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## Artist Emily Promise Allison wins Canadian Artist Residency Master Artist Award

La Napoule Art Foundation (LNAF) congratulates Emily Promise Allison (b. 1988) on winning the 2023 Canadian Artist Residency Master Artist Award. This prize provides an accomplished Canadian artist with studio space and resources for a three-month residency at the Château de La Napoule in France. Emily begins her time in France in September.

In June 2021, Fondation David R. Graham (Fondation DRG) generously awarded LNAF funding for the creation of the Canadian Artist Residency program, an exciting new residency program that brings together groups of established and emerging Canadian artists of all genres to receive inspiration, financial support, and opportunities for career growth, while strengthening the intercultural connection between Canada and France. In addition to group residencies, the Master Artist Award was established to provide the exclusive opportunity for one distinguished Canadian artist to live and work at the Château de La Napoule for three months. This prestigious fellowship is awarded biennially by invitation to an artist who was previously selected for group residency.

“During her group residency in 2022, we saw an incredibly talented artist shine with a playful freshness and driven commitment to discovery. Her photographic and performance work is both thoughtful and fun, simultaneously surreal yet deeply present,” says LNAF board president Natasha Clews Gallaway. “We are excited to give Emily dedicated time and resources to work in France, and hope this is a chance for her to delve deeper into her exploration of physical transformation in photographic and site-specific work.”

Emily is spending the residency developing a new photographic series and experimental film based on the enchanting qualities of material transformation. Using natural and artificial matter, local ephemera, and chemical reactions, she will develop a hyper-specialized environment of images and absurd sculptural scenarios in the Noele Clews Studio. She says, “I’m deeply grateful to have the opportunity to immerse myself in the familiar magic of Marie’s and Henry’s lasting sparkle once again—to capture moments of controlled chaos as I record the playful humor of this new and exciting work; generating passageways into realms of surreal curiosity and human desire.”



Emily Promise Allison

**About the Artist:**

Emily Promise Allison is a Canadian conceptual artist who uses photography and performance to create images that embrace surreal, metaphysical, and dreamlike qualities. The purpose of her work is to activate curiosity, stimulate a sense of wonder, and enable a collapse of status and expectation concerning theoretical knowledge versus lived experience. Emily regards the imagination as a fundamental sense that allows us to find or create magic within systems regulated by logic; celebrating the strange nature of existence and the absurdity of life.



Left: *Opéra de Méduse (Medusa's Opera)*, photograph, 2022.

Center: *Mécanique Céleste (Celestial Mechanics)*, photograph, 2022.

Right: *N'y voir que de feu*, photograph, 2022.

**About La Napoule Art Foundation:**

LNAF is an American nonprofit foundation, founded in 1951 by Marie Clews to preserve the Château de La Napoule, promote her husband Henry Clews' collection of paintings and sculptures, and to operate an arts center that supports contemporary art through residencies and cultural events. Central to LNAF's mission, artist-in-residence programs offer time and space for creative minds to engage in meaningful cultural exchange, promoting intercultural understanding through the arts. LNAF has been welcoming resident artists for over 70 years.

The Château de la Napoule is located in the historic seaside town of Mandelieu-La Napoule on the



**CANADIAN ARTISTS  
AT LA NAPOULE**

French Riviera. Situated on a spectacular site overlooking the sea, parts of the original structure date back to the 14th century. It is recognized in France as a *monument historique* for its incredible restoration and architectural details. Six acres of magnificent gardens surround the property. For more information, visit [lnaf.org](http://lnaf.org).



Château de La Napoule

**About Fondation David R. Graham:**

Established in 2020, the Fondation David R. Graham seeks to establish and invest in opportunities and relationships to promote cultural exchange between France and Canada. A primary focus of Fondation DRG is to support the arts and artists through a combination of scholarships or grants, as required by a proposed and agreed to project. Additionally, Fondation DRG will consider funding research initiatives and other opportunities that clearly evidence a cross cultural benefit and/or beneficial experience for an organization or an individual.

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