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GPAG

GRIMSBY PUBLIC ART GALLERY

EMBODYING
FEMININITY:
POWER,
RADIANCE,
CARE

Sharl G. Smith


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Images: Sharl G. Smith, *Shelter II* (2023) Installation view, Grimsby Public Art Gallery. Photos: Jordyn Stewart



Originally from Jamaica, Charl G. Smith is a Waterloo based artist who works primarily in hand-stitched bead sculpture. Smith is self-taught, using her background in architecture to inform and shape her practice. Inspired by her experience working in Zen Buddhist architectural design, Smith has a deep appreciation for the concept of “process as practice.”

Embodying Femininity: Power, Radiance, Care embodies these thoughts in a site-specific installation that celebrates women’s work and the long history of women artists whose craft was excluded from conversations in fine art. Constructed using bead-stitching, the life-sized sculpture celebrates weaving and textiles, mediums that have traditionally been categorized as domestic and feminine, and brings to the forefront the idea that such traditionally

categorized mediums have served as particularly potent tools to engage with feminist issues in modern and contemporary art. Fortified with a special capacity to express women’s diverse perspectives and stories through their historical associations with femininity, Smith’s sculptural beadwork, *Shelter II*, is the perfect example of dismantling stereotypes while tapping into different and nuanced experiences of womanhood.