



samskāra Diana Chabros

September 7 — October 21, 2021

About *samskāra*

In Hindu, Buddhist and Jainist philosophies, *samskāras* are understood as the psychological impressions, memories, and psychic imprints that operate unconsciously to trigger affective impulses in life.

Diana Chabros paints the deep southwest Saskatchewan landscape where her grandparents homesteaded. These lands are known variously to biologists, photographers, tourism operators, ranchers and other locals as grasslands, to the Lakôta as *maka tatanka*, and to the Nehiyaw/Cree as *buffalo land* or *paskwâw mostos askiy*. Potent symbols like animals, human detritus, skulls and bones are inserted, often in disjointed spaces, to create surreal scenes that seem to exist outside of time. Diana writes:

Bones mean a lot to me: my own and those of the land. I broke my spine as a child, so both literally

and metaphorically speaking, I know the body is one's first home and I understand what it means to lose it. This knowledge forms the skeleton of my artistic path, and compels me toward ideas which connect me to the land. The land is also our home and ultimately the receptacle for our remains. I have come to the realization that I will only remain true to my practice by staying true to the land.

Diana obtained her BFA in 1987 and an MA in Education, Curriculum and Instruction (both University of Regina) in 2001. She lives and works in Val Marie, SK where she paints, operates a small bed & breakfast, studies and teaches traditional Yoga, offers retreats and workshops, and works to stabilize Val Marie's cat population.

Image: installation view of *samskāra* in the Main Gallery