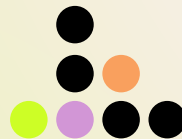


# TO EAT THE FLOWER FROM THE ROOT

*FIFTY FIFTY ARTS COLLECTIVE*

*CASSIA POWELL • FALL 2021 EXHIBITION PROPOSAL*



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# ARTIST STATEMENT



Cassia Powell is a contemporary artist based in the unceded lands of Lekwungen-speaking peoples; those of the Songhees, Wyomilth and WSÁNEĆ nations, otherwise known as Victoria, BC. Powell is a BFA honours graduate from the University of Victoria.

Focusing on the art of extended painting, Powell aims to break the convention for how fine art is experienced and perceived, and actively engages in bridging the relationship between what is considered “highbrow” and “lowbrow” art. In her more recent works, she has been taking a deeper look into the meaning of contemporary death philosophy and how trauma manifests in digital subcultures. Powell intentionally uses her own personal history and subconscious as a means to understand digital vulnerability and processing loss in the age of technology.

Clashing aesthetics and themes from the early 2000s with historical narrative, baroque-inspired composition and medium choice, Powell’s work is an active reminder of our relationship with time, and the looseness of identity in a modern era.

*Since beginning her degree, Powell has been the recipient of the Helen Pitt Scholarship for the Arts (2016), the Heather Cragg Memorial Scholarship (2019), and nominated for the BMO First Art Award (2020). Most recently, she has completed a three month international artist residency in Northern Iceland (June-Aug 2019), exhibiting her work with artists from around the world.*



Proposed Dates: 3.5 weeks •  
October or November 2021

I am proposing to use the Fifty Fifty to showcase a series of 8 oil paintings I have made during these past few months, and will finish by the end of the summer. These paintings are to be hung in the gallery in correspondance with a few other decorative “household” items, including two handmade rugs, and one custom mirror.

The works I have made, and am still continuing to make, all circle around the same theme of understanding the disturbing and complicated process of accepting loss in a modern era. Using my own experiences and subconscious as the core foundation of this series, I focus on key ideas such as personal growth and self-destruction, discomfort, emotional perception, and delicate, alien-like flowers. While surreal in their visual form, the themes, colours, and overall subject matter works to evoke the overwhelming process of death, and the growth that comes from it.

The title of the show comes from a colloquial French metaphor, a translation of “pushing up (the) daisies”; the act of eating/feeding the flowers from under the ground.

Each individual work takes me roughly 3 weeks to finish, and I have finished three of them already. This projected fall deadline gives me time to comfortably finish the exhibition’s content. I have no requests for any specific dates, as long as I have until mid-September to finalize everything.

The Fifty Fifty would be a crucial fit for this painting series because I know how this gallery has served to provide an excellent entryway for emerging and developing artists. Having seen the shows from other University of Victoria Visual Arts students and alumni, such as Jasper Van Alderwegen and Laura Gildner, I know that the intimate spacing and size of the gallery is perfect for an introductory solo installation. I am also very well acquainted with the space and have an understanding of how to utilize certain features of the unique layouts and details, such as the two window displays and the corridor in the back. I am hoping to create some custom decor specifically for this exhibition, and really put those window displays and overall installation planning to a good use.

**I am able to gallery sit during the run of this exhibition!**

**PROPOSAL** ✦





*EXAMPLES OF  
FINISHED WORKS*

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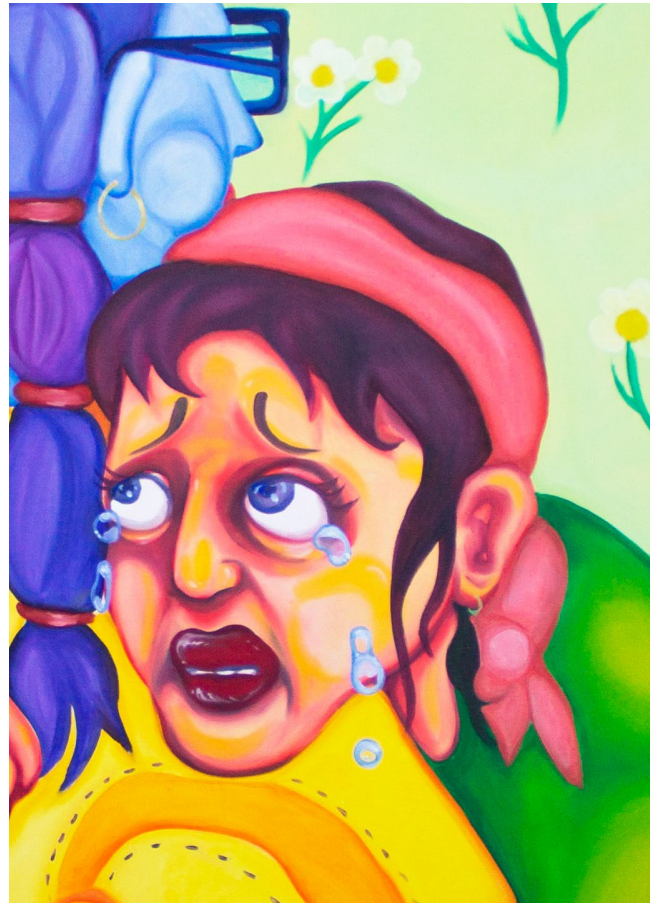
*“love-me-nots”, 2021*  
oil on canvas  
36” x 48”

