

Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre is a non-profit organization facilitating the presentation, interpretation, and production of contemporary visual, time-based and interdisciplinary arts. Modern Fuel aims to meet the professional development needs of emerging and mid-career local, national and international artists, from diverse cultural communities, through exhibition, discussion, and mentorship opportunities. Modern Fuel supports innovation and experimentation and is committed to the education of interested publics and the diversification of its audiences. As an advocate for contemporary art, as well as for artists' rights, we pay professional fees to artists in accordance with the CARFAC fee schedule.

Modern Fuel is situated on the unceded ancestral territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg peoples. We acknowledge the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg peoples as the past, present, and future caretakers of this land. We also recognize the Métis peoples and other nations from across Turtle Island who have called Katarokwi / Kingston home for generations upon generations. We are grateful to be able to live, learn and make art on this land and be in such close proximity to the waters of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. To acknowledge this traditional territory and waterways is to recognize this city and country's longer history pre-dating confederation and the work that must still be done in decolonizing our spaces and relations. We at Modern Fuel strive towards respectful relationships with all of our communities in hopes of walking a good path together.

We at Modern Fuel want to state unequivocally that Black lives matter, Indigenous lives matter, and that the lives of People of Colour matter. Modern Fuel strives to ensure that members and visitors feel safe and welcome in our space and at our events. We do not tolerate discrimination, harassment, or violence including but not limited to ableism; ageism; homophobia and transphobia; misogyny; racism and white supremacy. It is also important to us that Modern Fuel not only continues to present works and programs that support Black and Indigenous artists, members and visitors, but invests in the work of becoming an inclusive, anti-racist organization. We feel it is only then that Modern Fuel can advocate for artists and foster community with care and respect.

*Modern Fuel is open Tuesday to Saturday 12PM to 5PM. We're located in the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning, Unit #305 on 307 King Street West, Kingston, ON. Stop by for a visit or stay up to date online at [modernfuel.org](http://modernfuel.org).*

**Thank you to our major funders:**



Conseil des arts  
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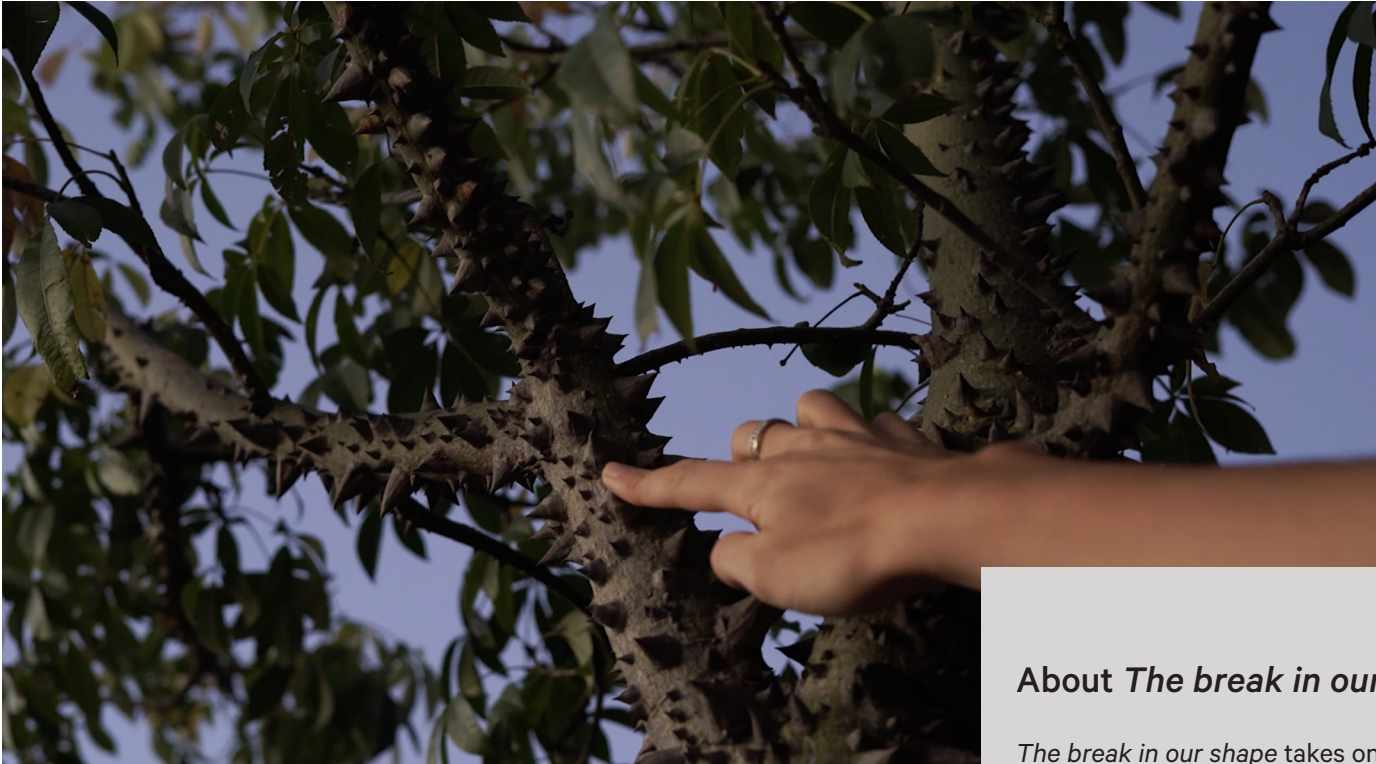


# THE BREAK IN OUR SHAPE

## Sophie Sabet

Main Gallery  
January 21 2023 to March 11 2023





## About Sophie Sabet

Sophie Sabet is a visual artist working in video, sculpture and installation. Her work explores different microcosms as a way of understanding societal relationality and structures of dominance. She approaches sites of conflict through intimate and nonlinear methodologies to offer new ways of being and thinking.

Sabet received her MFA in Documentary Media Studies at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada in 2016. Her work has been shown across Canada with recent solo exhibitions at The Robert McLaughlin Gallery in 2020 and Bradley Museum in 2019 where she was awarded the Gattuso Prize for outstanding featured exhibition at the CONTACT Photography festival. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at Gallery 1C03, Gallery 44 and Trinity Square Video. More recently Sabet completed a 3 month long residency at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art in Nebraska, Omaha during the summer of 2022.

## About *The break in our shape*

*The break in our shape* takes on the qanat, a traditional Iranian water infrastructure, as a point of departure to explore nonhierarchical relationality, land and displacement, and sexual politics.

Geologically, Iran is the meeting point between desert and mountain belts. This renders much of the country uninhabitable, as there are no accessible routes to a water source. A qanat is an underground system of tunnels and aquifers built by the indigenous peoples of this region as a way to direct existing groundwater below the mountain range to the surface of the desert – thus generating an environmentally non-intrusive, reliable supply of water for human settlements.

Each video studies the qanat within a specific context, from the geological conditions, to the transnational migration of the technology, and bodies and sexual dynamics. The ceramic pieces mirror contorted fragments of tunnels that veer into bodily shapes and beings, and embody the dualities that exist in the videos. Collectively, the videos and sculptures present a portrait of the simultaneous ways in which we succeed and fail to exist together.

*Special thanks to Ana Paula Santana, Negar Sanaan Bensi, Majid Labbaf Khaneiki, Manuel Delgado and Osvaldo Andrade.*