

## Nourishment & Community



Fish have long symbolised food, life, and survival.

Women holding fish may evoke the role of women as caregivers, providers, or protectors of life.

In many parts of the world, carrying baskets, pots, or bundles on the head is a traditional way of transporting food, water, or goods.

*What does it mean to carry something heavy like a basket of fish, or water?*

*Can you think of which cultures do this and where they live?*

# Here//There

## Michelle Merrifield

LEARNING RESOURCE



**Fish are tied to water, the source of life, and often seen to represent plenty, growth, and renewal.**

Let's explore these ideas in some of Michelle's sculptures!

**28 Nov – 31 Jan**

**G3 Artspace**

Shirley Burke Theatre, Parkdale

G3 Artspace  
Shirley Burke Theatre, 64 Parkers Road, Parkdale  
Open Wednesday to Saturday, 11am to 4pm

Credits:

Front cover/Page 1: Michelle Merrifield, Flow & Bounty 2024-2025, ceramic sculpture

Page 2: Michelle Merrifield, Held 2024-2025, ceramic sculpture; Michelle Merrifield, Fish out of Water 2024-2025, ceramic sculpture

Page 3: Michelle Merrifield, Fred 2024-2025, ceramic sculptures; Michelle Merrifield, Transpose 2024-2025, ceramic sculptures (3)

Back/Page 4: Michelle Merrifield, Harvest 2024-2025, ceramic sculpture

## Here//There



**Artist Michelle Merrifield has made ceramic sculptures for her exhibition *Here//There*.**

Fish are used in stories across different cultures. They symbolise journeys, growth, transformation, food, water and mystery. How can one creature carry so much meaning? Keep reading to find out more!

*Many of these artworks are fish or include fish. Can you count how many?*

## Identity & Belonging



Just as fish belong to schools or migrate between waters, we can reflect on where they belong.

Look at the sculpture to the left, titled *Fish out of Water*.

*Have you ever been somewhere new where you didn't know anyone, or had to try something that felt strange or hard?*

That feeling is what people mean when they say 'a fish out of water.' A fish needs water to live, so if it's out of water, it feels lost and out of place.

## Adaptability



Fish move with currents. The artist has created feet on this gold fish sculpture titled *Fred*. Feet on a fish suggest change, something evolving to survive in a new environment. It could symbolise resilience, adaptability, or the courage to step into the unknown.

A fish belongs in water, so what happens when it walks on land? Maybe instead of feeling out of place, it's about finding new possibilities.

*Can you think of a time you had to discover something new?*

## Environmental Awareness



Fish highlight the importance of water, ecosystems, and caring for our planet. In *Transpose*, each of the three men carry fish, connecting humankind and the earth. They invite you to close your eyes and journey inward, to find restoration and feel peace in the present moment.

*Perhaps you could go outside to spend time in nature? Listen to the birds and outdoor sounds. Think about how fish need clean water to swim and birds need leafy trees and clean air.*

*Take a chance to discover the peace that lies within you and within all of us.*