



THUNDER BAY
ART GALLERY

Newsletter

Kasia Piech - *The Cardinal Sins*

September 10 to October 24

Organized by the Thunder Bay Art Gallery

The work of Hieronymus Bosch, the late fifteenth century Dutch painter is best known for his fantastical landscapes of worlds turned upside down. In his paintings, human-animal-monster hybrids are intricately depicted in the most frenzied and sometimes tortuous circumstances. While his works did not seem to be representative of the lived human world, they were in fact reflective of the social anxieties of the early European Renaissance period. Bosch, an astute student of religion and master of moral narratives is an apt ally of contemporary artist Kasia Piech.

For like Bosch, Piech's work is also grounded in an understanding of human morality, vices and virtues. Drawing on the work of Bosch, the exhibition *The Cardinal Sins*, Piech's sculptural ceramic installation, presents an array of undisciplined school-aged girls, morphed human anatomies, and moral paradoxes that work to provide a lens onto our contemporary life. These issues are hardly specific to the Renaissance. Instead, they show how societies, though centuries apart, continue to grapple with the margins of morality and human nature.

However unlike Bosch, Piech moves these examinations off the canvas and into the dimensional world. Comprised of fourteen colourful mid-sized female ceramic figurines and two enlarged heads on both plinths and mounds of sod, Piech's figurines embody both the virtues and the seven deadly sins: lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy and pride. Additional ceramic tiles with painted demons surround these plinths. Potent and loaded in terms of their conceptual religious undertones, one cannot help but laugh at the playful nature of the mischievous girls with pointed pigtailed dotting the installation.

Piech's ability to merge together religious narratives along with the malleability of ceramics is reflective of her diverse academic pursuits. With undergraduate degrees in religious studies, fine arts and linguistics, Piech also earned a Master's in Fine Arts in 2003. In 2008, she was awarded the Winifred Shantz Award in Ceramics and more recently, completed an artist residency in China. Currently, Piech is also a ceramics instructor at Lakehead University.



Kasia Piech, *Gluttony*, 2010, ceramic, 50 x 60 x 55 cm

The work presented in *The Cardinal Sins* is whimsical and yet treads seriously on the temperament of humanity. The sculptural installation created inside the Gallery transports us to a place where the seemingly bizarre is in fact the reality of our often paradoxical world. Piech invites us to explore this strange new world and presents us with the challenge to delve into our own psyche.

Kasia Piech would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Ontario Arts Council and the Winifred Shantz Award.

See Yourself Here

FALL 2010

Chris Stones: *Material Memory*

September 10 to October 31

Organized by the Thunder Bay Art Gallery

In *Material Memory*, multidisciplinary artist Christopher Stones creates a series of sculptural objects that are at once recognizable, yet are obviously transformed from their usual usage and convention. By bringing together distinct functional objects and well-known Canadian icons such as the canoe paddle and the maple leaf to more organic found pieces like driftwood and animal bones, Stones refashions these objects to create sculptural assemblages that challenge any single notion of their original meaning or formal employment.



Chris Stones, *Rant of the Cormorants*, 2009, (detail) epoxy resin on foam, axe handle, concrete and patina.

Moreover, as viewers we are drawn in not simply to the anthropomorphic qualities of the shapes and objects in the sculptures, but can also connect to the craftsmanship and synthesis of materials in Stones' work. Whereas axe blades are fabricated and painted to look like petals in *Axe Head Rose* (2009), the sculpture's elongated handle-like stems have hooves at the base. Similarly, in works such as *Prosthetic Articulated Device* (2009), he uses the curvature of driftwood and a paddle to mimic the shape of a human limb. In reflecting

on his work Stones writes, "I have used the canoe paddle as a metaphor, to show how we are devising ways of communing with our environment through adaptations/extensions to our bodies."

Many of the objects used in Stones' work have been found along the shorelines of Lake Superior. At the heart of the artist's reclamation and employment of found materials is an examination of the tensions and issues most pressing in our contemporary lives in the region: development of land and resources, issues of excesses and shortages amongst urban and rural dwellers, access and barriers to the natural environment. As a long-time resident of Thunder Bay, Stones has witnessed the ecological and economic changes to the shore lines of Lake Superior first-hand. These works are an attestation to his innovative ways of seeing discarded materials and using them to respond to both the region's past and present.

With a careerspanning over twenty years, Christopher Stones' work transcends the conceptual boundaries of art-making. His ability to select and see the potential of found objects to create sculptural assemblages is a defining strength of his practice. The work presented in *Material Memory* at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery grows out of these sensibilities and provides us with a refreshed visual vocabulary to understand the world around us.

Chris Stones would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Ontario Arts Council through the Exhibition Assistance and the Northern Arts Programs.