*“to eat the flower from the  
root”, 2021*  
oil on canvas  
30” x 20”

*“mirror mirror (ya, we get  
it)”, 2020*  
acrylic and oil on canvas





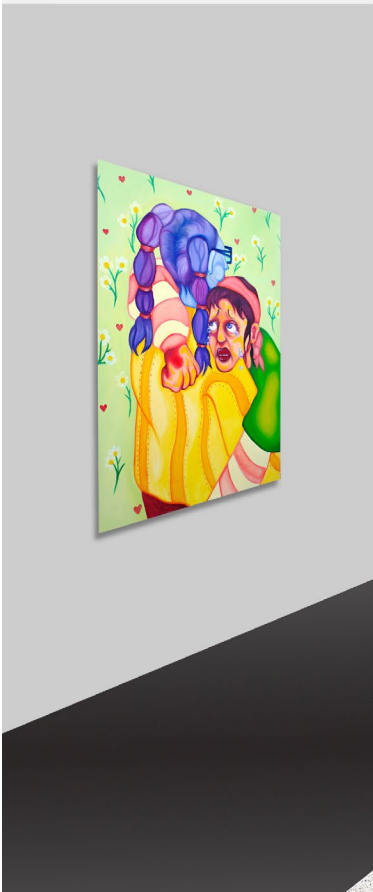


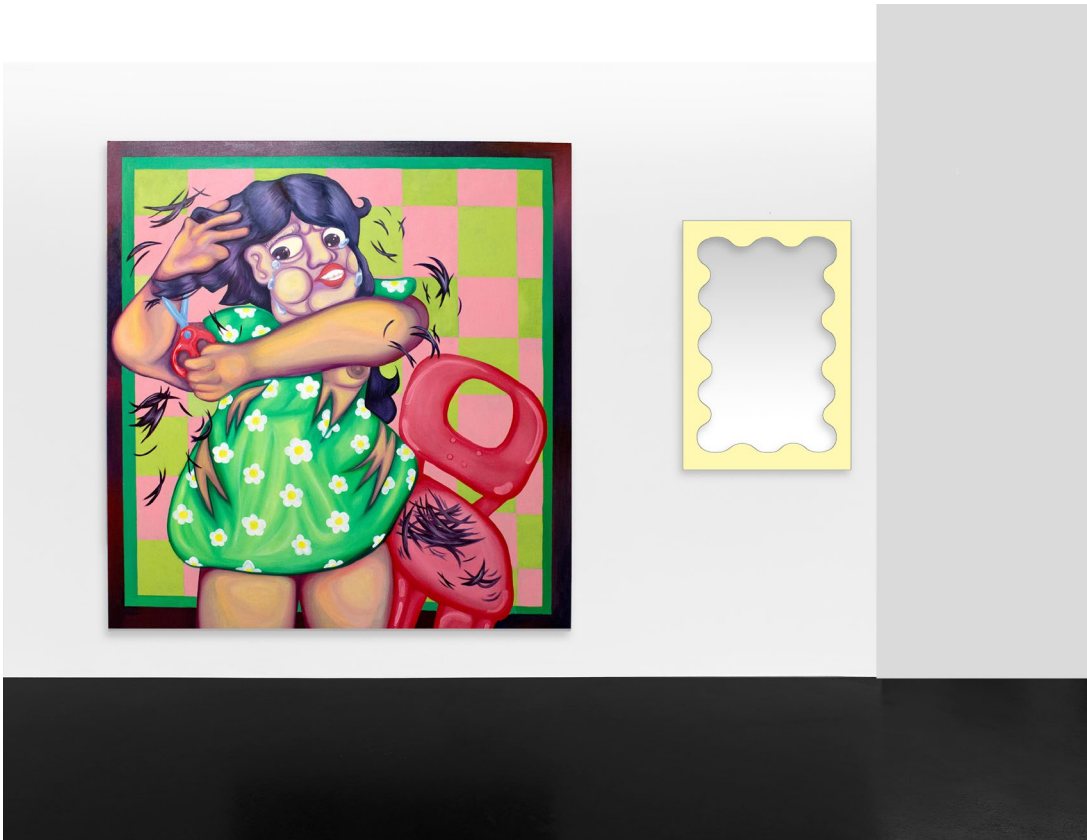




*SUPPORTING  
IMAGES & CONCEPTS*

hand-tufted rug  
roughly 50 cm x 50 cm





# LIST OF PROPOSED ARTWORKS

1. ***“untitled”***

24” x 24”

oil on canvas

NYF (not yet finished)

