

Corbin Union

OSOSO

Corbin Union is a Vancouver- and Calgary-based artist collective that has gathered annually since 2012 in the deserted East Kootenay coal-mining town of Corbin, BC to create both individual and collaborative works. Under a conceptual framework of excavation and entombment, mirroring and refraction, the collective's three core members—Miruna Dragan, Jason de Haan and Warren McLachlan—bring together a range of interwoven experimental object and image forms in *OSOSO*.

Central to the exhibition is an expansive installation informed by the vernacular architecture of Corbin's original townsite, its alpine graveyard and surrounding natural and industrial landscapes, particularly the now-abandoned Coal Mountain pit mine operation. This installation, with its suggestion of underground ossuaries, extraction sites and mausoleums, transforms the gallery into a labyrinthine space and offers the housing for a multitude of other standalone video, sound, cast paper, and sculptural works. In their insistence on multiplicity, the collective confounds viewers' easy image consumption, offering instead a dark, askance glimpse into experiences of materials, site and space. *OSOSO* extends the collective's ongoing, place-based examination of violent and often hidden histories of resource extraction, environmental destruction and immigrant labour unrest; the folly of the settler paradigm; and the movement of matter and populations (both human and non) across geological time.

Cover image: Corbin Union, *Black Powder Shot*, Corbin, BC, circa 1914, Big Showing Mine documentation photograph, photographer unknown



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The installation design was conceived of collaboratively by Corbin Union

Acquired items

- 1 Door 505: the front door of the last standing original labourer's cabin in Corbin, BC
Private collection
- 2 Shovel: found at former coal mining site in Corbin, BC

Miruna Dragan

- 3 *ziL, eiraM, aiviL, einna, araS, yaK, enirehtaK, eltryM*, 2020-2021
8 blade imprints: resin, dichroic film, silver, rose gold
dimensions variable
- 4 *Hummingbird Guided Meditation (Gabriel's garden)*, 2019-2021
digitized Super 8 film
54 minutes
- 5 *Depression Flower*, 2021
efflorescence on coal
dimensions variable

Torpor, 2020

12 pairs of cot sheets: cotton, rust, tea, salt, wine, vinegar, beeswax
150 x 60 inches each

Miruna Dragan & Jason de Haan

- 6 *Stalker*, 2017
dyed spruce, mirror
25 x 9 x 8.5 inches

Jason de Haan

- 7 *Swamp Watch*, 2020
20 collages: book pages, found images
38.75 x 32 inches each
- 8 *Charm, Choir, Council, Chorus*, 2020
22 hummingbirds (various species), concrete
dimensions variable

Jason de Haan & Warren McLachlan

- 9 *Structure for Observing Atypical Flight (Canary Stairs)*, 2021
steel, wood
dimensions variable
- 10 *Liz, Marie, Livia, Annie, Sara, Kay, Katherine, Myrtle*, 2020-2021
8 blades: steel salvaged from Corbin townsite, wire
dimensions variable

Warren McLachlan

- 11 *Fixed Stars of the Crystalline Sphere*, 2020
handmade cast paper from various sources, steel, rare earth magnets
86 x 42 x 7 inches
- 12 *Reloj de Arena IV*, 2020
handmade cast paper from various sources, steel, rare earth magnets
86 x 42 x 7 inches
- 13 *Structure for Observing Atypical Flight (Tailings Pond)*, 2021
'70s-era fibreglass satellite dish, stereo, bass shaker, steel, audio (wing beats and dive calls of hummingbird species traversing the flight path between Querétaro, Mexico and Corbin, BC)
9 x 96 x 96 inches
- 14 *Structure for Observing Atypical Flight (Avispa)*, 2021
satellite dish feeder cone, handmade paper, wasp nest found inside (deceased), coated rebar
84 x 36 x 36 inches

B.C. Binning Gallery