Please join us for the
OPENING RECEPTION
of our Fall exhibitions
featuring
Patrick Doyle, Kasia Piech and Chris Stones
Friday, September 17 at 7:30 pm

Patrick Doyle: *Living in Landscape*
September 10 to October 31
Organized by the Thunder Bay Art Gallery

The term *indwelling* means to “inhabit”. Whether ideas, images or even spirits, the manner in which they resonate within us has lasting impacts on how we interact and understand the world. They become a keen part of our perceptions and can often be the source of inspiration in our creative endeavors. The exhibition *Living in Landscape* demonstrates how the landscape and history of the Thunder Bay region has long resided within artist Patrick Doyle’s oeuvre. More than a source of inspiration for his creative work, these images occupy an integral part of his personal and familial identity.

At first glance, the abstract imagery and brilliant hues of Doyle’s paintings seem like a dreamscape of colours and shapes. And yet, upon closer examination, the symbols and signifiers related to the landscape of the Thunder Bay region quickly emerge. The austere and looming presence of Mount McKay and the Sleeping Giant to the industrial buildings near the port are just some of the well known local icons found in Doyle’s colourful, large-scale paintings.

Moreover, the expressive manner in which these images are rendered is undeniable. His brushstrokes and application of paint communicate the changing and textural landscape unique to the region. Like the French painter Paul Cézanne, who was so moved by Mont-Ste-Victoire (located in his childhood home of Aix-en-Provence) that he diligently studied the landscape’s ‘sensations’ in a series of paintings, Doyle’s work is also evocative and affirms the importance of this kind of practice and observation. In other words, these works describe the meditative process of painting and how when used as a source of inspiration, landscape can be visualized on the canvas in numerous ways.

Indeed, the powerful landscape surrounding the city of Thunder Bay has occupied a vital place in Patrick Doyle’s creative and personal life. His paintings bridge together his innate knowledge of the area and his sensibilities as a painter. When combined, they communicate a deep sense of landscape that not only conveys the stunning beauty of



Patrick Doyle, *Exodus*, 2009, oil on board, 122 x 152 cm

the region, but is grounded in the complexities and materiality of painting. *Living in Landscape* presents us with works that will no doubt inhabit our own visual vocabulary and will inform our understanding of the local landscape.

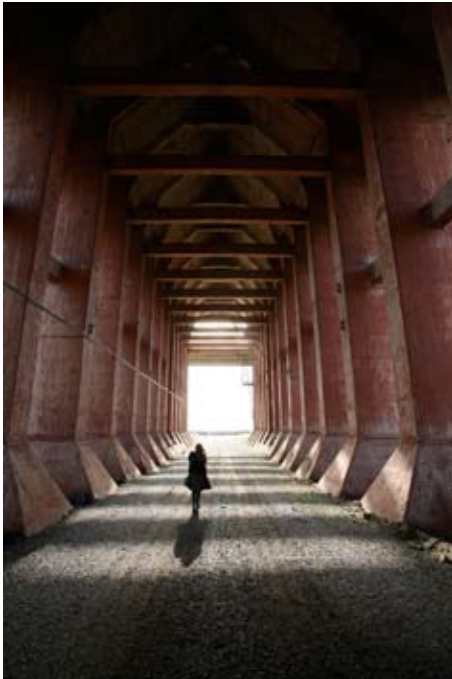
Patrick would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Ontario Arts Council through the Exhibition Assistance and the Northern Arts Programs.

Thunder Bay IOD Park Iron Ore Dock October 1 to November 7

Once a vital part of Thunder Bay's industrial and economic heritage, the Iron Ore Dock (designed by C.D. Howe and built in 1944) still stands today and will come to life again in a special exhibition at the Gallery.

Thunder Bay IOD is a conceptual plan for transforming the Iron Ore Dock on the City's waterfront into a revitalized wildlife and urban waterfront sanctuary. It was part of an architecture exhibition *Redux Park* at Harbourfront Centre, Toronto this summer and will travel to Thunder Bay in October.

The firm Brook McIlroy, the principal architect on Thunder Bay's waterfront project, created this panoramic photographic montage that invites viewers to experience a re-imagined waterfront park through sound, photography, video and light. Viewers will see what exists now and what *could* exist. The potential result of saving and repurposing important pieces of a city's industrial infrastructure is illustrated beautifully in this project. A selection of photographs of the Iron Ore Dock will also be on display.



Iron Ore Dock, Thunder Bay, Photo by Brook McIlroy

Artist Talks

Calvin Brook: *Thunder Bay IOD*

"Imaging an Urban Waterfront Park"

Friday, October 1 at 7:30 pm

Kasia Piech: *The Cardinal Sins*

Thursday, October 14 at 7:30 pm

"Then and Now"

The artist will be conducting a Bunny Run" following her talk.

