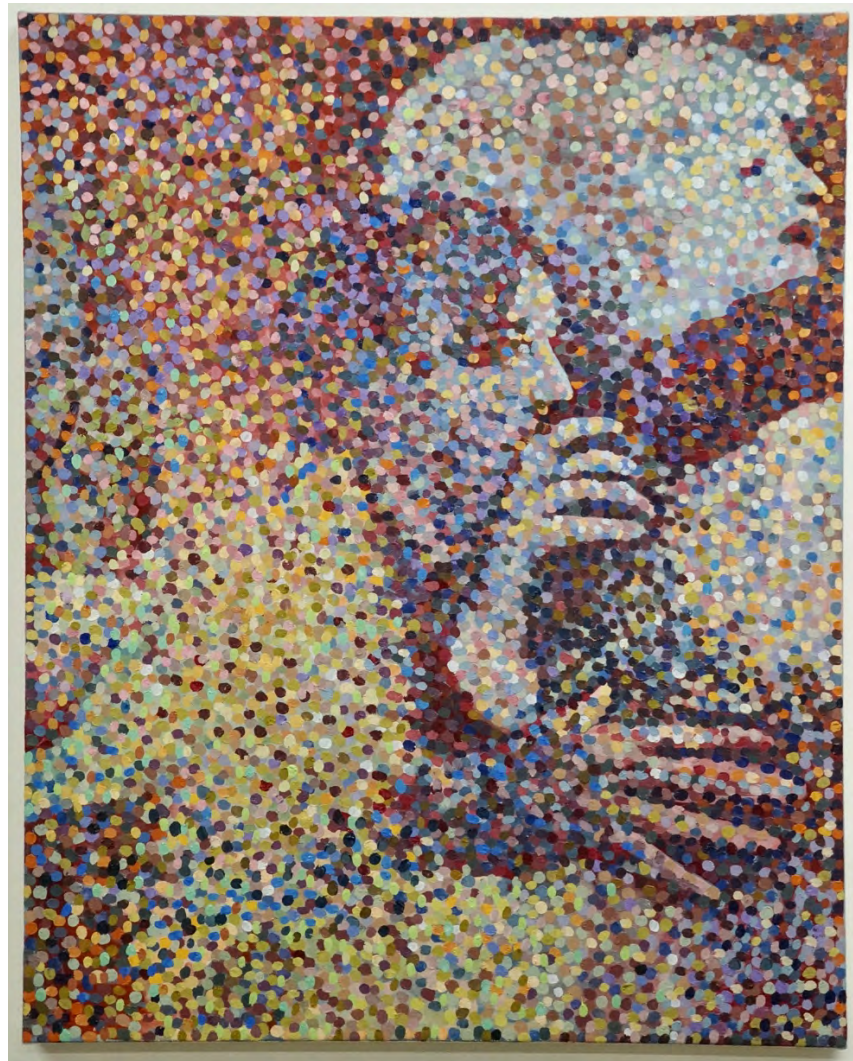


**KATE METTEN**

***Atmospheric River.***

Nov 13 – Dec 18, 2021



Kate Metten  
*Atmospheric River*, 2021  
Oil on canvas

*Figurative Care (for Kate Metten)*  
Emma Walter

I'm going for a walk. The bracing air is appreciated after a time of being inside, the cycle of daily routine carefully shrunken to a few small rooms, a few small blocks. What do we change when we lose a sense of self in relation to the whole?

*Horoscopes. Retail therapy.*

I've lost focus. I start walking again to reset. The vastness of the park, forms of sun and shadows, begins to feel more real: the way a photograph is real, scored by the even drone of city lawn mower.

*White noise machine. Aromatherapy. Mandalas.*

Later, I search for recordings of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper." I choose someone speaking a soft Queen's English. When I first read the story a few weeks ago, the narrator's voice in my mind rang clearly Mid-Western. I recalled vividly the broken necks and bulbous eyes staring out from "smouldering unclean yellow," but was surprised to meet for the first time the mysterious shadow women moving up and down the lane.

