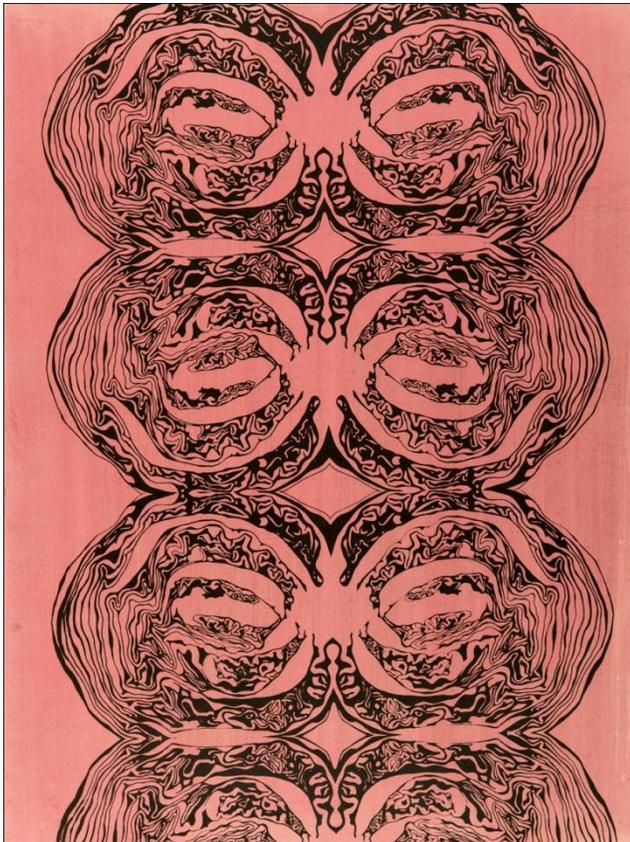


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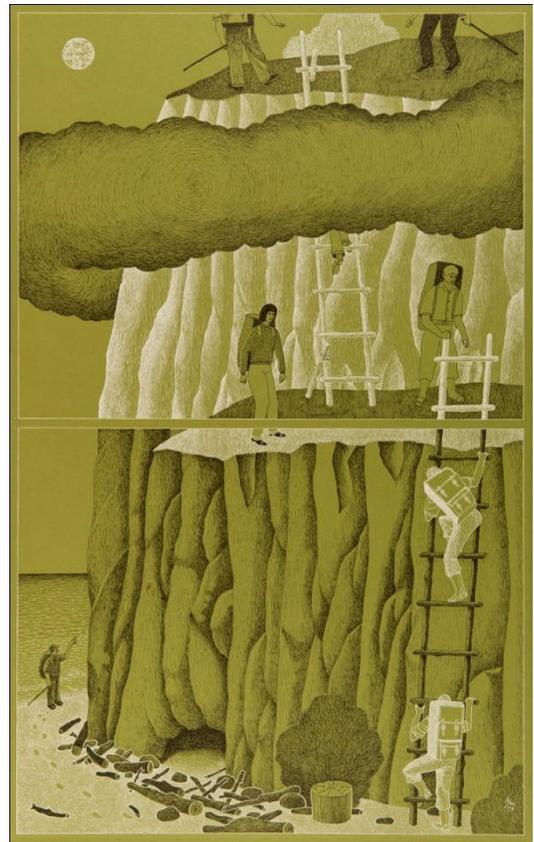
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 18, 2013

OUTREACH EXHIBITION SERIES



Ashley Culver and John Stocking:
Upon Close Observation

Bob Prittie Library (Metrotown) 6100 Willingdon Ave
February 18-April 21, 2013



Jack Akroyd: Works from the
Burnaby Art Gallery Permanent Collection

McGill Library, 4595 Albert St
February 19-April 22, 2013

BURNABY, BC – The Burnaby Art Gallery is pleased to present two off-site exhibitions at Burnaby's public libraries: *Ashley Culver and John Stocking: Upon Close Observation* and *Jack Akroyd: Works from the Burnaby Art Gallery Permanent Collection*.

Local Burnaby artist **Ashley Culver** works at studying and highlighting nature's intricacy – especially in common fruits, vegetables and other foods. Through isolation and transformation Culver plays with the ability to recognize the objects she works with. Culver's series of *Wallpaper* (2011) uses common objects, familiar textures and natural dyes to create reformulations of various things we consume. Apple cores, citrus fruits, cabbages, mushrooms and broccoli are re-envisioned as patterns and considered from an aesthetic point of view. Culver recently received her BFA in Visual Arts and BA in Psychology from the University of Victoria, and lives and works in Burnaby. More of her work can viewed at <http://ashleydianaculver.wordpress.com>.

John Stocking (1938-2012) was an artist and art historian originally from Kansas City, Missouri. Stocking received an MFA (1967) from the University of British Columbia and an MAT from Harvard University, and began teaching within the University of Calgary's Art History Department in 1970, where he remained teaching for 42 years. Much admired by students and colleagues alike, Stocking was known as a unique, humorous character

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who held engaging and suspenseful lectures. Stocking prided himself on a career that bridged the gaps between studio practice and academic study, Eastern and Western art and ancient and post-modern art culture. He also created a significant body of studio work in printmaking and photography. The works presented here, created in the late 1960s, were originally sold at record stores. The works show psychedelic and “Op-art” influences from this time, using colour contrast and repetition to play visual tricks with movement. The Burnaby Art Gallery holds these five works by John Stocking in its Permanent Collection.

Artist **Jack Akroyd** (1921-1996) was born in Halifax, England. In 1947, he immigrated to Ontario to work as a machinist. After 18 months he quit his job working for the CNR and enrolled at the Ontario College of Art, going on to graduate in 1953. Shortly after, Akroyd moved to the West Coast, taking on various positions and working full-time as a draftsman with a Vancouver consulting engineering firm. He sketched and painted in his spare time and between jobs. By 1961, he was living in Kitsilano and had declared himself a freelance artist. Jack is quoted as saying “I figured if I could generate \$100 per month, I could make it.” As not many of his early works sold, Jack supported himself by helping local sculptors. While Akroyd remains comparatively unknown on the West Coast, his work is held in many private and public collections, and a forthcoming book by Mother Tongue Press will feature his work. The works shown here, most from the early 1970s, present outdoor scenes of British Columbia. The Burnaby Art Gallery is honoured to present its wonderful collection of Akroyd paintings and drawings as a tribute to a highly skilled artist who documented his surroundings with meticulous detail and a personal, almost humorous touch.

The Burnaby Art Gallery Outreach Exhibition Series showcases artwork from local, emerging artists, as well as nationally-known, established artists in the spaces of Burnaby’s Public Libraries. For additional artist’s talks and events in this series visit: www.burnabyartgallery.ca

Image Credits: (Left) Ashley Culver, *Wallpaper 0538- Column of Fibonacci*, 2011, silkscreen print on paper with natural dye, 45.72 x 60.96 cm, image courtesy of the artist. (Right) Jack Akroyd, *Telegraph Trail*, 1973, ink on card paper, 81.2 x 51.0 cm. Gift of Johanna Hickey, collection of the Burnaby Art Gallery.

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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 artist. As the stewards of the third largest public art museum collection with 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, and tours, call 604-297-4422 or visit www.burnabyartgallery.ca. Located in the beautiful surroundings of Deer Lake Park, the Burnaby Art Gallery is open Tuesday to Friday, 10:00am to 4:30pm and on Saturday and Sunday, 12noon to 5:00pm. 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.