

BURNABY ART GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2012

CEPERLEY MANSION'S FORMER RESIDENTS DRAWN ON THE WALLS BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH PORTRAITS FROM THE GALLERY'S WORLD CLASS COLLECTION

**Burnaby Art Gallery Features
*The Gaze of History: Portraits from the Collection with
Drawing Installation by Elizabeth MacKenzie*
July 6-Aug 26, 2012**

BURNABY, BC— Surprising and thought provoking, *The Gaze of History: Portraits from the Collection with Drawing Installation by Elizabeth MacKenzie* is an innovative exhibition featuring both the work of contemporary Vancouver-based artist Elizabeth MacKenzie and a selection of portrait drawings and other works on paper from the art gallery's extensive collection. For the Burnaby Art Gallery opening on Friday July 6, MacKenzie will have created a site specific drawing installation in both the main and upper galleries responding to the history of Ceperley Mansion before it became the Burnaby Art Gallery in 1967. The installation will represent the real and imagined faces of former residents of Ceperley Mansion from 1910 to 1966 hand-drawn by MacKenzie with graphite powder on the walls. Simultaneously, selected works from the permanent collection, will be featured that will probe the conventions of portraiture and the exchange of the gaze through drawing, printmaking, photography and painting. Creating dialogues is at the core of this exhibition—between the artworks, the past and present, the mansion and its uses and, most importantly, between individuals as they engage with the artwork and string together narratives and ideas about the gaze.

Elizabeth MacKenzie is a Vancouver artist, whose current work in drawing interrogates portraiture as an ambiguous, shifting field of interaction and interpretation. She studied at the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto and received her MFA from the University of Saskatchewan. Her drawing installations have been shown across Canada including exhibitions at the Mount Saint Vincent Art Gallery (Halifax), the Agnes Etherington Art Centre (Kingston), the Glenbow Museum (Calgary), the Mackenzie Art Gallery (Regina) and the Vancouver Art Gallery. Her videos have been presented in numerous screenings and exhibitions across Canada, United States and Europe. She maintains an ongoing commitment to collaborative and community-based art practices, critical writing and teaching. "My research in the archives has revealed that there is no continuous accurate history of the residents of Ceperley Mansion. There are both real and imagined stories of the house and the people who have lived there," said artist, Mackenzie, "This drawing installation is about an artist responding to the fascinating history of Ceperley Mansion."

"The Gallery is committed to presenting nationally recognized artists whose work exhibits a diverse spectrum of concepts and images," says Burnaby Art Gallery's, Director and Curator, Darrin Martens, "MacKenzie's inventive approach to the portraits from the gallery's collection will compliment and contrast with the wall drawings. The works from the collection also have their own history and this exhibition offers the residents of Burnaby and visitors alike an opportunity to project their own interpretation of the faces. *The Gaze* will engage them with the real and imagined history of Ceperley Mansion and of the portrait genre itself."

For more on MacKenzie please visit her blog "negotiating doubt" at:
<http://blogs.eciad.ca/elizabethmackenzie>

Media are invited to a special reception and exhibition preview of *The Gaze of History* Tuesday, July 3 at 10:00 am, Curator Darrin Martens and the artist will provide a tour and will be available for interviews.



Study for Burnaby Art Gallery installation (detail), 2012 Graphite powder on existing wall, approx 25.4 cm X 20.32 cm
Courtesy of the artist.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Brenda Finlayson
Marketing and Sponsorship
Coordinator
Burnaby Art Gallery
Direct Line: 604-297-4414
Main Office: 604-297-4422
FAX: 604-205-7339
E: Brenda.Finlayson@burnaby.ca
www.burnabyartgallery.ca

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 of 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, or 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.

Photographs and interviews with the artist are available on request.

###