

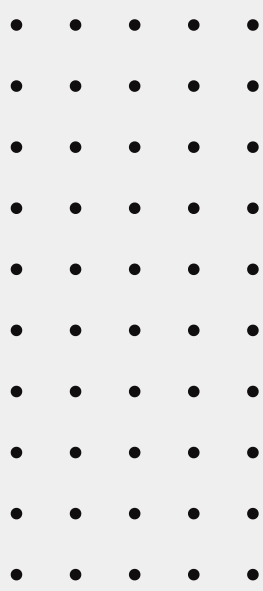
DECAY: an Exhibition

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Thesis Committee:

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Framing

Contemporary art is often enigmatic and confusing and many find it intimidating, which often leads to museum and gallery-goers feeling alienated and out of their depth in contemporary art spaces. Many feel that they simply don't have the vocabulary or knowledge base to understand a piece of art that is non-representational or highly conceptual.

For this project, I worked with the Vestibule, a small, contemporary art gallery that showcases 3D and installation art.

Purpose & Impact

The purpose of this project was to create an exhibition that would encourage new visitors to the Vestibule, expand the gallery's current curatorial perspective, and foster new appreciation for contemporary art in visitors.

Process

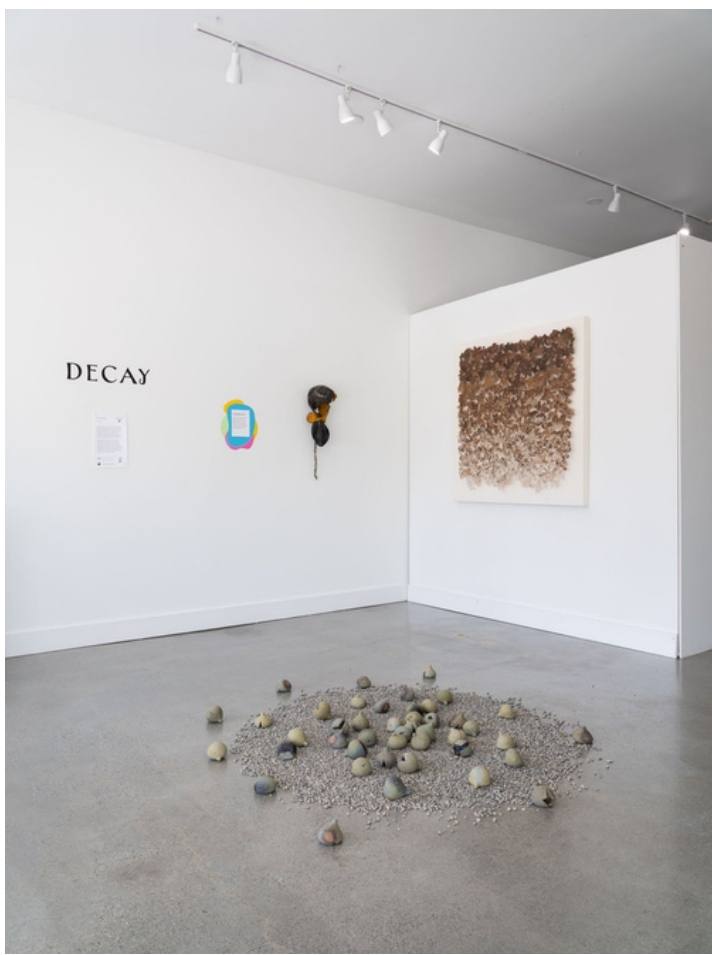
- Theme planning
 - Brought several theme ideas to the Vestibule's curator, and we decided on DECAY as a theme for the show.
- Open call for artists
 - Wrote a brief description of the theme and sent out an open call.
 - Kascha was instrumental here; her network of artists made up a big portion of the submissions that we received.
- Evaluation Survey
 - Surveyed people at local farmer's markets about their experiences with contemporary art.
- Select works
 - Rated each artist's work according to a rubric
 - Selected 15 works by 14 artists.
- Layout & Text
 - Created a 3D model of the gallery and organized the selected artworks into four sections.
 - Wrote a curatorial statement, a short piece of text for each section (Breaking Down, New Ways of Seeing, Changing States, Creating Space for Reflection), and a curatorial reflection for visitors with questions for further thought.
- Install
- Exhibition & Event
 - Exhibition ran from April 4 - April 25th, 2026.
 - Did a curatorial walk-through and facilitated an artist panel with two artists from the show on the last day of the exhibition.
- Deinstall

Acknowledgements

Thank you to my thesis chair and committee members, Meena, Kascha, and Katie, for all of their help in creating this exhibition, it would not have been possible without you. And thank you to the Vestibule for giving me the opportunity to curate an exhibition!

Deliverables

The deliverable for this project was the exhibition itself, as well as a document that details all of the work that I did in order to create the show. This document includes the open call submission rubric that I used to determine which submitted pieces to use in the exhibition, the results of a front-end evaluation survey, assets that I created for the show, a list of the artists and works included, 3D renderings of the layout of the exhibition, the curatorial statement, wall text, and a curatorial reflection, and photographs of the exhibition.



Images courtesy of the Vestibule

References

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- Reitstätter, L., Galter, K., & Bakondi, F. (2022). Looking to read: How visitors use exhibit labels in the art Museum. *Visitor Studies*, 25(2), 127–150. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10645578.2021.2018251>