



**ART GALLERY
BURLINGTON**

PRESS RELEASE

Burlington, ON – April 24, 2026

Celina Eceiza

A material called Earth, Volume 1: The life of corners

Curated by Sylvie Fortin

May 16, 2026 – August 16, 2026

Public Opening Reception: May 16, 1-3 pm

Lee-Chin Family Gallery

The Art Gallery of Burlington (AGB) is pleased to announce the exhibition ***A material called Earth, Volume 1: The life of corners*** by **Celina Eceiza** in the Lee-Chin Family Gallery, opening May 16, 2026, and running until August 16, 2026. The public opening reception will take place at the AGB on Saturday, May 16, 1-3 pm.

At the AGB, art is not something that exists outside of the present moment but is a way of living through it. We are drawn to practices that bend the binary between contemporary art and craft and work with those who find criticality in the handmade by challenging how material traditions and technologies are perceived. It is this spirit that makes Celina Eceiza's work, and Sylvie Fortin's curatorial practice feel so at home here. Both move fluidly between registers, gathering in collaborators, blurring the boundaries between making and thinking, and insisting that no creative act is ever singular. *A material called Earth* is, in every sense, a natural extension of how we believe art and craft can be lived.

Volume 1: The life of corners, the first manifestation of Argentinian artist Celina Eceiza's ambitious, itinerant project, *A material called Earth*, transforms the gallery into an

immersive, ephemeral architecture. Hand-dyed, stitched, and embroidered textiles and large-scale drawings cover walls, redraw ceilings, muffle floors, and generate new forms, inviting visitors to linger, rest, explore, and let their imagination roam.

Spun from the inside out and produced in collaboration with local makers, the installation carries the visible traces of many hands, with stitches and folds acting as traces of shared authorship. The installation also brings together sculptures ranging from intimate to near-monumental. Some offer themselves to the body, while others cradle ceramic works drawn from the AGB's permanent collection. Oversized fabric books sewn into the floor bring image and text into play. One of them entitled, *El artista nunca piensa solo* (The Artist Never Thinks Alone), maps Eceiza's artistic influences and entanglements. Each page paying homage to those who have shaped her understanding of art's purpose and potential. Through this careful inclusion of other artists' works, Eceiza challenges the myth of the individual artistic "genius," proposing instead that every exhibition and creative act is inherently collective.

Today, when social contracts are often seen as broken, if not entirely obsolete, *The life of corners* offers a vibrant alternative rooted in interdependence. It invites us into a living network of relations where meaning, beauty, and connection emerge collectively, and where art becomes a space to gather, reflect, and imagine being otherwise.

Based in Buenos Aires, Argentina, **Celina Eceiza** studied at the National University of the Arts (Buenos Aires), was an affiliate of the Centre for Artistic Research (Buenos Aires) in 2016, and a resident at Art Omi (Ghent, NY) in 2024. Solo exhibitions of her work have been held at the Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires, Halle Für Kunst Steiermark (Graz), Moria Galería (Buenos Aires), and Móvil Arte Contemporáneo (Buenos Aires). Her work has also been featured in many group exhibitions and biennials, including the 18th Istanbul Biennial (2025), the First Biennial of Textile Art, Santiago, Chile (2023), and *I don't know you like that: The Bodywork of Hospitality* at Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts (Omaha) and UB Art Galleries (Buffalo). In 2018, she published her first novel, *El falsificador* [The Counterfeiter], with Tammy Metzler. Her work is found in several public and private collections, including the Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires.

<https://celinaeceiza.com> @celina_eceiza

Sylvie Fortin is an interdependent curator, writer, and editor working internationally and based in Montréal, New York, and Buenos Aires. She was Curator-in-Residence at Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts (Omaha) from 2019 to 2021; Executive/Artistic Director of La Biennale de Montréal from 2013 to 2017; and Executive Director/Editor of ART PAPERS

(Atlanta) from 2004 to 2012. Fortin lectures widely and her critical essays and reviews have been published in numerous catalogues, anthologies, and periodicals, including Artforum International, ART PAPERS, Art Press, Art Review, C Magazine, e-flux Criticism, and Frieze. <https://sylviefortin.academia.edu/> @sylviefortin_curator

A material called Earth, Volume 2 will be invested at Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia, from September 12 to November 14, 2026.

