

Jill Benson, Curator

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Arriving Outside in a Blush Van

A New Work for The Cluster Gallery by Leila Plouffe

Curated by Jill Benson

Shame.

Morally neutral but socially unacceptable. How does it form us? How do we confront it? And how does it embolden us? This is what Leila Plouffe examines in *Arriving Outside in a Blush Van*, a new show at The Cluster Gallery.

Plouffe uses performance videos and soft sculpture to explore our association with shame. The sculptures are of intimate items we use everyday. She interacts with these sculptures and confronts our feelings of shame associated with them. It looks at how shame forms our identity and our past and future views of ourselves. With her use of material and technique, Plouffe also explores feminism in our everyday existence. By using sewing and knitting, undervalued crafts traditionally associated with women and home, she creates an emboldened and powerful work of art in the form of giant, technicolor-hued soft sculptures.

A recent BFA graduate from Alberta, Canada, Leila Plouffe is a visual artist and writer. She works primarily with textiles, building props and costumes, then activating them through performance, photography and video. This spring, Plouffe was an artist in residence in Blondous, Iceland at the Icelandic Textile Center. She was recently featured in Site Magazine with *Body, Space & Object*, a collaborative photo based work with Sean Traynor

and Stephanie Dover. A residency at The Brooklyn Art Cluster has brought her to Brooklyn, where she has conceived this vastest work. Come take a peek at Leila Plouffe's *Arriving Outside in a Blush Van*.

Opening is December 1, 6-8:30pm at The Cluster Gallery.

On view December 1-31, 2018.