

Fabienne Théoret-Jerome has been drawing for as long as they have known how to hold a pencil. It would be unusual to encounter them without a sketchbook in which to fill the pages with their observations, each drawing bearing witness to the way they look upon the world, the beings who inhabit it, and the movement they set in motion. For this Anicinabekwe, who grew up in Val-d'Or to a Québécois father and an Anicinabe mother from Lac-Simon, drawing emerges as a form of prayer: a moment of pause, gratitude, and contemplation that calls for complete and attentive presence toward their subject.

From a place of love and an insatiable curiosity for the land, and guided by Anicinabe knowledge and wisdom, Fabienne seeks to represent human beings as an integral part of nature rather than as figures seeking to dominate it. Just as the fauna and flora that populate the land are the result of many years of evolution, Fabienne understands their art as part of a continuum: each work is the fruit of all the others and is embedded in the interconnectedness of the world and those who shape it.

As part of their residency at L'Écart, the artist wishes to bring their creative practice and lived experience to a culmination through the creation of a large mural in which animal and plant forms, along with symbols evoking their spirituality, coexist within a human silhouette. Particular importance is given to the caribou, as an expression of our collective failure to protect the boreal forest and to trust the knowledge of Indigenous peoples. By painting an encompassing image that reflects the holistic character they attribute to the world, Fabienne extends a hand to others. They invite visitors to enter their universe of thought with humility. In this way, the artist proposes a shared movement toward coexistence, toward an inclusive reconciliation with nature, and among peoples.

— Translation from Gabrielle Izaguirré-Falardeau's text