

The conversation series.

Discussing Saskatoon through the practices of visiting creatives.

Presented by Finding City and void gallery

June to September, 2015

The Conversation Series is a program of collaborative projects and discussions with visiting artists and writers, organized by Saskatoon's Finding City and void gallery. By allowing us to see through the eyes of those unfamiliar with our city, the project looks to unsettle our existing perceptions of Saskatoon, creating opportunities for new discussions on how we interact with the city and each other while providing an inclusive space through participatory art projects and roundtable discussions.

The 2015 edition of The Conversation Series involves four Vancouver-based creatives: writer Darren Fleet and artists prOphecy sun, Monique Motut-Firth, and Jay White. Building from their current practices, their projects will explore Saskatoon's environment and ecologies, ranging from our visual ecology - how we represent ourselves through print communications including posters and brochures - to the hidden ecologies of urban wildlife.

As each of the visiting creatives will bring practices uncommon in Saskatoon, in addition to public events they will make time available to work and meet with local artists and writers. These meetings will involve alternative forms of education and knowledge-sharing, from storytelling to experiential learning, to support and strengthen Saskatoon's creative community.

Events

prOphecy sun & Darren Fleet

Performance & roundtable discussion: Wed. June 24th, 7 to 9 pm

Location: The Stand Community Organizing Centre, 615 Main St. E.

prOphecy & Darren will be exploring Saskatoon's landscape and the role it plays in constructing our civic identity. prOphecy, an interdisciplinary performance artist, will be recording video, sound, and performance using weather balloons in rural areas surrounding Saskatoon as source material for a performance on June 24th. That same evening Darren will be engaging in a public conversation with local ecologists and activists, exploring the forms that discussion around environmental activism and climate change take in Saskatoon and the role our landscape plays in informing this dialogue.

Monique Motut-Firth

Artist talk and roundtable discussion: Sat. July 4th, 1 to 3 pm

Location: The Two Twenty, 220 20th St. W.

» in association with Street Meet

Residency and drop-in workshops: June 29th to July 3rd (by appt.)

Location: void gallery, #2 1006 8th Street East

A collage artist, Monique will be exploring the way Saskatoon represents itself through its print materials. During her residency, Monique will be collecting, cutting apart, and recombining band posters, brochures, and other printed matter, removing individual images from their original context to help us see patterns of representation that have built up over time. Through this process she will help us to see our print communications through fresh eyes and start new discussions on the ways we represent our city.

Jay White

Presentation and roundtable discussion: Sat. Sept. 26th

Location: Riversdale

» in association with Nuit Blanche Saskatoon 2015

Jay's week-long visit is the first part of a multi-year collaboration with ecologists and other community members here to bring attention to the entanglement among humans, domestic animals, and wildlife in Saskatoon. As part of his visit, Jay will participate in a *Coyote Walk*, attempting to remain hidden from human sight for multiple days to better understand the ways wildlife move through and inhabit our city. In addition to participatory art walks and video installations, Jay will share stories about his experiences with urban wildlife, encouraging community members to share their stories as well.

Artist bios



PROPHECY SUN is an interdisciplinary performance artist. She is a recent graduate from the MAA Visual Arts program at Emily Carr University of Art + Design and is the recipient of the Governor General's Gold Medal. She begins a PhD this fall with MovingStories in the School of Interactive Arts + Technology at Simon Fraser University. Her practice threads together both conscious and unconscious choreographies, sound, and environment to create exploratory works that invoke deep body memory and draw from an interior landscape of dreams. She is a founding member of Dance Troupe Practice (a movement based performance collective) and current resident at the Pandora Park Fieldhouse.

prOphecy has exhibited nationally and internationally. She has shown her work at such events as the International Symposium on Electronic Art 2015, FUSE at the Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver International Jazz Festival, Month of Performance Art (Berlin), Exploding Cinema (UK), Square Waves Festival (UK), Experimental Cinema Explosion (USA), Low Lives 4 (USA), and Soundasaurus Media Arts Festival (AB). Her musical projects include: prOphecy sun, Tyranahorse, VEE, Under the Sun, Spell, and The Adulthood.

