



THUNDER BAY
ART GALLERY

Newsletter

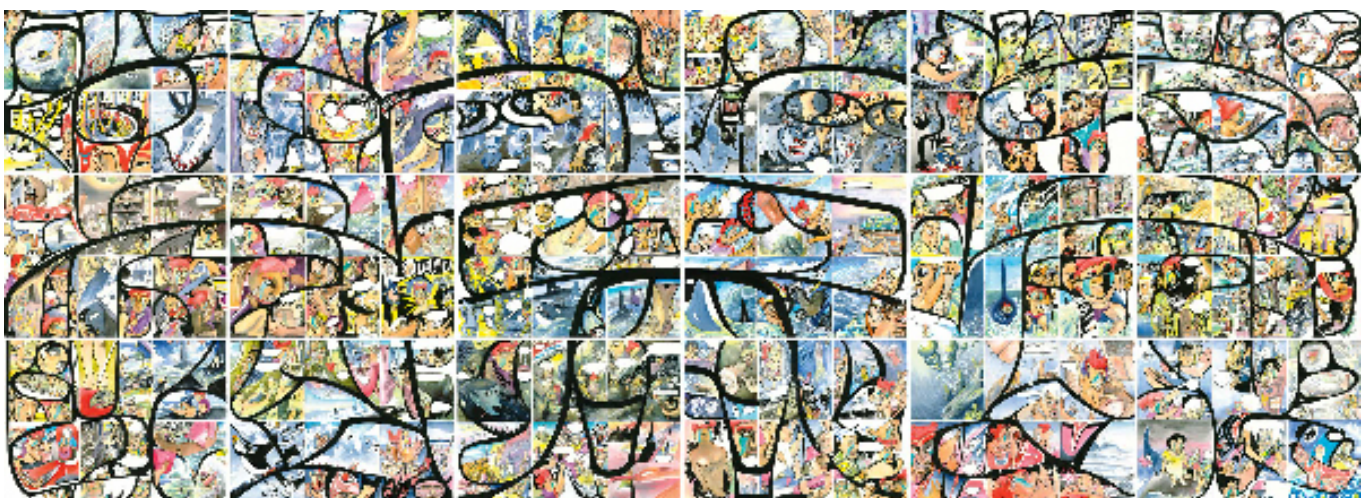
RED
Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas
November 4 to January 8, 2012
Curated by Nadia Kurd

Visually complex and energetic, *RED* is a cautionary story of a young boy whose actions as an adult deeply impact not only his own life, but also those in his village located along the islands of the Haida Gwaii. Written and illustrated by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, an artist whose creative practice amalgamates Haida narratives and iconography with the Japanese comic book aesthetic – known as manga – which transform both the pictorial and narrative form of the tradition of Haida storytelling. However, Yahgulanaas' work, a genre that is more aptly termed Haida Manga, is more than a visual retelling of a story; it is a re-visioning of the ways in which First Nations oral traditions are brought to life. While *RED* offers the visual style of the fantastical world of action-hero comics, its narrative draws upon a culture that continues to make meaning.

In recent years, the comic-book format has emerged as a useful means to illustrate often under-represented cultural

and historical narratives. In Canada, graphic novels have been instrumental in the telling of Aboriginal social history. Books from *The Life of Helen Betty Osborne* (2009) to *500 Years of Resistance* (2009) have depicted and addressed the social and political inequities faced by Aboriginal communities and have served as both reminders of unwritten histories and as an effective means to reach young audiences. In doing so, these books not only reinvigorate and challenge the conventions of Canadian history; they ultimately change perceptions and awareness.

In 1992, the Thunder Bay Art Gallery was fortunate to receive a donation of 77 works by Northwest Coast artists from collector Charles Peacock. This gift included a substantial number of carved masks as well as bentwood boxes and ceremonial items by artists such as Bill Reid, Robert Davidson and Art Thompson. These highly crafted masks, primarily used during ceremonial events such as potlatches, are living objects that also tell stories which not only make the supernatural world visible, but also convey knowledge about everyday life. A few of these works are also on display in conjunction with *RED* and speak to the diverse and multifaceted visual culture of Northwest Coast Art.



Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, *RED*, 2009, Watercolour on paper, 18 panels, 55.9 x 76.2 cm, Collection of Mr. Michael O'Brian

See Yourself Here

WINTER 2012

Mood Valleys: Walter Scott
November 8, 2011 to March 4, 2012
Curated by Nadia Kurd

Artist Talk: Friday, November 18
Artist Workshop: Saturday, November 19



Walter Scott, *Location of Self #2*, 2010, Digital print with acrylic screen-print layer, 55.9 x 71.1 cm, Collection of the artist

From indigenous metaphysical ideologies to raw punk aesthetics, the works presented in Walter Scott's exhibition *Mood Valleys* cover a number of terrains. However, at the heart of his artistic practice is a deep preoccupation with the "raw, complex relationship between the spiritual person and their environment". Rather, his works examine both the complex physical and psychic connections we have with the landscapes that surround us. No doubt, the imagery and levels of meaning of this investigation defy a linear understanding as the vivid silkscreened images and video projection offer uneasy glimpses into these themes. Considered self-portraits, print works such as *Adordarho Emerges* (2010) and the series *Location of the Self* (2010), incorporate images that have been cut, cropped and collaged, and at times, intentionally disjointed. These

works not only speak to the tropic and iconographic lexicon that have shaped Scott's life, but also to the uniformity of our own cultural attitudes and experiences with the natural environment.

In the video projection *Visitations* (2011), ghost-like images drift and transform onto the screen. Projected in the shape of a shield (which also doubles as a mask), we see hockey team logos merged with snippets of branches along with floating beer cans and twin phantom figures. These eerie and often disparate collaged digital images appear as a stream of consciousness across the screen and are described by Scott as the "personification of our cumulative spiritual being, shared by communities". In other words, these images, while broadly understood, are personalized through Scott's lens. Together with the projection, Scott's online web diary *NROTH AREMICA* continues this exploration into the unknown. Here, while scrolling through the image archive, viewers sense the disjunctive emotions of youth, time and loss, but more importantly, a place that has been turned up-side down and live streamed.

Despite the sheer abundance of knowledge and the heightened possibilities for making connections online, Scott's work points to the isolation that these new technologies bring. Like Alice, who while falling down the rabbit hole, encountered images and objects as she entered an alternative world, Walter Scott's own exploration very much aligns with this sense of displacement and the highs and lows of the valleys encountered along the way.

Voices of Women
from the Permanent Collection
November 4, 2011 to January 8, 2012
Curated by Nadia Kurd

In her iconic text *Under Western Eyes* (1984), Chandra Talpade Mohanty writes that "the assumption of women as an already constituted, coherent group with identical interests and desires, regardless of class, ethnic, or racial location or contradictions, implies a notion of gender or sexual difference or even patriarchy, which can be applied universally and cross-culturally". No doubt, in terms of the social, cultural and political backgrounds, the distinctions between women can often be greater than their similarities. Talpade Mohanty's text serves as a cautionary treatise against a generalized and even all encompassing understanding of the construction of womanhood.

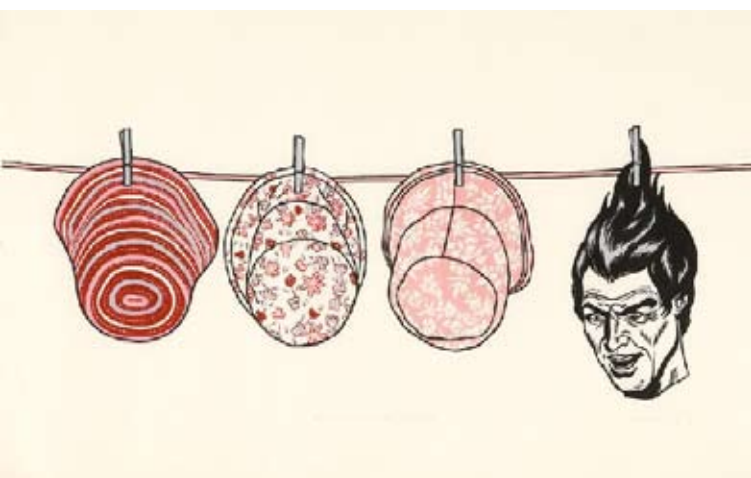
Voices of Women continued...