2. ***“the gardener”***

20” x 30”

oil on canvas

NYF

3. ***“to eat the flower from  
the root”***

20” x 30”

oil on canvas

2021

4. ***“untitled  
(floral arrangement 1)”***

14” x 16”

oil on wood panel

NYF

5. ***“untitled  
(floral arrangement 2)”***

14” x 16”

oil on wood panel

NYF

6. ***“together at last”***

20” x 36”

oil on bevelled canvas

NYF

7. ***“love-me-nots”***

36” x 48”

oil on canvas

2021

8. ***“mirror mirror (ya, we get it)”***

48” x 48”

oil on canvas

2020

\* custom rug

NYF

\*\* custom mirror

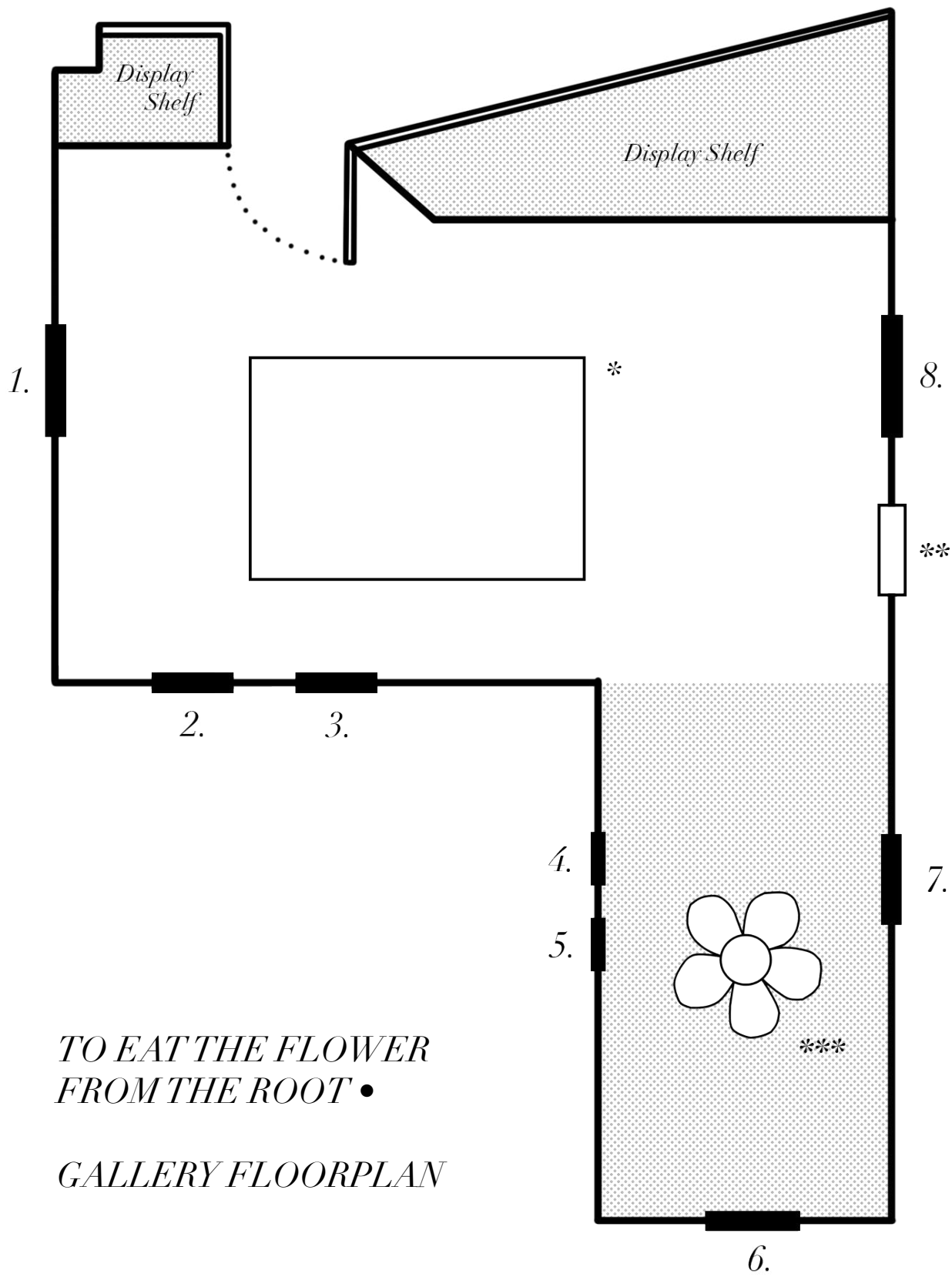
20” x 30”

\*\*\* custom rug

NYF



Douglas Street



*TO EAT THE FLOWER  
FROM THE ROOT •*

*GALLERY FLOORPLAN*

CASSIA  
POWELL



@cassiapowell

