HISTOIRES DE SOUCHE & OTHER FAMILY STORIES…

Alisa Arsenault, *untitled* (detail), 2017, installation

Galerie d'art Louise-et-Reuben-Cohen presents an exhibition titled *Histoires de souche & other family stories…* organized in partnership with the New Brunswick Museum. Bringing together the work of Marie Hélène Allain and Alisa Arsenault, the exhibition explores family histories and the building of identity. **The opening will be held on Wednesday, January 24 from 5 to 7 PM, with the artists in attendance.**

Each of us carries a family photo album in our minds: images of moments, gestures and people, both real and imagined, that have occupied our past and inhabit our present. From these images it is possible to construct an identity, although fluid and ever-changing, based on this personal album. Marie Hélène Allain and Alisa Arsenault are concerned with these elements of the past, the moments and people that have shaped them, and by the construction of family histories.

Marie Hélène Allain's installation is an evocative statement about belonging. It is the sculptural representation of her sense of place in the world and an account of those things that are important. It also reflects a sincere desire to honour the idea of a collective past from which we may draw strength and wisdom. In general terms, this installation acknowledges community, heredity and personal identity.

Alisa Arsenault's work follows multiple paths, both real and fictitious, to tell her personal story. Banal moments of family life are revisited and re-enacted, exploring the perhaps "false" reality of memory, and the constructed fictions that act as substitutions to these.

Histoires de souche & other family stories… will be presented from January 24 to Mars 25 2018. Admission is free and all are welcome. Galerie d'art Louise-et-Reuben-Cohen of l'Université de Moncton is supported by the Canada Council for the Arts and the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture of New Brunswick.

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