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## **Bobbie Burgers: *Partly Truth, Partly Fiction***

May 13<sup>th</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Reception for the artist: Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 to 8pm

Equinox Gallery, Vancouver

This exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue

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Bobbie Burgers' new exhibition, *Partly Truth and Partly Fiction*, continues her decades-long examination of the natural world, a space of reflection where change is imminent and continuous. Key to Burgers' aesthetic is her ability to utilize diverse media (including acrylic paint, collage, charcoal, spray paint, and oil pastel) in order to transform her subject matter into something that hovers between abstraction and representation.

For her fifth solo exhibition at Equinox Gallery, we see how the act of painting—as process, material, and pathway to the spectrum of representation—continues to be Burgers' driving force. Innumerable, barely visible layers of paint and washes are hidden below her precise marks, torn and collaged bits of canvas, and thick brush strokes visible on the surface. The canvas is imbued with the residue of an intense and time-consuming layering process; it evokes a continuous dance between that which is visible and what recedes, that which is transparent and what is opaque. The artist explains: “My process is really about observation and the subconscious experience. I find it fascinating to include the memory of reality, which is often a false and imagined version of it. Two series in this exhibition were based on my mental imprints of Japanese anemones which are tall flowers that grow in huge clusters and become a sea of bending, swaying, delicate white petals. I spent hours looking at them in the day and also at night. It was a series of memories of late summer and early fall that I could take with me into the depths of winter. I used this idea together with collage as a way to consider what the “truth” was before, and to create a new story from the prior one, like a metaphor for the complexities of human nature, the past is not erased but one adds to the story. By layering on yet another element, a reimagined new reality emerges.”

Through subject matter that makes reference to the history of still-life and vanitas painting, the natural forms in Burgers' work not only comment on the transformations within nature, but also on the role time plays in both the making and the viewing of these works. In the way that paintings can offer multiple perspectives on a single subject, these works reveal themselves fully with multiple viewings from different states of mind and at different times of day. The result is a constantly changing tangle with truth *and* fiction.

Bobbie Burgers was born in 1973 in Vancouver. She received a B.A. in Art History in 1996 from the University of Victoria and has studied in Aix-en-Provence, France where she returns often to recapture the life, light and spirit of Provence that she imbues into her painting. Burgers has exhibited widely across the United States and Canada, including West Vancouver Art Museum in May 2021, with *Bobbie Burgers: The Hard Work of Spring* publication.