

BURNABY ART GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CANADIAN ARTIST MICAH LEXIER'S LIFE'S WORK TO DATE

Burnaby Art Gallery Exhibition Commemorates Thirty Years in the Working Life of Micah Lexier Framed into 470 Finished Drawings and Artist Book Sept 7-Nov 11, 2012

BURNABY, BC– *Working as a Drawing* is a project 30 years in the making. It is a unique artist book and site-specific exhibition of 470 letter-size pages culled from the artist's files and archives, dating back to the early 1980's. Micah Lexier has earned an international reputation as one of Canada's pre-eminent artists and curators with both solo and group exhibitions spanning the globe from Canada to Australia, Brazil, and Europe. Lexier is best known for combining conceptual art with sculpture where the idea is more important than the artifact he creates. His diverse practice spans drawing, sculpture, a dozen public art installations and collaborative work with writers. Lexier's working process is characterized by collaboration, third-party fabrication, detailed correspondence and careful documentation. *Working as a Drawing* amplifies these aspects of Lexier's working history, representing working documents as finished drawings. *Working as a Drawing* runs September 7 to November 11 in both the main and upper level galleries at the Burnaby Art Gallery.

"One of the most ambitious projects the Burnaby Art Gallery has undertaken, *Working as a Drawing* provides the gallery with a unique opportunity to explore an artist's practice through his 'working' drawings and sketches," says Burnaby Art Gallery's Director/Curator, Darrin Martens, "Lexier's work is not only engaging on a visual level, it provides opportunities for us as viewers to see the concepts behind the work and the process by which a project is conceived and developed."

Micah Lexier is a Winnipeg-born and Toronto-based artist, with a Master of Fine Art from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Lexier keeps with the protocols of conceptualism where an idea in his work precedes the means used to express it. Materials play an important role in Lexier's art and his attention to detail has been compared by some to the precision of a Swiss watchmaker. *Working as a Drawing* is conceived of as an installation and artist book project. Drawn from the artist's archive of drawings, sketches, concept plans, and faxes the exhibition will highlight 470 8½" x 11" works of art. Hung throughout the Burnaby Art Gallery space in various grid formations, the exhibition investigates the linkages and differences between numerous projects Lexier has considered throughout his 30 plus-year career; present an alternative way in which to think about and engage with an artist's archive; and lastly to question the relationships between ideas and drawing. Lexier places art in the eye of the beholder, flirting here and there with art history and provoking us to choose what to see and how to see it. Lexier's work exhibits an earnestness and refreshing sense of sincerity, one that invites the viewer into the work, rather than away from it.

For a complete listing of Lexier's solo exhibitions, group exhibitions and temporary public projects, public and corporate collections, public art commissions, curatorial work, web projects, design-related projects, and publications along with an impressive bibliography, go to: www.micahlexier.com Photographs and interviews with the artist are available on request.

Media are invited to a special reception and exhibition preview of *Micah Lexier: Working as a Drawing* Tuesday, Sept 4 at 10:00 am. Curator Darrin Martens and the artist will provide a tour and will be available for interviews.

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Artist Bio and Special Events follow on Page 2



Micah Lexier, excerpt from *Working as a Drawing*, 2012
Photo courtesy of the artist

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The Burnaby Art Gallery is dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting a contemporary and historical visual art program by local, national and internationally recognized artists. As the stewards of the third largest public art museum collection within the Province of British Columbia, the Burnaby Art Gallery cares for and manages over 4,000 works of art. The Burnaby Art Gallery is a nationally recognized leader in print culture dedicated to showcasing original hand pulled prints and ephemera related to printmaking in Canada.

For more information about the gallery's exhibitions, programs, tours, call 604-297-4422 or visit www.burnabyartgallery.ca. Located in beautiful surroundings of Deer Lake Park, the Burnaby Art Gallery is open Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 am-4:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday, 12:00-5:00 pm. Admission is by donation; parking is free.

The Burnaby Art Gallery acknowledges the generous support provided by: the City of Burnaby; the British Columbia Arts Council; the Province of British Columbia, its patrons and visitors.



Artist Micah Lexier

Artist's Bio

Micah Lexier

Educated at the University of Manitoba (BFA, 1982) and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (MFA, 1984), Lexier is represented by Birch Libralato (Toronto), TrépanierBaer (Calgary), Gitte Weise Galerie (Sydney, Australia), and currently lives in Toronto.

Lexier has produced over a dozen public sculptures, often involving the repetition of large quantities of a specific item. He is known for making artworks in series; starting with a simple idea, he works through it in a systematic fashion. Lexier's interest in ephemera adds another dimension to his practice. He makes posters, exhibition invites, t-shirts, and other art multiples to create parallel lives for his artworks, extending his art practice out of the gallery and into the world. In his own words, Lexier acknowledges the duality of being both an individual and part of a larger community.

Lexier's diverse practice spans drawing, sculpture, a dozen public art installations and collaborative work with writers. His working process both as an artist and curator is characterized by collaboration, third-party fabrication, detailed correspondence and careful documentation. Lexier utilizes the onslaught of throwaways and trash that surround us to create ordered elements that he transforms to create a poetry that would not otherwise exist or be experienced by the viewer.

For a complete listing of Lexier's solo exhibitions, group exhibitions and temporary public projects, public and corporate collections, public art commissions, curatorial work, web projects, design-related projects, and publications along with an impressive bibliography, go to:

www.micahlexier.com

Micah Lexier: *Working as a Drawing* Special Events at the Burnaby Art Gallery

Press Preview

Tuesday, September 4, 10:00 a.m.

Artist in Attendance

Refreshments Provided/Main Gallery

Opening Reception

Thursday, September 6, 7 p.m.

Artist in Attendance

Refreshments Provided/Main Gallery

Artist Talk

Sunday, September 9, 2 p.m.

Enjoy a free tour of the exhibition with the artist.

All ages. No registration required. No fee.

Lunch B.A.G. Days

Friday, October 19, 12 noon – 1 p.m.

Enjoy a short tour of the exhibition led by our public programmer, Shaun Dacey, followed by a catered lunch and refreshments in the Art Gallery's Fireside Room. Limited seating; book early. Bookings must be made 24 hours in advance. Twenty-four hours notice required for a refund. \$12 includes lunch/ 16 yrs & up/ Call to register: 604-297-4422

Free Family Sunday

In the B.A.G.

Sunday, October 28, 1-4 p.m.

Join us for an interactive experience that combines the current gallery exhibit *Working as a Drawing* with a free, hands-on studio activity. All Ages. No registration required. No fee.