The exhibition *Voices of Women* explores this distinctiveness and features the work of an array of women in the Permanent Collection. These works, eclectic in their content and genre, speak to the material complexity and histories of the craft and creative practices of female artists. Moreover, viewers will be able to not only reflect upon the art of these artists, but also their words, which are included throughout the exhibition. At various points in the lives of these women, issues of access, creative process and cultural identity have played a defining role in their work. This exhibition seeks to pointedly understand their nuanced expressions.

Voices of Women features the work of notable artists such as Rebecca Belmore, Joane Cardinal-Schubert, Jane Ash Poitras, Daphne Odjig, Susan Ross, Angelique Merasty, Rebecca Baird, Ruth Cuthand, Christi Belcourt, Doris MacIntyre, Cathi Charles Wherry, Shelly Niro, Deborah Pitawanakwat, Edna Trudeau, Charlotte Delormier, Martha Suggashie, Teresa Marshall, Josette Debassige, Jane Pangowish, and Ellen Neel.

Sense of Place

Organized and Circulated by the Windsor
Printmaker's Forum
January 13 to February 26, 2012



Victor Romão, *Family Vacation, Algonquin Park*, 2006, 2007, Linocut, 71.12 x 26.03 cm, Image Courtesy Windsor Printmaker's Forum

This exhibition explores the concept of place through the work of 36 printmakers from Canada and the United States. Through traditional techniques such as monotype, etching, woodcut, lithograph and serigraph as well as

digital prints and found objects, it demonstrates the diversity of contemporary printmaking practices. Most of the artists in the show have approached the theme conceptually. While there are some landscapes that explicitly refer to a specific location, the exhibition focuses more on the way in which a sense of place is linked to individual identity, personal experience and memory.

As cultural geographers suggest, “place” is a way of describing meaningful space. A “space” becomes a “place” when there is a sense of belonging or connection to it. For some, a sense of place is synonymous with home. For others, it entails searching somewhere else.

Through the production of many circulating images, printmaking can evoke feelings of both proximity and belonging or, in contrast, remoteness and alienation. The experience of place mediated by printmaking is relative and variable, depending upon the viewer's experience and location. With multiple copies circulating in various contexts, prints are subject to diverse interpretations and can evoke a range of responses.

Please join us on Friday, January 27 at 7:30 pm
for readings by
Alistair MacLeod and Nino Ricci

Ontario Arts Council Exhibition Assistance Grants

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery invites visual artists and craft artists living in Northwestern Ontario to apply for financial assistance for costs related to a confirmed upcoming exhibition. The deadline for submission is January 20. Funding is for eligible expenses up to a maximum of \$1500 per artist per fiscal year. For program guidelines and an application form, go to www.arts.on.ca. Contact Sharon Godwin at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery for specific application inquiries at (807) 577-6427.

This program is funded by the Visual Arts Office of the Ontario Arts Council, an agency of the Government of Ontario.

Brian Holden: *Wilderness*

January 13 to March 4, 2012

Curated by Nadia Kurd



Brian Holden, *Water Pool along Superior*, 2009, polymer plate intaglio/hand colouring, image 12.7 x 17.8 cm, aper 25.5 x 30.5 cm, Varied edition of 20, printed on Fabriano rag.

Brian Holden has been an active visual artist/printmaker for nearly 30 years and has an artistic practice that spans painting, printmaking and drawing. For this exhibition, he will exhibit his most recent works which in his words, show the “interplay between structure, form, texture, colour, plus light and shadow offer me the challenge of interpretation using my intuitive and developed artistic skills.”

Join us on Friday, January 13, 7:30 pm
for the opening reception and
Brian Holden's Artist Talk

Thank You!

The Gallery Board and Staff extend a big thank you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the grant which provided the funding for the installation of a much needed new sound system in the galleries and lobby.

