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GRIMSBY PUBLIC ART GALLERY



This body of work is the culmination of a year's worth of work and playful discovery; and many long conversations about creative process, motherhood, love, loneliness, fairy tales, and ideas of rewilding.

Images: Michele Karch-Ackerman and Tanya Zaryski, *Rewilding* (2024)
Installation view, Grimsby Public Art Gallery. Photos: Jordyn Stewart



REWILDING

Michèle Karch-Ackerman
and Tanya Zaryski

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Rewilding is a compilation of works weaved together by Michèle Karch-Ackerman and Tanya Zaryski. The exhibition is comprised of *The Library of Dresses*, a year-long exploration that involved stitching a wardrobe of dresses to honour deceased female authoresses that inspired Karch-Ackerman, and the bountiful and lush paintings of Zaryski's isolation fueled longing for connection with friends, explorations of fairy tale lore, imaginative play, and the 'rewilding' of her childhood and self. Both are women and mothers, committed to an art practice that tugs at the heartstrings and explores love, nature, memory and narrative.

This body of work is the culmination of a year's worth of work and playful discovery; and many long conversations about creative process, motherhood, love, loneliness, fairy tales, and ideas of rewilding. Zaryski's *Rewilding* series plays with animal companions and guides, embedded with quests and magical narratives that at first glance appear attractive and charming, but upon further inspection are not entirely safe. Intertwined with Karch-Ackerman's *Library of Dresses* paying homage to authors such as Jane Austen, Mary Shelley and Emily Dickinson, the works dovetail, transporting audiences to speculative worlds of fiction, possibility and healing.