

**i spy wild | life**

New work by Sarah Ronald  
February 2 – March 5, 2017



sarah ronald

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Artist Sarah Ronald shows new drawings, paintings, and installations which spur viewers to tune in and seek out the contradictions present in our daily lives, specifically around our relationships with wild animals in both suburban and natural environments.

"I began this body of work as a way to examine the varied nature in which we as a western society regard wild animals, as opposed to our more familiar domestic animals," the artist says. In the course of her artistic exploration, Ronald found that, as cultural subject matter, the animal can be considered in many ways - from a commodity to a divine spirit to a beloved family member.

Individual works explore how we impact wild animals in suburban areas, our relationships with household pets, and wildlife management. *Double Bagged I, II, III* (above), works in pen and acrylic paint on paper, depict bears both alongside and within the garbage bags that tempt them into our backyards, associating our own careless disposal with the potentially life-threatening consequences to wildlife.

After learning that wolves mate for life, the artist looked at B.C.'s controversial wolf culls with new empathy, recognizing the significance of the loss of a partner. In the resulting piece *Being, Unpacked*, Ronald depicts a life-sized wolf in acrylic paint and uses elements of abstraction to depict confusion and exposure of the "widowed" wolf, with a ghost-like image of its missing mate at its side.

For Ronald, the way that we regard wild animals has a strong correlation to how we as a society behave towards the unfamiliar; in this sense the exhibition is also a symbolic exploration into human nature. She hopes that viewers will consider their own thinking about animals: "If indeed our current cultural climate is to live lives in a morally progressive manner, I believe that we need to step back and spy on ourselves to see the contradictions around the topic of 'the animal' more clearly."

Free public programs:

**Reception:** Sunday February 5, 2 – 4 p.m.

**Artist Talk/Tour:** Sunday February 19, 2 p.m.

**Purge and Merge Landscapes Workshop, Free Drop-in:** Sunday March 5, 2 – 4 p.m.

Create insightful natural habitats using hole punch (purge) and collage (merge) techniques to create a unique landscape. In association with North Shore Art Crawl.

Image credit (L to R) *Double Bagged II, Double Bagged I, and Double Bagged III*, 2016, pen and acrylic paint on paper, ea 13 x 15"

For more information, please contact curator/director Sarah Cavanaugh at 604-924-1378 or [curator@seymourartgallery.com](mailto:curator@seymourartgallery.com). The Seymour Art Gallery is a non-profit, public gallery located in the heart of Deep Cove, North Vancouver. Admission to our exhibitions is always free of charge.

4360 Gallant Ave, North Vancouver BC, [www.seymourartgallery.com](http://www.seymourartgallery.com), 604-924-1378  
Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., 7 days a week. Closed stat holidays.