Patricia Deadman***Permanent Collection Spotlight***

Foyer - December 2, 2011 to March 4, 2012

Curated by Suzanne Morrisette

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery houses a growing Permanent Collection comprised of over 1,500 pieces. These *Permanent Collection Spotlight* exhibitions are intended to increase public access to the works within this collection, and to assist in the expansion of research and knowledge relating to individual pieces and artists.

This season's instalment of the *Permanent Collection Spotlight* series features the work of photo-based artist Patricia Deadman. Deadman is an artist and a curator who is currently based out of Woodstock, Ontario. She received her Fine Art Diploma from Fanshawe College in 1986, her Bachelor of Fine Art from the University of Windsor in 1988, and has taken part in creative residencies in Banff, Canada and Paris, France. This body of work, titled *Serve Series* was made in 1994 and is comprised of five large-scale photographs that together explore the different layers of meaning formed by the pairing of images and words.



Patricia Deadman, *Serve Series: Self-Serve*, 1994, Duratran on Plexiglas, 121.9 x 81.3 cm, Thunder Bay Art Gallery Collection Purchased with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts Acquisition Assistance Program.

Skilled Instructors

Art Classes - Winter 2012

Quality Materials

To Register Call 577-6427

PLAYFUL PRINTMAKING

Ages 4 - 6

Saturdays, January 21 to February 25

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Instructor: Laura K. Preston

Children will explore the printmaking process. Bubbles, leaves, corn cobs, and found objects create lots of fun possibilities for prints.

Gallery Members - \$45; Non-Members - \$55

PRINTMAKING PIZZAZ

Ages 6 - 8

Tuesdays, January 24 to February 28

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Instructor: Laura K. Preston

Children will do relief and mono prints from their drawings. Finding materials and making their own stamps will be exciting.

Gallery Members - \$65; Non-Members - \$80

EXPLORING BEAUTY & ART FOR GIRLS

For Girls Ages 9 - 14

Wednesdays, January 25 to February 29

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Instructor: Laura K. Preston

Instructor Laura Preston will continue to explore the theme of beauty and body image, and how it has been expressed in the arts. Lessons include drawing and printmaking.

Gallery Members - \$65; Non-Members - \$80

REPEAT THAT

Ages 9 - 13

Saturdays, January 21 to February 25

3:00 - 4:30 pm

Instructor: Kristal Kuivila

Participants will explore the printmaking process using three different techniques. They will be sure to bring home frameable work. Several classes will include drawing lessons.

Gallery Members - \$65; Non-Members - \$80

The Gallery Supports Pro Kids



Student sketching as part of the popular tour this Fall of the *George McLean: The Living Landscape* exhibit.



Students created masks as a follow-up to their tour of the *David Shaw: The Last Personas* exhibit.

GALLERY POLICY ON ART CLASS REFUNDS

No refunds for cancellations made less than one week prior to the beginning of class except as a result of unmitigated circumstances.

All refunds will be subject to a 10% administration fee regardless of when cancellation occurs.

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery reserves the right to cancel under-registered classes where numbers warrant. Refunds made because of Gallery cancellation will not be subject to the 10% administration fee.

Christmas House Tour



Home owners & business owners,
2011 Christmas House Tour

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery's 11th Annual Christmas House Tour was a holiday-spirited success! We would like to wish everyone involved with the Tour a heart-felt thank you for supporting this important fundraiser for the Gallery. To the homeowners, decorators, sponsors and hard-working volunteers: thank you!

Our decorators this year were Celebrations by George's, Elegant Impressions, Moss Cottage, Victoria's Cupboard, Vintage Pixie Studio, and Willow Springs Creative Centre. Their talent in creating alluring, beautiful, festive spaces is undeniable.

A special thanks to our generous sponsors for this event: Grant Thornton and Generator Strategy Advertising. Thank you for not only funding this event, but also for participating with enthusiasm.



CELEBRATE THE CULTURAL VIBRANCY
OF THIS REGION BY
SUPPORTING YOUR PUBLIC ART GALLERY

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery is a registered charity. This means that we rely on donations to support our exhibitions and education programming. This year, because of the growing demand for our space and programs, we need to raise 30% more than we did last year. If you are in a position to make a donation, we hope you will consider giving to the Art Gallery. There are many ways to offer support and we are open to discussing other options to best suit your personal giving requirements.

