

borderLINE

2020 BIENNIAL OF CONTEMPORARY ART 2020 BIENNIAL OF CONTEMPORARY ART 2020 BIENNIAL OF CONTEMPORARY ART 2020 BIENNIAL OF CONTEMPORARY ART

MARTINA LANTIN

BASED IN: Calgary, AB

BORN IN: Montreal, QC

COMMUNITY: Calgary, AB, Treaty 7

Born in Montreal, Quebec, Martina Lantin received her Master of Fine Art from NSCAD University. She has participated in residencies in Canada, the United States and China. Her work has been recognized in numerous exhibitions internationally. Martina mines the history of ornament and pattern to explore the mutation and boundaries of functional ceramics through vessels and installations. More recently, her exploration of adaptation and change engages emergent technologies as a method of production. Martina is an Associate Professor at the Alberta University of the Arts.

Speculation, 2020. Paper, watercolour, earthenware, glaze.

Speculation questions how we locate ourselves within space, despite the subjective and constructed nature of borders, by considering the history of the grid and its role in the settlement of Canada. With the initiation of the Dominion Land Survey, a grid was placed across the country to categorize, quantify and distribute land, regardless of the terrain, geography or Indigenous communities that already occupied those spaces. Despite being simple in theory, it's inevitable that there would be conflicts in the application of such rigid borders to the landscape, in the same way that the forms of the functional objects in *Speculation* are recognizable beneath the pattern and can even be accentuated by the harsh juxtaposition of something as contrived as a grid. *Speculation* fully utilizes Lantin's knowledge of historical material culture, exploring the play between surface and form within ceramics, and subverts their intended use within a space.

