

SUMMER. LEGENDS OF WEATHER SOMEWHERE ELSE.

Fifteen years ago, Carole Baillargeon began an extended work consisting of four installations: *Autumn*, *Winter*, *Spring* and *Summer*. Usually exhibited separately, sometimes in parts in different places, the works are unique. Whether attached to the wall or suspended in space, they are constantly being reworked and transformed, their alterations not simply being an adaptation to each exhibition site. Constantly changing, they are displayed as recursive loops that never return precisely to their initial starting point, and unfold into a new look in various temporary anchoring places, before moving on to other surroundings.

It is also during this interval that everything happens and is surpassed. We could say that the artist works in 'little stitches' - the term is a metaphor not only for the sprinkling of places and times of her exhibitions, but also for her actions, because she proceeds with the delicate and careful handling of all kinds of heterogeneous materials. At the risk of injuring her hands and fingers, she pins, hems, tacks and sews scraps of new and used fabric, or joins corks, bits of string and buttons. And these are all coordinated differently into patches that reformulate the colours of each season in the form of landscapes-clothing. Some literally can be worn as dresses, hats, jewellery, while others are installations that can be inhabited, revealing sparkling ethereal finery, always festive, that wrap visitors with a light breath of tiny particles. No doubt – as well as being highly tactile, these works prove to be very thermal.

Because the exhibitions' variable contingencies disrupt the cyclical order of nature that the works refer to, each fragment can happen at a time when we do not expect it: *Winter* in summer, *Spring* in autumn; sometimes two of them are shown as a duo in the same space. Taking advantage of the incongruity that accentuates the playful aspect of her work, the artist, using diverse intonations, recounts a legend about a time that unfolds somewhere else. Here time shifts from its source, is deferred and promptly suspended. Given the theme, it would be accurate to describe *Seasons* as a work in progress. However, the work is actually a series of syncopated and oscillatory deviations rather than a continuous progression in one direction.

Presented here and bridging into the next season, *Summer* brings together some five hundred floating spores that visitors can explore by slipping between the metal rods adorned with multi-coloured buttons. Accompanying the garden-tracksuit and like the final hours of summer flowering, papers designed and decorated with buttons are arranged in stylized flower motifs on the gallery walls, capturing a few vestiges of the sunny days that are ending but will surely return. Somewhere else and in other ways...

Nycole Paquin