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Are You My Mother? Opens at Dunlop Art Gallery

Are you my mother? tells a universal story. Loss, grief, the span of generations, oceans of distance, and personal differences are only some of the barriers separating the artists from their mothers. Through sculptures, interviews, performances, and visual art, the exhibition articulates the longing and love between mother and child in a series of works that describe the search for mother with moving emotional intensity.

The exhibition, curated by Jennifer Matotek, Director/Curator of Dunlop Art Gallery, opens on January 18 at Dunlop Art Gallery, located in Central Library. It features works by Michele Clarke, Chun Hua Catherine Dong, Sandra Brewster, Tanya Lukin Linklater, Emilie Renier-Serri, and Heather Benning.

Are you my Mother? brings together a variety of media. Among the pieces are majestic sarcophagi — reminiscent of the tombs of Medieval royalty — commemorating Benning's farmer parents; a series of photographs documenting Dong's trip to China after her mother's death, during which she sought out her mother in the memories of those who knew her; and heart wrenching video interviews with grieving black queer women who discuss the loss of their mothers.

Through the exhibition, "mother" is interpreted in its broader meaning to include land and landscape, ancestors, and family histories. This extended view of the mother-child bond conveys the complexity of this fundamental relationship.

"The exhibition features works that move audiences," says Matotek. "It shows that beyond our intellect, we live emotional lives that are shaped by the care we give and receive. It honours our mothers and how they have cared for us and shown us how to love and be loved."

For more information about Dunlop Art Gallery exhibition, please visit www.reginalibrary.ca.

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