www.prophecysun.ca



DARREN FLEET is a writer, journalist, and PhD student in Communications at Simon Fraser University. He's been published in the UTNE Reader, Adbusters, AlJazeera and the Globe & Mail and has given numerous public lectures on art and activism, including at the 2013 Istanbul Biennial. He has also worked as a media trainer with Journalists for Human Rights. He's interested in degrowth economics, climate justice, political cynicism, and the mythology of finance.



MONIQUE MOTUT-FIRTH is a writer and multidisciplinary artist, working primarily in paper, paint and textiles. Her current works use collage and photomontage as critical strategies for exploring the role of technical images in knowledge production and cultural representation.

Monique's works have been shown nationally and internationally. She recently completed a Master of Applied Arts at Emily Carr University of Art + Design. She also holds a BFA from Emily Carr (2010) and a BA in Psychology from the University of British Columbia (2003). Born into a distinctly mixed cultural heritage of French Roman Catholic and Russian Doukhobor, she developed a sense of critical curiosity surrounding pop-culture's influence on cultural identity. Monique currently teaches for Vancouver's Visual College of Art and Design.

www.moniquemotutfirth.com



JAY WHITE is an artist of Mi'kmaq and European descent. His work involves walking in interstitial suburban and urban areas. He is interested in land use and perceptions of landscape, the interactions between identities and colonial institutions, and the ways that nonhuman entities become entangled with human projects. Jay is a recent Master of Applied Arts graduate from Emily Carr University of Art + Design and is co-founder of the Urban Animal Agency, a group of ecologists and artists in Vancouver who are working alongside municipal institutions and local ecologists to engage Vancouverites in a series of projects that raise awareness of the urban space as a shared habitat.

Jay's work has shown worldwide and his films have won various awards internationally, including Best Animated Short at the Worldwide Animation Festival (2010), and a longlist entry for a "Best Animated Short" Academy Award nomination. His work has exhibited at the Istanbul Design Biennale (2014), Charles H. Scott Gallery (2014), Yukon Arts Centre Gallery (2013), the National Arts Centre (2013), the University of Glasgow (2011), PuSH Festival Vancouver (2011), and ODD Gallery Dawson City (2008). Jay is Sessional Faculty at Emily Carr.

www.draworbedrawn.com

Project organizers



FINDING CITY COMMUNITY ARTS INC. is a public art organization that builds relationships between artists and the larger Saskatoon community through collaborative projects focused on the idea of city and the experience of contemporary urban living.

void

VOID GALLERY supports Saskatchewan's emerging artists and offers affordable, accessible art. They help young artists develop their professional practices and expand their exhibition history while partnering with local businesses as off-site galleries to increase the space and possibilities for art in Saskatoon.

Community partners



NUIT BLANCHE SASKATOON is a free night-time arts festival that showcases and celebrates art and culture. Overtaking multiple venues and the city's streets, contemporary art such as dance, theatre, music, poetry, and art installations will entertain and wow festival-goers late into the evening.



THE STAND COMMUNITY ORGANIZING CENTRE is a partnership between Turning the Tide bookstore and Treaty 6 Justice Collective, a new organization working to enhance and support collective efforts advocating for social, environmental, and economic justice in our community. The Stand will house the bookstore and provide space for organizations, community organizers, and concerned individuals working for change.



STREET MEET is a not-for-profit festival showcasing art in Saskatoon's public spaces. Street Meet serves as a response to Saskatoon's prevalence of permanent public art sculpture and looks not only to provide a more immediate or ephemeral alternative to such artworks but also to discuss the meaning of public art as a whole in a city with a strong history of public, street and graffiti art but very little public dialogue on these practices.

Thanks!

