

Mark Thursday 5 April 2007 in your calendars and join us at Oakville Galleries for two spring exhibition openings...

Burrow

7 April to 3 June 2007 at Centennial Square

Oakville Galleries presents *Burrow*, curated by Shannon Anderson.

Burrow includes works by Janice Kerbel, Adriana Kuiper, Liz Magor and Samuel Roy-Bois.

Burrow focuses on the human desire for comfort and escape, and shows us the irony of how it can also breed isolation and paranoia in an impossible search for absolute safety. It investigates our need for shelter while alluding to its potential of becoming a barrier to the outside world. The works in this exhibition speak to the need to reinforce our personal boundaries; to render ourselves invisible, and hence, safe and secure. More importantly, they suggest the vicious cycle of this process and the relative absurdity of believing that we are capable of self-sustainability, particularly within the conditions of contemporary civilization.

The four artists in *Burrow* are intimately connected to these issues, each pulling out different referential threads. **Janice Kerbel's** suite of floor plan drawings appear to be created by an obsessive character. The maps contain decisively marked locations for safe passage, suggesting that they might be used for theft and crime, or even perhaps survival and necessity, as well. But from what? Or whom? Despite their quasi-scientific approach and the illusion of utter seriousness and dedication, they are - in reality - decidedly absurd.

Adriana Kuiper constructs sculptures that allude to the fallout shelters of the 1950s, investigating the practicality of human self-survival in the face of disaster. With a wry sense of humour, she explores the act of becoming over-prepared or obsessively concerned with safety. The works draw parallels between the Cold War fears of the 1950s and 60s, Y2K, and the current seclusionary tactics in the fallout from 9/11 and the current war on terrorism.

Liz Magor's focus is on the solitude and refuge of the woods. She challenges their romantic stereotype as an idealistic place of escape. Instead, in her photographs of abandoned shelters and her sculpture of a sleeping bag tucked into a tree trunk (entitled *Burrow*), we see the strangeness behind the human attempt to integrate into the natural environment. Her sculptures entwine the fake with the real and play with the notion of illusory appearances and disguise.

Samuel Roy-Bois focuses on the conditions of urban living, and the delicate point of transition between the choice of becoming the observer or the observed. His sculpture *Ghetto* enacts a powerful social condition that creates a state of discomfort between individuals. His work plays on the notion of psychic space and the psychological impact of the enclosures we create in order to

define our privacy.

All of the works in *Burrow* move beyond the specificity of these topics and their referents to contemporary culture, to express a more universal, timeless, and complicated human condition. They point to an individual attempt at refuge in the face of unknown threats. The mindset of *Burrow* represents a state of ongoing internal conflict at its most basic, human level.

This exhibition celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Canada Council for the Arts.

Monika Napier *mad, mad, mad, mad world* 7 April to 3 June 2007 in Gairloch Gardens

mad, mad, mad, mad world is organized and circulated by the Kenderdine Art Gallery at the University of Saskatchewan and is co-curated by Helen Marzolf (Kenderdine Art Gallery) and Brenda Barry-Byrne (Art Gallery of Prince Albert).

Artist **Monika Napier** investigates the overlooked accoutrements of everyday living. In *mad, mad, mad, mad world*, she has hyperbolized the physical properties of extension cords, erased their utilitarian qualities and transformed them into quizzical objects. The orange cords have been coiled into slouching, leaden nests, the blue cords have the feel of an invasive vine, and the huge braided yellow cord leads us into both fable and critique of energy usage. Napier's work recharges speculation, and invites us to reconsider anew the spatial qualities of technology and our firmly held values of consumption and material entitlement.

Originally from Montreal, **Monika Napier** moved to Saskatoon in 2000, where for the following four years she continued her obsessive, labour-intensive art practice and taught at the University of Saskatchewan. Previously, Napier studied and taught at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax. In addition, she has served on the executives of both Eye-Level and AKA artist-run centres in Halifax and Saskatoon respectively. She has exhibited nationally and internationally for the past twelve years. Now she lives and works in Montreal.

Kenderdine Art Gallery acknowledges financial support from the University of Saskatchewan, the Kenderdine Beamish Trust, U.S.T.E.P., Young Canada Works, Museums Association of Saskatchewan and The Canada Council for the Arts. The Saskatchewan Arts Board and The Canada Council for the Arts supported Monika Napier in the production of this body of work.

This exhibition is presented in conjunction with *The Craft Year 2007*.

Both exhibitions open on Thursday 5 April at 7:30 pm at Centennial Square, followed by a reception, sponsored by Whole Foods Market, Oakville. in Gairloch Gardens at 8:30 pm.

Opening events:

Adriana Kuiper (*Burrow* exhibition) will give an artist talk at 7:45 pm at Centennial Square.

Monika Napier will give an artist talk at 9 pm in Gairloch Gardens.

A **free shuttle bus** to Oakville Galleries's openings will depart Mercer Union, 37 Lisgar Street, Toronto, at 6:45 pm and will leave after Monika Napier's talk at approximately 9:45 pm.

Oakville Galleries has two locations:

Oakville Galleries at Centennial Square is located at 120 Navy Street in downtown Oakville. The gallery is open 12 to 9 pm Tuesday to Thursday; 12 to 5 pm Friday; 10 am to 5 pm Saturday; and 1 to 5 pm Sunday.

Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens is located at 1306 Lakeshore Road East, 2 km east of downtown Oakville. The gallery is open 1 to 5 pm Tuesday to Sunday.

Admission is free.

For further information on Oakville Galleries, our exhibitions or programmes, please call 905.844.4402 or visit <http://www.oakvillegalleries.com>

Media inquiries contact Olia Mishchenko, Interim Communications Officer, at 905.844.4402 ext. 28 or email communications@oakvillegalleries.com

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