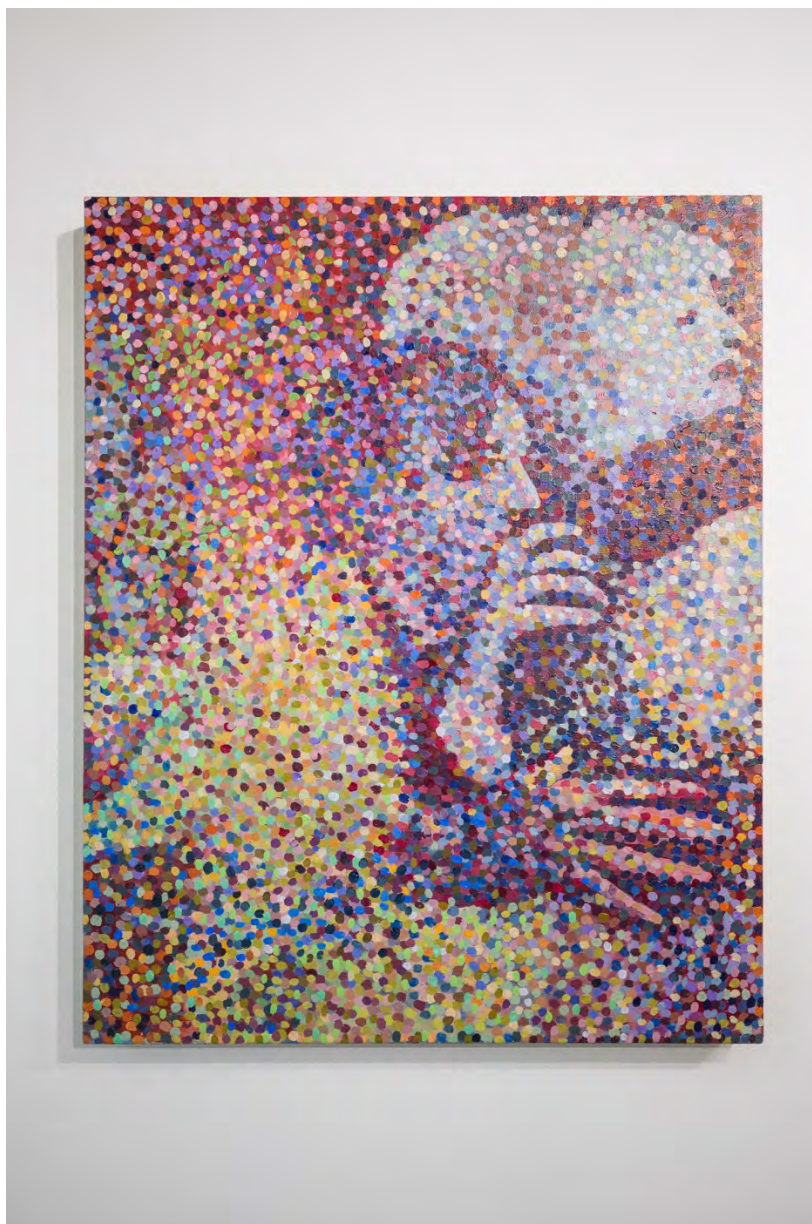
*Audiobooks. Podcasts. Drag Race. Omega3s.*

We each entered states of lockdown—the narrator imprisoned in the yellow room; some of us in homes, apartments; others: studios. Residencies, shows, fairs on indeterminate hiatus. The body of work in Kate Metten's *Atmospheric River* reflects this period. A series of paintings are linked as self-determined questions about colour, line, form, motion. They join reference with internal desire and narrative. The parallel selection of ceramic forms are a return to essentials. The wheel, the slab: processes around which mastery of the medium is concentrated. Glaze formula experiments for psychedelic effects. Practices of control and of letting go.

*Daily Affirmations. Sports bras. Personal massager. Yoga mat. Weed.*

All of this is underpinned by a changed understanding of reality. Definitions and sensations of time and purpose have changed. In "The Yellow Wallpaper," the diaristic segments have a wacky sense of time. The narrative continually halts and restarts through moments of fixation or clarity. Indeed, writing brings the narrator focus and criticality beyond the external restrictions put on her. The ritual of practice is a centring factor to days without form. Practice comes to form one's time. Kate told me that for her, a painting is a recording of decisions. I see now those decisions are not a task list waiting to be ticked off. Decisions of intuition become layered glazes. Travelling between conscious and subconscious: inquiry. Meditation.

