

*outside the lines*

an art exhibition exploring the blurring genres of gender, disability, body, and racialization.

Eleanor Winters Art Gallery, York University. May 15 – 19, 2017

Curated by nancy viva davis halifax, Estée Klar, and Martha Newbigging

Artists:

Ellen Bleiwas

Lindsay Fisher

Eli Howey

Estée Klar

Diana Meredith

Martha Newbigging

JoAnn Purcell

Naz Rahbar

Yvonne Singer

Erin Vincent

The exhibition *Outside The Lines* features 10 artists who represent the beyond and within of lines through their artistic practices. This exhibition brings together diverse ways of working with materials to show qualities of living that sit outside of mainstream perception and narrative. Lines have been drawn to mark difference - to keep difference in line.

These artists share works that question the lines that have been drawn to mark difference – to keep difference in line. They collaborate with autistic experience to challenge notions of independence and care narratives; explore the daily experiences of living with disability that are uniquely humorous, difficult, or lovely; draw queer sexuality and gender through memory fragments; investigate the lived experience of existence with queer and immigrant identity; question the fragmentation of gender, feminism and the body; and challenge the dominant medical and pharmaceutical narratives of experience with cancer.

This exhibition is held in conjunction with the international conference “Lives Outside the Lines: Gender and Genre in the Americas, A Symposium in Honour of Marlene Kadar.” Kadar is a noted Canadian feminist studies and life writing scholar whose research interests clustered around issues of gender and genre with special attention given to trauma and illness studies, archival methodologies, and transnational themes in the Americas.

Reception, 16 May 2017

Opening remarks by Martha Newbigging:

In putting this work together, we were thinking about the context of life writing – of lives outside the lines – to work alongside the conference. We were asking how might these artists “write” – show, visualize, tell – about living outside the lines – outside of categories, definitions, expectations. These works try to show something of ways of being outside the normative. But also these works are a trace of a process of making sense of living outside the lines. These works play within a different language – the language of lines, marks, materials, pictures, and pictures with words, or some combination, co-mingling, or hybrid, of these. In the context of Marlene Kadar’s work, we ask you... Can you read these fragments as life writing?

*This exhibition is made possible in part by a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.*