Ways to Give

General Donations

One-time only or regular (monthly or weekly) donations can be made to the Gallery in person, by mail or over the phone. Alternatively, visit our website at www.theag.ca to make a secure online donation through CanadaHelps.org.

In Memoriam/In Honour Gifts

Celebrate a loved one or a cherished memory with a memorial gift that supports the cultural vibrancy of this region.

Legacy Gifts

A bequest to the Thunder Bay Art Gallery is an ideal way to make a lasting difference while fulfilling philanthropic wishes. Please contact us to create your own, personal legacy with the Gallery. All inquiries are handled in a confidential manner.

Shares and Gifts of Public Securities

Donating shares to the Thunder Bay Art Gallery is an excellent way to maximize both giving capacity and tax benefits.

In Kind

The Gallery has an ongoing "wish list" of goods and services (including office equipment and art supplies) for our various education and exhibition programs.

AirMiles, Aeroplan and other Frequent Flyer Points

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery hosts visiting artists and presenters from cities across Canada. Contributions of Frequent Flyer Points help to offset our cost to bring these talented people to Thunder Bay for workshops, artist talks and lectures.

For more information

Please contact Socorro Woodman, Development Officer, at 577-6427 or email at development@theag.ca.



Thank you for supporting your
public Art Gallery.

Best wishes for the holiday
season!

Volunteer Spotlight



Wendy Jickling has been a volunteer tour guide (docent) for a year. She is a retired teacher from the Yukon whose daughter is a practicing artist. Wendy's main contribution has been to run tours and workshops for school groups but she has also helped to dismantle an exhibit, answered phones and she is shown here running a station for a Family and Culture Day event.

A Quote from Wendy:

"The tours are a wonderful opportunity for local children to see the world inside a gallery. I especially love the planned activities that give students the chance to enjoy the art exhibits and experiment with their own creativity. Kudos to the staff for making the Thunder Bay Art Gallery a welcoming place for students and volunteers."

Raffles

We have not one, but two raffles to participate in during December!



Canoe on display at Fort William Historical Park

There is still the chance to win the Art on the Water Canoe Raffle – draw date is December 15 at the Art Gallery. Tickets to win this incredible, functional, hand-painted canoe are available at the Gallery for \$5 each or three tickets for \$10.

If hand-crafted ornaments spark your interest, come on in to the Gallery to see the bedazzled Christmas tree fully decorated with handmade cloth and clay dolls donated by the Figurative Artists of Cloth and Clay group in Thunder Bay. Led by local artist, Leslie Bailey (of Vintage Pixie Studio—formerly Twas the Month Before Christmas), this group meets once a month to share ideas, information and techniques. They have donated literally dozens of charming, whimsical creations that are an absolute delight in detail, character and humour. Tickets for the tree are \$2 each or three for \$5.

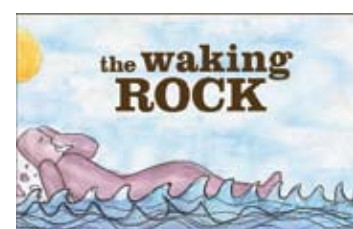


Members' Week in the Gift Shop December 4 to December 11

As a Gallery Member, you're in for a special treat! From December 4 to December 11, we're offering you a 30% discount on your purchases with the exception of consignment items. If you're looking for a gift for that special someone on your Christmas list, we offer a variety of items that will please you and the recipient. Hand-crafted jewellery, pottery, glassware, baskets, vases, mugs, t-shirts and scarves with Norval Morrisseau or Benjamin Chee Chee designs, hand-made scarves and mitts and children's items are just some of the selection available. We also offer gift cards and art class certificates.

Volunteers - Thank You!

Join us on December 15 from 5:00 to 7:00 for refreshments, goodies and a 25% discount in the Gift Shop.



Reprinted by popular demand in time for Christmas giving.

Get a Gallery gift bag free when you buy *the waking ROCK*.

Just \$11.99

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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, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Lakehead Public Schools, Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, and private and corporate donations.

Thank you to Confederation College Starbucks Coffee Co. and Signal Resources for their ongoing support.



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