Kate Metten  
*Atmospheric River*, 2021  
Oil on canvas  
30 x 24 in (76.2 x 61 cm)





Kate Metten  
*Intuitive Colour Chart (Legend)*, 2021  
Oil on canvas  
22 x 18 in (55.9 x 45.7 cm)



Kate Metten  
*The Landlady (at the Foot of Ladders)*, 2021  
Oil on canvas, artist frame  
25 x 19 in (63.5 x 48.3 cm)



Kate Metten  
*This Mall*, 2021  
Oil on canvas  
60 x 48 in (152.4 x 121.9 cm)





Kate Metten  
*Geometric Ceramic Construction*, 2021  
Glazed ceramic  
8.75 x 8.75 x 4.5 in (22.2 x 22.2 x 11.4 cm)



Kate Metten  
*Geometric Ceramic Construction, 2021*  
Glazed ceramic  
8.75 x 8.75 x 4.5 in (22.2 x 22.2 x 11.4 cm)

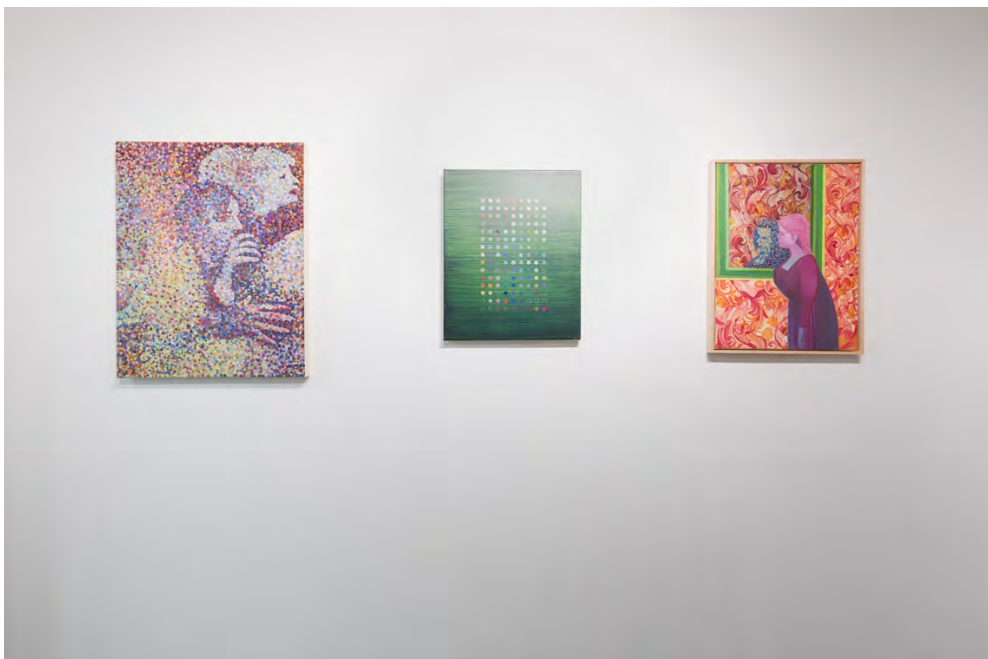
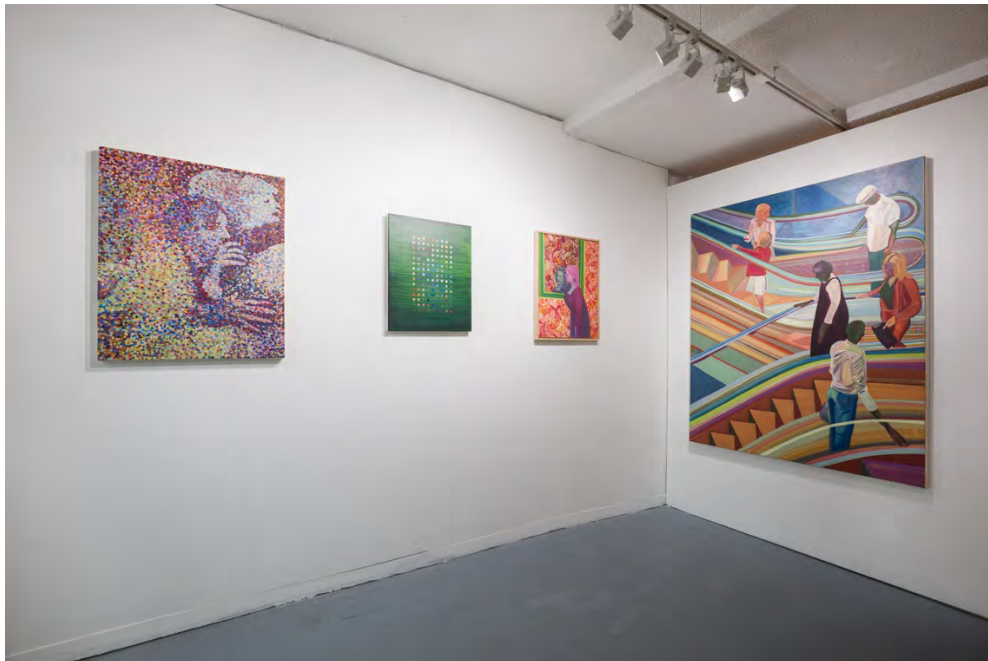