A material called Earth, Volume 3 will materialize at Burnaby Art Gallery, Burnaby, British Columbia, from June 24 to August 29, 2027.

The exhibition includes ceramic works by Jacob Ahrens, Scott Barnim, Keith Campbell, Bruce Cochrane, Harlan House, Jim Hong Louie, Paul Mathieu, Denise McKay, Mary McKenzie, Mary Philpott, Kasia Piech, Karla Rivera, Barbara Taylor, and Donna Harris Wechsler.

The book, *El artista nunca piensa solo* [The Artist Never Thinks Alone], includes cameo appearances by Sergio Avello, Melé Bruniard, Mildred Burton, Feliciano Centurión, Germaine Derbecq, Noemí Gerstein, Juan Grela, Alberto Heredia, Aid Herrera, Lido Iacopetti, Alfredo Londaibere, Liliana Maresca, Dignora Pastorello, Lidy Prati, Juan del Prete, and Yente.

With the assistance of the AGB's team: Suzanne Carte, Hannah deJonge, Helen Liene Dreifelds, Heather Kuzyk, Stephanie Vegh, Rollin King, Joseph Thomson, Breanna Shanahan, Conner Drake, Kate Jackson, Gabbrielle Knapp and the team of volunteer sewing assistants.

A material called Earth is generously sponsored by Canada Council for the Arts. The Art Gallery of Burlington is supported by the City of Burlington, Ontario Arts Council, and Ontario Trillium Foundation. The AGB's learning programming has been sponsored by The Burlington Community Foundation, The Joyce Family Foundation, and the Incite Foundation for the Arts.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

At the AGB, learning is in the making. Through hands-on workshops and courses, artists can build a greater personal connection to their craft and experience professional growth

by learning new techniques, discovering other artists' practices, and understanding contemporary art in greater depth. Go to www.agb.life/learn to read more about the programs and register. Friends of the AGB enjoy discounted registration fees for courses and workshops – visit agb.life/support to learn more.

All Ages Family Programming: Opening Reception

With Camila Salcedo

Saturday, May 16, 2026

1-4pm, drop-in, all ages

The Power of Publishing

With Jen Frankel

May 27, 2026 – 6pm – 7pm

Conversation Exchange: Español/English

With Jeannina Romero

June 25th 6pm – 7:30pm

Wet-Felted Bookmaking

With **Sean Morello**

May 19 – June 23, 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Soft Stories: A Textile Collage Workshop

With **Kate Jackson**

May 20 - June 10, 2026, 6:30-9:30 pm

Knitting for Beginners

With **Sean Morello**

May 30 and June 27, 10:00am – 2:00pm

Print, Cut, and Assemble!

With **Nancy Benoy**

June 12, 1 – 4 pm

Handmade Sounds

With **Soledad Muñoz**

July 18, 2026 – 1 - 3pm

About the Art Gallery of Burlington

The AGB is a hub for artistic excellence and community connection in downtown Burlington. The AGB presents thought-provoking exhibitions, hands-on learning opportunities, and public programs that invite visitors to see, think, and create in new ways. Home to the largest collection of contemporary Canadian ceramics in the world, the AGB champions a unique artistic perspective that challenges traditional boundaries and celebrates innovation.

The AGB is located on the ancestral territory of many Indigenous Nations including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, and Métis peoples. The territory is mutually covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy, the Ojibway, and other allied Nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We acknowledge that the land upon which we gather, to create and learn, is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Accessibility Information

The AGB is wheelchair accessible, and wheelchairs are available for loan within the Gallery space. The Lakeshore and Brock Lobby entrances are equipped with automatic doors. Ramps facilitate access throughout the Gallery, and an elevator is available for access to the second level studios. Service animals are permitted in the Gallery. The Gallery has gender-neutral washrooms and upholds that everyone has the right to safe public washroom access.

Art Gallery of Burlington

1333 Lakeshore Road Burlington, ON L7S 1A9

www.agb.life

@artgallburl

Media Inquiries

Sarah Miserere, Manager of Development and Communications Art Gallery of Burlington

905-632-7796 x 325 sarah@agb.life