Chris Stones: *Material Memory* &

Patrick Doyle: *Living in Landscape*

Thursday, October 21 at 7:30 pm

Chris Stones and Patrick Doyle in conversation with
Nadia Kurd, Curator, Thunder Bay Art Gallery

Upcoming Exhibitions

Ursula Johnson: *Elukwetu*

November 5 to January 9

Christian Chapman: *Don't Eat the Fish*

November 5 to December 12

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery is pleased to announce the solo exhibitions of artists Ursula Johnson (Eskasoni First Nation) and Christian Chapman (Fort William First Nation) later this Fall. Starting November 5, visitors will be able to view Johnson's skillful mastery of traditional Mi'kmaw basketry (with a twist!) and Chapman's vivid, multi-layered large-scale paintings. Please stay tuned and check www.theag.ca for additional information on the exhibition opening and the Mi'kmaw basketry workshop to be presented by Ursula Johnson.

Opening Reception: Friday, November 5, 7:30 pm

Mi'kmaw Basketry Workshop: November 5, 6, 7

Art Classes - Fall 2010

**Children's Art Classes
Adult Art Classes**

**To Register
Call 577-6427**

**Skilled Instructors and
Quality Materials**

NURTURING NATURE - AGES 4 - 5
SATURDAYS, Sept 18 - Oct 23 from 1 - 2 pm
Instructor: Bodicca Mitchell

Students will create leaf prints and leaf bowls. The bowls will be fired in a kiln. Different paints and natural materials will be used to bring unusual textures to their projects. Weather permitting, part of the class will be held outside. This course is for young artists to get out and explore the natural world for inspiration.

\$45 Members, \$55 Non-Members

FIBRE FUN - Ages 6 - 8
TUESDAYS, Sept 21 - Oct 26 from 6 - 7:30 pm
Instructor: Laura Preston

What is fibre art? Come and explore a variety of art making materials such as fabric, yarn, ribbon, embroidery yarns and paper. Students will be introduced to traditional and funky fibre art activities. The last two classes will focus on kite-making techniques.

\$65 Members, \$80 Non-Members

FAMILY FUN ART DAY
Sunday, Sept 26 from 1 - 4 pm
Taking place as part of Canada wide CULTURE DAYS.

FIND YOUR FOCAL POINT - Ages 9 - 13
WEDNESDAYS, Sept 22 - Oct 27 from 6 - 7:30 pm
Instructor: Christopher Keetch

This class will focus on COMPOSITION. The earlier children start to understand composition the better! It can be applied to drawing, painting, or any medium you use. The Golden Mean and finding good composition in our natural world will fascinate these young artists.

\$65 Members, \$80 Non-Members

PINE NEEDLE BASKETS
A WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS
Sunday, October 10 12:30 - 4:30 pm
Workshop Leaders: Jean Marshall and Vivian Alexander

Sewing skills are useful but not essential. Everyone welcome. Come out for a relaxing afternoon and create a small pine needle basket.

**\$20 Members
\$30 Non-Members**



Pine needle basket

Summer Art Camps

Summer Art Camps were hugely successful this year. The Gallery hosted two clay camps and we are grateful to local potters Alan Moon and Trudy Jamieson for firing the children's work in their kilns. We piloted new art camps such as "Outdoor Artists", and we were lucky to have guest art instructors from Lakehead University to help the children with their creations. "Thank you" to our instructors Denise Smith, an LU Fine Arts graduate, and Bodicca Mitchell, who will remain with us as an instructor throughout the year, while attending LU.



Bodicca Mitchell instructing a young participant in the outdoor art camp "Get Out and Create".



"Box Art Explosion" participants holding their plaster cast pieces with instructor Denise Smith (far right).

**See Yourself Supporting Art, Culture, Education.
See Yourself Giving to the Annual Fund.
See Yourself Here.**

For the first time ever Thunder Bay Art Gallery is establishing an Annual Fund Campaign. Expanding on the Gallery's theme of "See Yourself Here", the campaign is about seeing yourself as a vital contributor and supporter of the Gallery as well.

Since the Thunder Bay Art Gallery first opened its doors in 1976 as the National Exhibition Centre, it has been a public art gallery. Since then, a number of private galleries, studios and co-operatives have been established throughout the city and across the region. However, the Thunder Bay Art Gallery remains the only public art gallery between Sault Sainte Marie and Winnipeg.

As a public art gallery, a portion of funding for daily operations is provided through federal, provincial and municipal government agencies. As well, grants support specific projects and sponsorships contribute to the installation of exhibitions as well as special events. These sources do not, nor are they intended to, fully fund a public facility.