Kate Metten  
*Untitled*, 2019  
Graphite on paper  
12.5 x 16.5 in (31.8 x 41.9 cm)



Kate Metten, *Atmospheric River*.  
Exhibition view, Wil Aballe Art Projects | WAAP, 2021



Kate Metten, *Atmospheric River*.  
Exhibition view, Wil Aballe Art Projects | WAAP, 2021





Kate Metten, Available ceramics.  
Please inquire for details.



Kate Metten, Available ceramics.  
Please inquire for details.



## ABOUT THE ARTIST

KATE METTEN (born 1991, Vancouver, Canada) is an interdisciplinary artist whose material investigations into oil painting and ceramics deal primarily with the language of abstraction. Working at the intersection of those two histories allows a flexibility to address painterly concerns with clay, research into colour theory, visual perception and the still life, while also reflecting on Modernist philosophies of the Bauhaus, the unmaking of craft and material hierarchies. She is deeply concerned with phenomenology and the physicality of form. The internal logic of her artwork is determined by intuitive construction and response to material; Images and objects arise out of multi-layers of decision making to develop forms that are at once recognizable yet unfamiliar. The indexical quality of both painting and ceramic render dynamic impressions of mass and surface that preserve evidence of the hand and mind in motion. Metten's preoccupation with the mechanics of looking, the psychological play of optical illusions, and our brain's response to reductionist imagery confronts the viewer with the conditioning of their own perception.

### CV

#### EDUCATION

2017 BFA, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, BC  
2009–2013 Studio Arts and Art History, Concordia University, Montreal, QC  
2012 Penland School of Crafts, North Carolina, USA  
2009 Buschlen-Mowatt Scholarship Program, Arts Umbrella, Vancouver, BC

#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020 *Old Ideas*, CSA Space, Vancouver, BC  
2019 *The Thinking Eye*, Burrard Arts Foundation, Vancouver, BC  
2019 *Untitled*, Wil Aballe Art Projects, Vancouver, BC

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 *We Do Not Work Alone*, Nanaimo Art Gallery, Nanaimo, BC  
2021 *Together Again*, Burrard Arts Foundation, Vancouver, BC  
2020 *RHIZOM relation 29. Pinseruten 2020*, Kunstkollektivet 8B, Denmark



2019 The Form Will Find Its Way: Contemporary Ceramic Sculptural Abstraction, NCECA, Katherine E. Nash Gallery, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA  
2019 Raiders, Terminal Creek Contemporary, Bowen Island, BC  
2018 Legend, Dynamo Arts Association, Vancouver, BC  
2018 Thelma Ruck Keene Scholarship Show, Circle Craft, Vancouver, BC  
2018 Leaning Out of Windows (LOoW), Emily Carr University, Vancouver, BC  
2017 88 Artists from 88 Years, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, BC  
2017 Monthly Open Studio, Vancouver Art Book Fair, Vancouver, BC  
2017 Art Waste, James Black Gallery, Vancouver, BC  
2017 Unofficial Grad Show, Vancouver, BC  
2017 The Show, Emily Carr University, Vancouver, BC  
2016 Spatial Poetics, Neighbourhood Gallery, ECUAD, Vancouver, BC  
2016 Suitcase Exchange, B-Gallery, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA  
2014 Art Quake, Roundhouse, Vancouver, BC  
2011 We've Been Here Before, Art Matters Festival, Studio 303, Belgo, Montreal QC  
2009 Space-Time/Parallels in Perception, Buschlen-Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, BC

## **PUBLIC ART**

2019 *Highland Rose*, The Canada Line Art Installation, King Edward Station, Vancouver, BC

