



Camille Durand Gauthier, *Fémelot*, 2015,
dyed textiles, stockings, glass, wood, cables, oil and milk.

Camille Durand Gauthier is a second-year Concordia University student pursuing her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in studio arts. She focuses on the interdisciplinary aspects of studio arts, and is particularly drawn to fibre art and photography. Durand Gauthier's integration of different mediums in her artworks is intended to emphasize their material qualities. Through a balance between the abstract and the figurative, her works construct mysterious atmospheres that play with the weightlessness of fabric and material.

Durand Gauthier's untitled piece consists of three "skins" made out of sheer, beige fabric of different scales representing her close family members. The one on the left is differentiated by scale-like bottoms made of pieces of painted and varnished vinyl. For the skin in the centre, the artist used screen printing to create a graded, freckled torso. The skin on the right is embellished with hand-painted beads along the upper body of the figure. Towering over the viewer, the suspended figures exude a rather imposing and ghostly presence. The fluidity of the fabric lends a weightless effect to the less structured aspects of the skins. Projected onto the walls of the space are shadows of trees, which enhance the intimate atmosphere. This space resembles Durand Gauthier's own bedroom, where she often has her family in her thoughts now that she is living away from them. The artist plays with notions of absence and presence—recurring themes in her work—as well as the act of concealing and revealing through the anonymity of the figures. The installation serves as a self-portrait in which the artist reflects on her connection to her family while masking the identity of her family members. Shary Boyle's (b. 1972) *The Lute Player* (2010) inspired this work, particularly its ambiguity, mystery and emphasis on skin and identity.

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