



Jennifer Rose Sciarino, Erin Shirreff
Andrea Carlson, Annie MacDonnell, Kevin Schmidt

To What Earth Does This Sweet Cold Belong?

11 MARCH – 29 MAY 2011



CURATOR'S STATEMENT

To What Earth Does This Sweet Cold Belong?

The exhibition title “To What Earth Does This Sweet Cold Belong?” is borrowed from a poem by transcendentalist author Henry David Thoreau, and thereby signals a certain romanticism and lyrical quality in the works on view.

The landscape genre has been thoroughly deconstructed – particularly in Canada, particularly through post-colonial critique – to the degree that no contemporary representation of the landscape can be free from its many cultural interpretations. Working in the wake of this scholarship, many younger artists continue to be compelled by the natural world, but the topographies they envision are mediated, fragmented and oblique. (Several of the artists, for example, delve into the archive to process pre-existing representations and objects in their studios.) However, even while these artists are working at a distinct remove from the once-heroic experience of “being there” out in the landscape,¹ their work maintains affective traces of the landscape’s numinous – perhaps even sublime – power over us, rather than appearing dryly analytical. These artists’ works suggest that in the twenty-first century, the landscape genre must be approached as a kind of hall of mirrors where forms and their signification are always shifting. Replete with optical illusions and simulations, fantasies and phantasms, the exhibition refracts the natural world into myriad dazzling shards.

Jon Davies, March 2011

¹ Even Kevin Schmidt, the one artist here who actually did go outdoors to create his work.



BIOGRAPHIES

Andrea Carlson (born in Minneapolis, 1979) received her MFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and is currently based in Minneapolis. She has recently shown in solo exhibitions at the Plains Art Museum, North Fargo, North Dakota (2010) and the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, New York (2009–2010).

Annie MacDonnell (born in Windsor, 1976) received her BFA in photography from Ryerson University, completed her graduate studies at Le Fresnoy in France, and is currently based in Toronto. She has exhibited at such venues as the Images Festival, Toronto (2010) and the Grand Palais, Paris (2009), and had a solo exhibition at Gallery TPW, Toronto (2006).

Kevin Schmidt (born in Ottawa, 1972) received his BFA from the Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design, and is currently based in Vancouver. He has had solo exhibitions at such venues as the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Toronto (upcoming, 2011) and Presentation House, North Vancouver (2004), and has been included in group shows at the Vancouver Art Gallery (2009), Canadian Cultural Centre, Paris (2007) and Witte de With, Rotterdam (2007).

Beginning 1 May, a billboard project by Kevin Schmidt entitled *A Sign in the Northwest Passage* will be installed on the south facade of The Power Plant, co-presented with the 2011 Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival: Figure and Ground.

Jennifer Rose Sciarino (born in Toronto, 1983) received her BFA from Ryerson University and is currently based in Toronto. She has exhibited in group shows in Toronto at Red Bull 381 Projects (2009) and XPACE (2006), and in a solo exhibition at Le Gallery, Toronto (2010).

Erin Shirreff (born in Kelowna, 1975) received her BFA from the University of Victoria and her MFA in sculpture from Yale, and she is currently based in New York. Shirreff has had a recent solo show at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia (2010) and her work has been included in exhibitions at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Sculpture Center, New York (2010) and Helen Pitt Gallery, Vancouver (2006).

CAPTIONS

1. Andrea Carlson, *Le Château des Pyrénées*, 2007.
2. Jennifer Rose Sciarino, *Specimen 10*, 2008–9.
3. Erin Shirreff, *Roden Crater*, 2009.
4. Jennifer Rose Sciarino, *Specimen 11*, 2008–9.
5. Annie MacDonnell, *Alter Piece*, 2009, book pages on board. Courtesy the artist and Katharine Mulherin Contemporary Art Projects, Toronto.
6. Kevin Schmidt, *Disappearing Act*, 2009.

LIST OF WORKS

Andrea Carlson
Le Château des Pyrénées, 2007, mixed media on paper, 76 x 56 cm. Soo Visual Arts Center.
Waagidjijid, 2007, mixed media on paper, 76 cm x 56 cm. Collection of Tony Hainault and Greg Hewett.
The Tempst, 2008, mixed media on paper, 300 x 240 cm. Collection of the artist. Courtesy of Bockley Gallery, Minneapolis.
Portage, 2008, mixed media on paper, 500 x 240 x 240 cm. Collection of the artist. Courtesy of Bockley Gallery, Minneapolis.

Annie MacDonnell
No More Sea, 2011, piezographic inkjet, 51 x 69 cm.
Day Break (Eternity, like a crystal wall), 2010, piezographic inkjet, 76 x 81 cm.
Hoar frost at Black Diamond, 2011, book pages and tape, 69 cm x 51 cm.
Day Break (the Straight of Belle Island), 2010, piezographic inkjet, 71 x 81 cm.
Ellesmereland, 2010, piezographic inkjet, 81 x 87 cm.
The Abyss and the Horizon, 2010, book pages, 64 x 51 cm.
Mount Waddington / Drumheller, 2011, book pages and tape, 51 x 69 cm.
Untitled (Iceberg), 2011, MDF and brass casters, 178 cm x 165 cm x 208 cm.
All works courtesy the artist and Katharine Mulherin Contemporary Art Projects, Toronto.

Kevin Schmidt
Disappearing Act, 2009, single-channel HD video, colour, sound, 10 min.
Aurora with Roman Candle, 2007, C-print, 25 x 20 cm.
All works courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries Gallery, Vancouver.

Jennifer Rose Sciarino
Proposal for a Mountain 1, 2011, paper and archival glue, 42 x 24 x 16 cm.
Proposal for a Mountain 2, 2011, paper and archival glue, 55 x 22 x 14 cm.
Proposal for a Mountain 3, 2011, paper and archival glue, 34 x 34 x 25 cm.
Mineral Specimens 12–24, 2011, resin, plaster, apoxie sculpt, brass rod, acrylic paint, and glass paint on acrylic mount, approx. 6.5 x 6.5 x 5 cm each.
All works courtesy the artist.

Erin Shirreff
Roden Crater, 2009, single-channel HD video, colour, silent, 14:54 min. Courtesy the artist and Lisa Cooley Fine Art, New York.

Accompanied by Christian Bök’s poem “Midwinter Glaciaria” from *Crystallography* (Coach House Press, 2005).

HOURS
Tuesday to Sunday 12–6pm
416.973.4949
info@thepowerplant.org

ADMISSION
FREE Members
231 Queens Quay West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

LOCATION
M5J 2G8

GOVERNMENT FUNDERS
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EVENINGS 5–8 PM
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\$5 Students/Seniors
\$6 Adults

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ERIN SHIRREFF, ROSEN CARTER, 2009, SINGLE-CHANNEL HD VIDEO (STILL), COURTESY THE ARTIST AND LISA COOLY FINE ART, NEW YORK.