

Artist Statement

Oil Women's Narratives from Leduc No1

"Recipes from Skid Shacks"

Through a series of storytelling animations, I am narrating the story of women whose lives were intersected with oil discoveries in Leduc, the first fossil fuel site in Alberta, Canada, during the 1940s. From frequent moving all around the world to supporting oilmen by living in Skid Shacks, cooking, laundry, childcare and providing social support, oil wives played an essential role in the oil communities of Leduc while their men were exploring wells for the first successful oil strike in Alberta.

Addressing the oil women narrative in my research-creation is a reflection of my three main preoccupations regarding women, the environment and storytelling. By the beginning of the fossil fuel era, the environment and human societies involved in these revolutionary phenomena underwent substantial alterations that were often irreversible. The big oil companies took advantage of the maximum capacity of human resources to approach their goals through oil and natural gas explorations, among which the labour of women was not an exception. However, a sizeable portion of the historical narrative of this phenomenon is allocated to men who were engaged in oil industry developments. This scarcity in reflecting the prominent role of women in developing different parts of society and the impact of various phenomena on women's lives necessitates more productivity in social science and humanities through which different generations of the community would be empowered in terms of having a more comprehensive image of petroculture in the Anthropocene era. This helps societies to define new efficient relations regarding alternative energies and move towards a post-carbon world.

"Food" is one chapter of *Recipes from Skid Shacks*, the storytelling 2D animation project narrating the challenges oilwomen were facing to prepare essential food for those working on wells.

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