

RICHMOND ART GALLERY

Keith Langergraber: Theatre of the Exploding Sun

February 9 to April 6, 2014



Guardian of the Future, 2009, (film still)

The Richmond Art Gallery is very pleased to host this major exhibition by Keith Langergraber, produced by the Kelowna Art Gallery in partnership with the Southern Alberta Art Gallery in Lethbridge. Keith Langergraber is a mid-career artist based in Vancouver. The exhibition, *Theatre of the Exploding Sun*, focuses on Langergraber's three-part film, *Time Traveller Trilogy*, completed in 2013, and also includes seven sculptures and two suites of drawings. The work is situated in Sci Fi culture and the film apes the form of Sci Fi fan films. A complicated story weaves throughout the trilogy, with scenes shot in such varied locales as the Cayman Islands, the Yukon, Great Salt Lake in Utah, Lake Okanagan, Mono Lake in California, and Pavilion Lake in BC. The exhibition catalogue includes texts by Liz Wylie (KAG curator), as well as Ryan Doherty (SAAG curator), Vancouver-based art historian and critic, Charlotte Townsend-Gault, and Victoria-based artist, writer and curator, Peter Morin.

The first film, called *Theatre of the Exploding Sun*, centres around Langergraber's alter ego Eton Corrasable making his own fan film at the Britannia Beach site, along the Pacific coast north of Vancouver. He then travels to a site in the desert-like landscape near Kamloops, BC, known as the Eye of Jupiter, an opening into a grotto within a natural rock formation. Once inside Eton is transported to Robert Smithson's *Spiral Jetty* on Great Salt Lake in Utah.

The second film, titled *You Can't Go Home Again*, shifts its narrative style to sequences created in animation. Eton reads about the real-life person of Donald Crowhurst and his failed and fatal 1968 attempt to sail around the world in a small boat. Eton feels that a similar fate has befallen him: that he has become unhinged from time. He seeks a remedy, using technical means at Pavilion Lake, BC, and also wants to shoot his own fan film based on the novel (and film) by Andrei Tarkovsky *Solaris*. In Langergraber's third film Eton Corrasable must repair the rupture to the space/time continuum that has occurred. Titled *The Glass Island*, this film explores *Dr Who* fandom, and Robert Smithson's never realized Glass Island project.

Keith Langergraber's work functions on several levels at any given point of engagement; sometimes spoofing the forms it imitates, in other ways, paying homage, both to past artists and achievements in science fiction. These notions and others are explored in the catalogue texts. The opening reception will be on Saturday, February 8, 2:00 – 4:30pm, with an Artist's tour at 2:30pm. The exhibition continues until April 6, 2014.

In partnership with **Cinevolution Media Arts Society**, the RAG is hosting a free film screening of the 1972 cult-classic *Solaris* by Russian film-maker Andrei Tarkovsky on **Thursday, February 27 from 6:30-9:00pm**. Keith Langergraber will be in attendance.

The Richmond Art Gallery is located in the Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond. For more information visit www.richmondartgallery.org

The Richmond Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Richmond, the British Columbia Arts Council, the Province of British Columbia, Artsvest, (ArtsVest Vancouver is run by Business for the Arts with the support of the Government of BC and Canadian Heritage), Richmond Community Foundation, Canadian Western Bank, and G&F Financial Group. Wine for the opening reception has been generously provided by Peller Estates.