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Sylvia Kind, *Openings*, 2005-2007, felted wool and stone

Shift

Working through Repetition and Difference

July 13 - September 9, 2007

Nora Blanck, Jenny Judge, Sylvia Kind, Philippe Sokazo and Tim van Wijk.

In the exhibition, *Shift, Working through Repetition and Difference* five artists explore conceptions of change, repetition and perpetual production. The works present serial and fastidious activities exploring transformation over time. Each artist examines individual concerns that include, but are not limited to, environmental degradation, ephemerality, permanence, calls for social change and personal, inward reflection. All of the works have been formed through laborious processes that are self-evident to viewers. The labour involved in each instance has strong connections with the body.

In Tim van Wijk's work these connections are realized through viewers participation with the work as they use their bodies to set the piece in motion. In serial works such as *Imaginations* by Jenny Judge, Sylvia Kind's *Openings* and Nora Blanck's thread drawings; there is a relationship to the hand-held object involving an intimate engagement. When the small individual works are presented as a group they overwhelm the body with their collective presence. An aspect of repetition is utilized by all of the artists; in Philippe Sokazo's paintings he incorporates recurring symbols and personal iconography, developing connections through repetitions of colour and form. The idea of repetition also leads to a cyclical understanding of the works, a revisiting of ideas and processes that invite reflection and connection.

The distinct series of meticulous thread drawings by Nora Blanck explores notions of beauty and delight, as well as topical issues like eugenics, genetic engineering and the Nature of Nature. Her works evoke a sense of delicacy and elegance, recalling traditional women's craft such as crocheting, needlepoint and lace making.

Sylvia Kind's production of hand-held objects utilizes domestic processes, repetitive gestures and body rhythms to create an intricate installation in the gallery. Through the method of hand-felting wool forms around found rocks, she engages in a continual process of questioning and reinterpretation of ideas pertaining to loss and comfort.

Tim van Wijk's *The Landscape Generator* is an interactive sculpture, presenting a hand cranked, shifting image of our changing landscape. Human intervention on the land is represented through painted and modeled layers rolling along as though seen through the window of a car on a road trip. The resulting landscape is a seemingly endless recombination controlled by the viewer.

Imaginings, a time-based installation by Jenny Judge, covers a large wall of the gallery with tiny sculptural works that were created weekly over a year and a half period. The process-oriented pieces represent a personal shifting and evolution as well as referencing marginalized art-making practices and perpetual production.

Philippe Sokazo's colourful paintings present a combination of interpreted and invented landscapes. The artist uses recombinations and variants of pattern and colour in an articulation of the responsibility of individuals in contributing to a positive evolution of society through creative thought and action.

The opening reception will be held Thursday, July 12 from 6:30 -8:30pm with the artists in attendance. The opening is free and everyone is welcome to attend. The exhibit is on until September 9, 2007.

Running concurrently is the second annual Artist Trading Card (ATC) Exhibition July 13 - September 7th. Artists and non-artists have submitted their ATCs from across Canada and internationally. ATCs are tiny works of art that are made to trade. There are no restrictions of medium - materials might involve collage, drawing, painting, stained glass, metal, wax, computer generated imaging, photography - the possibilities are endless! ATCs are intended to be a non-commercial, non-hierarchical avenue for artistic exchange. Cards are traded one for one and everyone is invited to participate. Some exhibition participants will be on hand to trade their cards and the public is invited to create their own cards and come and trade with them at this free event.

The Richmond Art Gallery holds monthly trading sessions on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 7-8:30pm. For more information or to get involved with Artist Trading Cards contact Carie Helm, Curatorial Assistant at chelm@richmond.ca or by phone at 604-247-8317.

The Richmond Art Gallery is located at 180-7700 Minoru Gate in Richmond. **Gallery hours are 10:00am to 6:00pm from Monday to Friday and 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday.** For more information visit our website at www.richmondartgallery.org.

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