

Family abstracts and the familiar on view at Oakville Galleries

For release June 15, 2009

OAKVILLE, ON, June 15 - This Friday, Oakville Galleries is pleased to present the opening of two new exhibitions. Micah Lexier's *Two Parents and Three Children*, on view at Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens, presents the artist's conceptual portraits of his family in a range of media, including sculpture, metalworks and works on paper. *hunter/gatherer*, an exhibition of photographs by Toronto-based artist Vid Ingelevics on view at Oakville Galleries at Centennial Square, features the artist's meditation on familiar Canadian structures: woodpiles and hunting platforms. Both exhibitions will run from June 20 to September 6, 2009.

Members of the public are invited to an opening reception on Friday June 19 at 7:30 pm at Centennial Square. A reception will follow from 8:30 to 10 pm in Gairloch Gardens. Both artists will be in attendance.

Micah Lexier: Two Parents and Three Children

While the search for identity has always been paramount to Lexier's practice, his work has never fit easily into the genre of traditional portraiture. Unlike most portraiture, Lexier does not rely on the appearance of the sitter, but rather a refined sense of materials that are everyday and familiar. *Two Parents and Three Children* focuses on the artist's portraits of his immediate family. Seen within the context of Gairloch estate, this exhibition allows the artist to explore more fully a familial discourse. Curated by Marnie Fleming.

Vid Ingelevics: hunter/gatherer

hunter/gatherer brings together photographs from two of Vid Ingelevics's most recent bodies of work: one of hunting platforms scattered in the countryside, the second of woodpiles. Capturing structures that seem to exist outside of any recorded history, his large-format photographs draw into tension the paradox of documenting without historicizing, of recording sites of collective memory without disturbing them. Curated by Joan Stebbins. Circulated by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and the Tom Thomson Art Gallery.

Also on exhibit:

Alex Metcalf: Tree Listening Installation (until 1 November 2009 in Gairloch Gardens)
Alex Metcalf's *Tree Listening Installation* links science and art to provide a fascinating new way of understanding trees. A sensor and amplifying device designed by the artist provides access to a tree's 'voice', allowing visitors to hear the subtle soundscapes created by a tree's internal workings. In so doing, Metcalf not only invites consideration of the visual pleasure of trees, but also opens up larger questions about our ability to take cues from the environment. Curated by Marnie Fleming.

This exhibition is made possible through the generous support of the Canadian TREE Fund and Maple Hill Tree Services.

Upcoming events at Oakville Galleries:

Conversations on the Porch: An Evening of Trees

Wednesday 15 July, 7:30 pm

Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens
Cost: \$5 (includes refreshments)

Join us for an evening of conversation on Gairloch estate's lakeside porch. Hosted by a guest writer, participants will be engaged in dialogue about trees as both landmarks of memory and environmental priorities. All participants are invited to bring personal stories and photographs to share.

ARTbus tour

Sunday 26 July, 11:30 to 5:30 pm

Co-presented by Oakville Galleries, Blackwood Gallery and Art Gallery of Mississauga

Cost: \$10

Take a ride on the ARTbus and experience this summer's exhibitions through artists' and curators' eyes. At Oakville Galleries, tours include *Micah Lexier: Two Parents and Three Children* and *Vid Ingelevics: hunter/gatherer*, as well as works installed in Gairloch Gardens, such as Janet Cardiff's *A Large Slow River* and Alex Metcalf's *Tree Listening Installation*. The tour will continue with Blackwood Gallery's off-site exhibition, *The Projects: Port Credit*, curated by Christof Migone, followed by *Seeing with Closed Eyes: Five Abstract Artists* at the Art Gallery of Mississauga.

For more information call Oakville Galleries at (905) 844-4402 or visit oakvillegalleries.com.

Oakville Galleries (Og₂) is a not-for-profit charitable public art museum where contemporary art is the impetus for advancing imagination and self-reflection. Through two sites, Og₂ serves communities in Oakville, Halton Region and wider audiences nationally and internationally. Oakville Galleries acknowledges the ongoing support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and the Corporation of the Town of Oakville along with our many individual, corporate and foundation partners.

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