## **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

2019 Maureen Wright Bursary, Northwest Ceramics Foundation  
2017 Early Career Development Grant, BC Arts Council  
2017 Thelma Ruck Keene Memorial Award for Ceramics, Vancouver, BC

## **RESIDENCIES**

*Upcoming Winter 2022* GlogauAir, Berlin, Germany  
2020 Kunstkollektivet 8B, Copenhagen, Denmark  
2019, Burrard Arts Foundation, Vancouver, BC  
2019 Visiting Artist, Material Matters Studio, Emily Carr University, Vancouver, BC

## **PRESS**

2020 Art Toronto 2020 Pop Up @ SBC , <https://www.arttoronto.ca/?p=46156>

2020 Kate Metten's Isolation Reading List, BAF, <https://burrardarts.org/kate-mettens-isolation-reading-list/>

2020 In Conversation: Kate Metten, BAF, <https://burrardarts.org/in-conversation-kate-metten/>

2020 BAF Insight video interview: <https://burrardarts.org/>

2019 "Design and Making: New Craft Symposium in Prince George"

<https://research.ecuad.ca/materialmatters/2019/02/25/design-and-making-new-craft-symposium-in-prince-george/>

2017 "Gingham: A Material Dialogue" Evan Sproat

2017 "The Show @ Emily Carr." Creators Vancouver. May 12,

2017. [creatorsvancouver.com/emily-carr-show/](http://creatorsvancouver.com/emily-carr-show/)

2014 Interview regarding Art Quake installation, Roundhouse Radio. 983 Vancouver

2013 Featured artist, Interfold Magazine, Issue 1 : Confines, Montreal,

QC. [https://issuu.com/interfoldmagazine/docs/interfold\\_magazine](https://issuu.com/interfoldmagazine/docs/interfold_magazine)

2009 "Space-Time/Parallels in Perception." Skewed: The Unofficial UBC Online Art Magazine, Issue 6 (Sept/Oct). [fantan.artvictoria.com/gallery/shows/skewed06.pdf](http://fantan.artvictoria.com/gallery/shows/skewed06.pdf)

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

2020, Lecture on Raw Materials, Potter's Guild of British Columbia, Burnaby, BC

2020, Contemporary Art Society Studio Visit, Vancouver, BC

2019 Artist Talk, Burrard Arts Foundation, Vancouver, BC

2019 New Craft Symposium, Emily Carr University, Vancouver, BC

2019 New Craft Symposium, Two Rivers Gallery, Prince George, BC

2019 Artist Talk, Wil Aballe Art Projects, Vancouver, BC

## **INSTRUCTION**

2017-2019 Roundhouse Community Centre, pottery instructor, Vancouver, BC

2017-2019 Mina Totino, private ceramic instructor, Vancouver, BC

2015–2019 Douglas Park Community Centre, ceramic Instructor, Vancouver, BC

2012 Creative Boost Ceramic Studio, ceramic technician, Montreal, QC

## **RELATED WORK**

2020 Alex Morrison Ceramic Construction, Monte Clark Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2017 Gailan Ngan, Studio assistant, Vancouver and Hornby Island, BC

2017 Canadian Clay Symposium, volunteer, Shadbolt Centre of the Arts, Burnaby, BC

2016 Bocci, Material Research, Vancouver, BC

2016 READ books and Charles H. Scott Gallery, gallery attendant, Vancouver, BC

2016 Heather Dahl, studio assistant, Vancouver, BC  
2016 Gallery of BC Ceramics, gallery attendant, Vancouver, BC  
2015 Rath Art Supplies, canvas stretcher and retail assistant, Vancouver, BC  
2012 Pikolo Café, custom ceramic dishes, Montreal, QC  
2012 Creative Boost Ceramic Studio, studio technician, Montreal, QC  
2009 Roundhouse Ceramic Studio, volunteer drop-in supervisor, Vancouver, BC

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

2018 Raiders Painting Group  
2017 Member of the Potters Guild of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

### **SALES AND AUCTIONS**

2020 *Toque*, Western Front, Vancouver BC  
2020 *Splash!* Arts Umbrella, Vancouver, BC  
2019 *Annual Fundraising Auction*, Western Front, Vancouver, BC  
2017 *Pivots and Spins*, Access Gallery, Vancouver BC  
2017 *Annual Fundraising Auction*, Centre A, Vancouver, BC  
2012 *Expozine*, Montreal, QC