

About the Artist

Melany Nugent-Noble is a Kelowna-based artist. Her work responds to the political and social nature of public spaces, and takes various forms including community-focused installations. Nugent-Noble holds an MFA from Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Vancouver (2015). In 2020, she was selected as the City of Kelowna's first Artist in Residence.



**Thank you for visiting the Gallery today.
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KELOWNA  GALLERY 1315 Water Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 9R3 | 250-762-2226

We acknowledge that the Kelowna Art Gallery operates on the unceded traditional territory of the syilx/Okanagan people.



The Kelowna Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of the City of Kelowna, The Canada Council for the Arts, British Columbia Arts Council, the Province of British Columbia, Central Okanagan Public Schools, Central Okanagan Foundation, and our members, donors, and sponsors.

MELANY NUGENT-NOBLE NOTHING TO BE DONE

August 8, 2020 to August, 2021



Looking Closer A free gallery guide to get you started

Introduction

Nothing to be done takes reference from the stage set of Samuel Beckett's play, *Waiting for Godot*. First performed in Paris in 1953, the play is about two characters—Vladimir and Estragon—who wait beneath a tree by a country road for Godot (who never arrives).

The courtyard is intended to provide a refuge for the imagination—a focal point for contemplation where one has permission to let their mind wander towards adventure, possibility, and the unknown.

There have been numerous interpretations of *Waiting for Godot*, and although there has never been consensus on its meaning, it is noted that Beckett was inspired by Caspar David Friedrich's painting *Two Men Contemplating the Moon*. This atmospheric installation refers to both the scene described in the play and the painting, complete with a large replica moon hanging low in the sky next to a Burr Oak tree.



Two Men Contemplating the Moon, Caspar David Friedrich (1774–1840), ca. 1825–30, oil on canvas, photo courtesy of the Met Museum, NY.

Questions to Consider

- The title of the exhibition, *Nothing to be done*, is the first line of the play *Waiting For Godot* about existential despair. How does this line relate to current events?

- Take a moment to examine the Burr Oak tree with roots encased in a block of resin. Why do you think the artist chose to utilize resin in this piece? Does the use of this material change your perception of the tree?

- Consider how you interact with the exhibition space. Did you pause, examine the objects, or sit on the bench? How are these actions similar to the two characters in Samuel Beckett's play *Waiting for Godot*?

- Consider the role that light plays in this exhibition. Look above you and notice the sun shades. Examine the walls of the courtyard, does the sun shade affect how shadows or beams of light are cast within the exhibition?

- Compare the image of *Two Men Contemplating the Moon* on the previous page with the objects featured in the exhibition. What is similar and what is different?



Interior shot of *Nothing to be done*, and detail shot of Burr Oak Tree

