's great love of creativity and nature.

Cynthia Girard-Renard is a visual artist and painter. They had major solo exhibitions both in Canada and internationally for more than twenty years. In 2018, they won the Prix Louis-Comtois, awarded to an artist in mid-career, and the Takao Tanabe Purchase Prize in Painting of the National Gallery of Canada. They are an associate professor at Concordia University.