



Mourner's Revery

This exhibition explores the undertones of environmental longing found within ancient Minoan gestures. During the Bronze Age in Crete, the Minoans produced extensive and carefully rendered fresco imagery, including fantastical landscapes and signet rings depicting human-like figures embracing boulders and pulling tree branches. These images continue to spark debate among archaeologists regarding their significance, particularly whether the artifacts constitute evidence of non-human reverence.

Reimagined through drawing and painting, these figures engage in a dance of grief and celebration, bearing witness to arboreal degradation. Bewilderment mixes with exhalation as figures mourn and powerlessly care for forest fires and clear-cut trees. While tree pulling in the Minoan context is interpreted by archaeologists as a form of ecstatic ritual, the drawings denote feelings of concern, celebration and languishing. With rich layering of luminous colour and biological forms, the drawings and sculptures evoke a sense of poignancy concerning the perpetual fragmentation of the non-human world.

Artist bio

Tom Malcolm is an artist and archaeologist based in Toronto, Ontario. Using archaeological research as a conceptual foundation for making artwork, Malcolm's multi-media practice looks to the past to make sense of current social and environmental issues. Through fieldwork experience, Malcolm's artwork examines palaeoenvironmental relationships, human evolution and early forms of image making.

Malcolm holds a BA in Archaeology from the University of Toronto (2022) and a BFA from Concordia University (2016). Malcolm currently participates in archaeological fieldwork across Southern Ontario and within the Northern Cape of South Africa.



1. *Branch Fragment #2*, 2020

Plaster, ochre, watercolour and pencil crayon on recovered asphalt, 6 x 9 inches

2. *Flower Gatherers*, 2021

Pencil crayon on paper, 9 x 12 inches

3. *Ebbing Ash*, 2021

Pencil crayon on paper, 9 x 12 inches

4. *Pull*, 2021

Pencil crayon on paper, 9 x 12 inches

5. *Wheel*, 2022

Pencil crayon on paper, 9 x 12 inches

6. *Beneath*, 2021

Pencil crayon on paper, 9 x 12 inches

7. *Underwing*, 2020

Plaster, ochre, watercolour and pencil crayon on recovered asphalt, 7 x 9 inches

8. *Dragonfly*, 2020

Plaster, ochre, watercolour and pencil crayon on recovered asphalt, 10 x 12 inches

9. *Spire*, 2020

Plaster, ochre, watercolour and pencil crayon on recovered asphalt, 9 x 10 inches

10. *Apology*, 2020

Pencil crayon on paper, 8.5 x 11 inches

11. *Baetyl*, 2021

Pencil crayon on paper, 8.5 x 11 inches

>>>Clockwise>>>