

# FOREMAN

GALERIE D'ART DE L'UNIVERSITÉ BISHOP'S



**PRESS RELEASE// FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Opening reception**

Wednesday,  
September 20,  
From 5 to 7 p.m.

## **RESORT**

September 20<sup>th</sup> to December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Artist:** Matilda Aslizadeh

### **Sherbrooke, September 1st, 2017**

The Foreman Art Gallery is pleased to present the latest work of Vancouver artist Matilda Aslizadeh as part of New Voices, a series showcasing the work of promising emerging artists. In *Resort*, an immersive video projection designed for a panoramic screen, Matilda Aslizadeh posits the tourist resort as a microcosm, a reflection of both the global economy and the complex histories of colonization. Inspired by the cinema of attractions and historical and contemporary representations of space, Aslizadeh uses the panoramic screen to echo the immersive “resort experience” while exploring new ways of telling stories in a gallery space. *Resort* combines staged actions and images found online to develop a fictional narrative set in a walled tourist complex where—lured by the promise of unlimited beauty, nature and everlasting happiness—visitors and residents desperately want to be able to stay. Recreating the experience through multiple views and staged scenes, she weaves a complex narrative structure juxtaposing three different-but-interconnected stories. The dialogues between characters in each scene function as short storylines that encapsulate both the resort’s promise and its failure to deliver. Individually, each scene produces coherent subject

**Free entrance**

Tuesday to Saturday

From 12 to 5 p.m.

positions with which the viewer can identify. In parallel, panoramic views and soundscapes from both inside and outside the complex's walls provide a series of targeted affective and sensory cues, as lush sounds of the interior (exotic natural landscapes) are contrasted with the noises from the outside (atomic explosions, sea monsters, industrial contamination, war and death). Ultimately, what drives Aslizadeh explorations with narrative, found images and immersive cinema is to interrogate our ability to imagine the possibility of the existence of a radical outside.

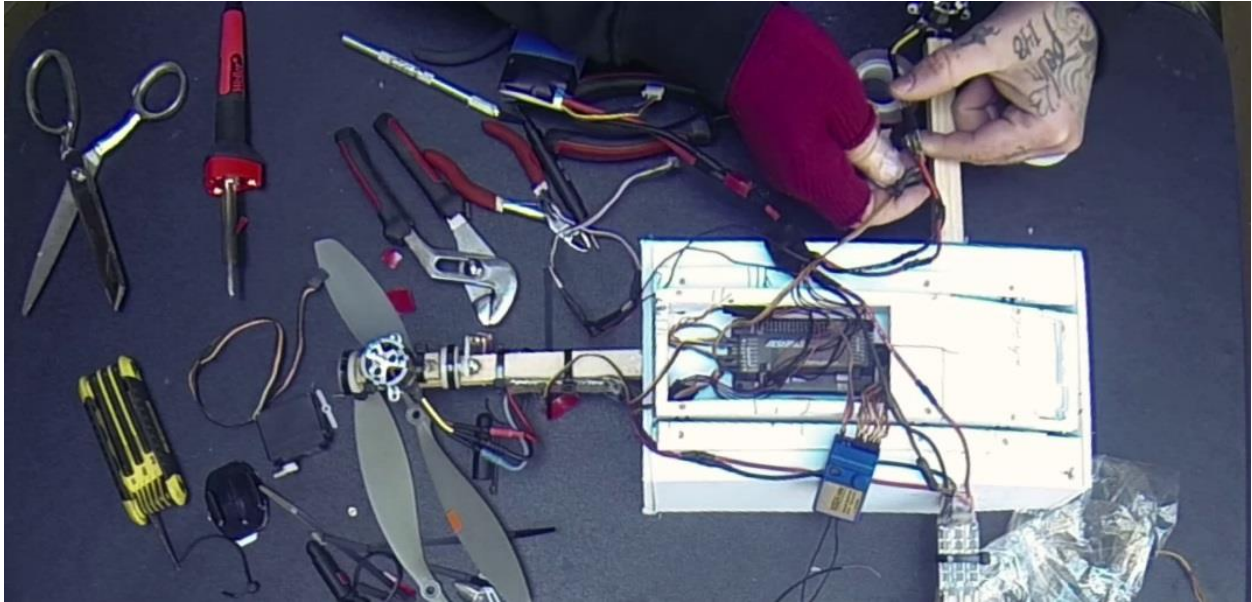
**Artist's Biography:** Throughout her career, Matilda Aslizadeh has developed a dense visual language positioned between photography, video, and animation that evokes the complexity and saturation of the contemporary media landscape. Her video installations and photo-based works draw on a vast array of visual influences – both esoteric and popular – to rethink narrative structures that persist in Western culture. Aslizadeh received a BFA from the University of British Columbia and an MFA from the University of California, San Diego. Her work has been exhibited internationally in galleries and film festivals and has been the subject of several solo exhibitions including: Foreman Art Gallery, Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, Simon Fraser University Gallery, La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse, SKOL Centre des Arts Actuels, Or Gallery, and Artspeak.