What makes a public gallery viable is the involvement of "the public". Through donations of all sizes, the public ensures the preservation of material culture – art, artefacts, literature, music; encourages the documenting of history, unique perspectives and individual talents and passes on a legacy to future generations.

Over the 34 years that the Thunder Bay Art Gallery has been in existence, the donations that sustain the facility have come mainly from Gallery members and arts philanthropists but a new and exciting campaign is about to be launched this September that is intended to expand the public's involvement.

Thunder Bay Art Gallery is here for EVERYONE to visit and enjoy. It's a PUBLIC art gallery. YOU are the public!
Supporting Your Thunder Bay Art Gallery is an investment in your community's future.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Campaign launch on September 17 and to working with you to sustain this incredible facility.

Elly Tose, Acting Development Officer

"See Yourself Here"

More detailed information about the **Annual Fund Campaign** will be sent to you but for now here are a few reasons for contributing to the Gallery when the time comes.

1. The demographics of Thunder Bay are changing as we move away from a resource-based economy into research, leisure activities and tourism. As part of this change, the Thunder Bay Art Gallery will become more of an economic driver than it already is.
2. A public art gallery, like a hospital, a symphony, a live theatre company, post-secondary institutions, recreational facilities and good schools, is an attribute young professionals look for when considering a move to a new city.
3. Art appreciation and arts education - both of which are readily available at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery - enrich our lives by providing an outlet for creative expression, developing our aesthetic senses and opening our minds to a fuller range of human experience. They also improve perception, awareness and concentration, encourage individual thinking and problem solving skills, increase confidence, self-worth and motivation and result in measurable gains in other academic pursuits such as reading, writing and mathematics.
4. Culture – defined as art, music, literature, language, ritual, religion and community sharing – is vital to the well being of the individual as well as the overall existence of humankind.

2010 Garden Tour - A Big Success!



Gardeners and sponsors of the 2010 Garden Tour

On Sunday July 25, the Gallery held its annual Garden tour featuring one public and five private gardens. The event has always been popular, but this year was record setting with almost 900 people viewing the gardens.

It is so wonderful to see long-time and first-time gardeners out getting ideas and gratifying to have so many appreciative participants applauding the hard work of those who commit to being on the Tour.

This event is also one of the Gallery's major fundraisers and in these difficult economic times, it is rewarding to have an event that people want to support and enjoy attending. The funds raised go directly towards the Gallery's operating budget and support our on-going exhibition schedule as well as our extensive arts education programs.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Gallery, we would like to thank all the garden owners, Master Gardeners, volunteers and participants who made this year's event such a great success. Thanks also go to Landale Garden Centre, Vaillant Florists and 'Twas the Month before Christmas for acting as additional ticket outlets, the Chronicle Journal, CBC Radio One and Dougall Media for wonderful promotional support as well as event sponsors CIBC Investors Group and Landale Gardens.

2010 Sponsors



Hope and Memory Garden Viewers

Monthly E-Link

Monthly updates of Gallery activities are now available by email.

If you wish to receive these, contact us at info@theag.ca

In the subject line, insert *E-Link request*.

Volunteer Spotlight Liz & Pauline - "Thursday Girls"



Liz Marchiori and Pauline McClay

Hats off to Liz Marchiori and Pauline McClay for their volunteer commitment to the Gallery! Every Thursday for many years, Liz and Pauline have been our friendly Front Desk Attendants, greeting people with their infectious smiles, selling articles in the Gift Shop and helping out with mailouts. Liz has been with us for 12 years, and Pauline for 10. Both have also volunteered for the Garden Tour, the Christmas House Tour, the Birdhouse Auction, and the Art Auction. Thank you Liz and Pauline! We are so appreciative of the time and skills that you bring to the Gallery.

Season Sponsor

The Chronicle Journal
THE NEWSPAPER OF THE NORTHERN

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Thunder Bay Art Gallery

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www.theag.ca

Gallery Viewing & Gift Shop Hours

Tuesday - Thursday
Noon - 8 pm
Friday - Sunday
Noon - 5 pm

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9 am - 5 pm

Admission

Adult \$3 +HST
Seniors & Students \$1.50 + HST
Children under 12 FREE
Members FREE

Admission Free on Wednesdays

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Funding & Ongoing Support

Thunder Bay Art Gallery is a registered charity supported by the City of Thunder Bay, Department of Canadian Heritage, The Canada Council for the Arts, FedNor, Ontario Arts Council, Government Ontario, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Lakehead Public Schools, Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, and private and corporate donations.

Thank you to Confederation College for its ongoing support.

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Robert Gombola - Installation Officer

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Brittany Kennedy
Dayna Olsen
Vanessa Perrier
Lesya Roberts