



M(y)otherwork
CORYNN KOKOLAKIS

Learning how to see and be with others, to hold space and time for unfolding, is a radical reconfiguration of the gaze that puts care at its centre. Taking up the subjective positions of mother and painter, this project refers to process to consider the connections and incongruences between the practice of painting and the care practice of mothering. It contemplates how artwork might make publicly visible the maintenance and emotional labour of being alongside an other, and posits that painting can be positioned as a form of documentation for the mostly invisible parts of mothering. Drawing on autotheory and embodiment, my figurative paintings look outward from a practice of care to trouble the boundaries between art and life, public and private, practice and product, and artist and mother.



Kitchen, 122cmx122cm, oil on canvas, 2008 to 2023



Good moms have messy houses, 122cmx122cm, oil & charcoal on linen, 2023



Dining Tent, 101.6cmx101.6cm, oil and acrylic on canvas, 2011 to 2023



You look like no one loves you, 122cmx122cm, oil & charcoal on linen, 2023



They might think we're broke, 122cmx122cm, oil & charcoal on linen, 2023



Manifesto, 183cmx127cm, oil & charcoal on linen, 2011 to 2023



Ferris Wheel, 101.6cmx122cm, oil and acrylic on canvas, 2023



Building Blocks, 122cmx183cm, oil and acrylic on panel, 2014 to 2023

Corynn Kokolakis is a Toronto-based figurative oil painter whose practice merges the often-disparate roles of mother and artist. Influenced by motion and materiality, her work explores memory, childhood development, and caregiving. She holds a BFA in Drawing and Painting from OCADU, where she received the Akin, Partial, and JumpStart Career Launcher awards. Recent exhibitions include Cedar Ridge Creative Centre, Art Mur, Baycrest Health, and the Toronto Public Library. She holds a SSHRC CGS Master's Scholarship and received the Glay Sperling prize in 2022. Her work has been featured on Global News, BT, CP24, CBC Radio, and She Does the City and can be found in the public collection of Micheal Garon Hospital as well as in private collections in the UK, the US, Australia, France, and Canada.

Corynn lives and works in Tkaronto: within the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Covenant, Treaty 13 and William's Treaty lands, the territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, the Wendat, and the Haudenosaunee. She shares the place she calls home with many indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island and acknowledges that the work she creates is only possible due to the ongoing and invisible care labour of the original caretakers of this land whose stewardship and autonomy are systemically undermined.



Praxis, variable, acrylic on canvas, 2023 -

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May 22nd -26th, 2023

2104 Dundas St, W.

This exhibition and the accompanying support paper *Repositioning the Gaze: An Aesthetic of Care* were produced in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts.

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