

Tanya Lukin Linklater

La pratique de l'artiste Alutiiq Tanya Lukin Linklater prend la forme d'une vaste exploration du concept de persévérance : elle met en lumière les manières dont les savoirs, les histoires et les structures autochtones ont été maintenus et alimentés malgré l'effacement systémique opéré par l'entreprise coloniale. Le corps—particulièrement celui qui subsiste face à l'extraction des ressources et au dépouillement culturel—est central dans son travail, qui s'articule autour de diverses expressions et stratégies d'incarnation. Ses œuvres, souvent performatives, s'intéressent aux processus de réparation, de réapprentissage et de transmission des pratiques, savoirs et cultures autochtones.

La performance filmée se retrouve fréquemment au cœur des projets de Lukin Linklater. La vidéo *This moment an endurance to the end forever* (2020) prend comme sujet les formes de savoirs autochtones qui portent sur la respiration et l'air. Des images montrant l'artiste qui performe chez elle à North Bay sont combinées aux chorégraphies des danseuses Ivanie Aubin-Malo et Ceinwen Gobert, ayant lieu sur les berges de la rivière Salmon. Les écrits de l'artiste morcelent les captations plutôt contemplatives : « We sense feel discern an endurance; an insistence a continuance a history; that is ever present and always now. » Ils rappellent la répétition de cette fonction biologique vitale qu'est la respiration, facilement oubliée tant elle est automatique. D'autre part, ils paraissent aussi faire écho à la présence autochtone défiant, à travers les âges, les mécanismes du génocide culturel colonial.

Parmi la variété de médiums employés par l'artiste, le textile occupe une place significative avec des installations créées à partir de foulards de Kokum (« grand-mère » en langue cri). Pour Lukin Linklater, ces foulards traditionnellement portés par les femmes slaves sont une façon d'évoquer les savoirs intergénérationnels, incarnés et expérimentés des femmes. Les installations *Held in the air I never fell (spring lightning sweetgrass song)* (2022), *grassesgrassesgrasses* (2022) et *Breastbone to sunrise* (2021) all feature Kokum scarves, which acquire a sculptural and even corporeal presence. The hanging pieces of fabric seem to arise in monumental fashion, like spectral entities from women's memory.

Alutiiq artist Tanya Lukin Linklater's practice takes the form of a vast exploration of the concept of perseverance: she brings to light the ways in which Indigenous knowledge, history, and structures have been maintained and nurtured despite systematic erasure by the colonial enterprise. The body—particularly one that has survived resource extraction and cultural dispossession—is central to her work, which is articulated around various expressions and strategies of embodiment. Her works, often performative, are concerned with the processes of repair, relearning, and transmission of Indigenous practices, expertise, and culture.

Filmed performance is often at the heart of Linklater's projects. The video *This moment an endurance to the end forever* (2020) focuses on Indigenous forms of knowledge regarding breath and air. Images of her performing at home in North Bay are combined with choreographies by dancers Ivanie Aubin-Malo and Ceinwen Gobert on the banks of the Salmon River. Interspersed among the rather contemplative recordings are writings by the artist: "We sense feel discern an endurance; an insistence a continuance a history; that is ever present and always now." They recall the repetition of breathing—a vital biological function so automatic that it is easily forgotten. Yet they also seem to echo an Indigenous presence that, through the ages, has defied the colonial instruments of cultural genocide.

Among the various media used by Linklater, textiles hold a significant place in her installations created with Kokum—"grandmother" in Cree—scarves. These scarves, traditionally worn by Slavic women, are a way for her to evoke women's intergenerational, embodied, experiential, and intergenerational knowledge. The installations *Held in the air I never fell (spring lightning sweetgrass song)* (2022), *grassesgrassesgrasses* (2022), and *Breastbone to sunrise* (2021) all feature Kokum scarves, which acquire a sculptural and even corporeal presence. The hanging pieces of fabric seem to arise in monumental fashion, like spectral entities from women's memory.

Translated from the French by Ron Ross

Maude Johnson



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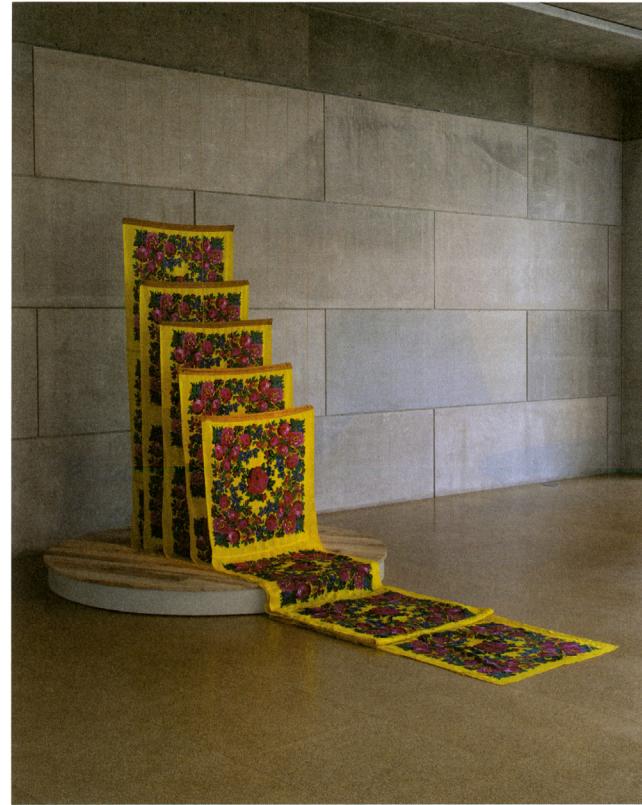
*Held in the air I never fell
(spring lightning sweetgrass song);
grassesgrassesgrasses,*
vues d'installation | installation views,
Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver, &
Aichi Triennale, Nagoya, 2022.

Photos : Rachel Topham Photography & Tololo studio,
permission de | courtesy of the artist &
Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver



Tanya Lukin Linklater
*This moment an endurance
 to the end forever,*
 capture vidéo | video still &
 vue d'installation | installation view,
 Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver, 2020.
 Photos : Rachel Topham Photography (installation),
 permission de | courtesy of the artist &
 Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver

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Tanya Lukin Linklater
Breastbone to sunrise,
 vue d'installation | installation view,
 Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery,
 Wesleyan University, Middletown, 2021.
 Photo : Charles Benton,
 permission de | courtesy of the artist &
 Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver

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