**Additional information can be found online :**

<http://www.foreman.ubishops.ca/exhibitions.html>

**Photo credit:** Resort, video installation, video still, 2016





## **EXHIBITION VIDEOTANK # 16: LESSONS ON LEAVING YOUR BODY**

September 20<sup>th</sup> to December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Artist:** Nadav Assor

*Lessons on Leaving Your Body* features Jake Wells, a professional tattooist, DIY drone builder, FPV (First Person View) flight hobbyist, and possibly the world's first RC (Remote Control) Christian Minister. Wells shares some of his stories and ideas regarding the connection between religion, drone technology and his personal struggles. While flying, crashing and repairing his homemade drone in the area around his home in the Olympic Peninsula on the northwest tip of the USA, he recounts the story of his techno-spiritual awakening, from a life in which he felt remotely controlled by other forces, to his current state, in control, preaching and flying. Footage of Wells observing himself from the drone's point of view using FPV gear, and shots reminiscent of romantic landscape paintings depicting the wider wilderness setting in which he resides, are woven together with monologues based on Wells' own brand of theology, concerned with the connection between FPV flight, out of body experiences and the nature of the soul.

### **Source & information**

Gentiane Bélanger  
Director/Curator  
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**Artist's Biography:** Nadav Assor employs a range of expanded media practices to explore the unstable condition of the hyper mediated body, the "new flesh", constantly transformed by technology, in its immediate social, political sensory, and emotional environment. This is often done via lo-fi reenactments of appropriated military-industrial technologies, examining technological mediation as an essential and transformative human condition.

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For more than 10 years, Assor has performed and exhibited internationally in festivals, music venues, museums and galleries in North America, Israel, Europe and Asia. Some recent venues for his work include Hong-Gah Museum Taipei, Centre Arts Santa Monica Barcelona, Hyphen Hub NYC, Edith-Russ-Haus Oldenburg, Transmediale Festival Berlin, the European Media Arts Festival, the Soundwave Biennial San Francisco, Residency Unlimited NYC, Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago, the Koffler Center in Toronto, Julie M Gallery Tel Aviv, Xuzhou Museum, China, and many others. Assor's work was reviewed in publications such as Artforum, Vice Motherboard, Art Monthly UK, Haaretz, Time Out, the Creators Project and more. He holds an MFA in Art & Technology from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2010, full merit fellow), where he was the inaugural recipient of the Edes Award, one of the graduate school's highest honors. He is a recipient of multiple grants and awards in the US and Israel, and currently serves as an Assistant Professor and an Associate Director of the Center for Arts & Technology at Connecticut College in the US.

Additional information can be found online :

[http://www.foreman.ubishops.ca/exhibitions/single.html?tx\\_buexhibition\\_pi1%5BexId%5D=213](http://www.foreman.ubishops.ca/exhibitions/single.html?tx_buexhibition_pi1%5BexId%5D=213)

**Photo credit:**

Nadav Assor, *Lessons on Leaving Your Body*, 2014, video, video, still image, 14,40 min. Image copyright of the artist, courtesy of Video Data Bank, School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Photographs available  
on request.

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