

PHOENIX ATHENS PRESENTS
TREE LINES-Greece
by
Gwen MacGregor

Opening: July 3

Running: July 4 – August 5

Phoenix Athens presents the solo show Tree Lines - Greece by the residency artist Gwen MacGregor.

MacGregor's creative practice explores the experience and understanding of place. The materiality has ranged widely from gathered video clips, found and repurposed materials to drawing and photography, making installation the centre of her practice.

This project is part of an ongoing series called Tree Lines first initiated in the Outer Hebrides in Scotland.

MacGregor crochets miniature 3D trees specifically representing species from the area she is visiting and then photographs them in situ. The artist first started with wool yarn for crocheting the trees in different shades of green depending on the country of inspiration. During her residency in Athens, she decided to bring the issue of single-use plastic bags into the project by also creating trees made from discarded plastic bags gathered from local parks. The trees are intentionally meant to be somewhat sad, whimsical and a lament for our rapidly disappearing forests. They also stand in for the artist and the complex and multilayered relationship she experiences on whatever soil she is standing.

Click Ngwere, artist in residence at Victoria Square Project, is contributing a crocheted tree to the project.

Gwen conducted a series of workshops teaching the principles of crocheting with wool yarn and plastic bags.

Gwen MacGregor is represented by MKG127 Gallery in Toronto.

Biography

Gwen MacGregor is a Toronto based visual artist and cultural geographer working across the disciplines of installation, video, photography, drawing and geographic scholarship. She has artworks in collections such as the Art Gallery of Ontario, Oakville Galleries and the Royal Bank Collection. Recent Canadian exhibitions include The Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa and The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. She has also exhibited extensively internationally including in Berlin, Istanbul, Madrid, New York, Paris, Santa Fe and Shanghai. MacGregor has also participated in numerous international art residencies including the International Studio Curatorial Program in New York. She is a Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts Award holder and is represented by MKG127 in Toronto. MacGregor is a PhD Candidate in Geography at The University of Toronto with a SSHRC doctoral scholarship. Her dissertation explores the constructions and contestations of nationhood in contemporary art practices presented at art biennales.