

MEDIA RELEASE  
August 9, 2016

**BAG**  
BURNABY ART GALLERY

## Keith Langergraber: *Betrayal at Babylon*

September 9-October 23, 2016

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 8, 2016, 7-9pm - ARTIST IN ATTENDANCE

Curated by Jennifer Cane



Image credit: Keith Langergraber, *Library of Babel*, 2016, mixed media on paper, 6' x 8', photograph: Yuri Akuney

**BURNABY, BC-Burnaby Art Gallery (BAG)** presents *Betrayal at Babylon*, a new installation by Vancouver-based mixed media artist **Keith Langergraber** that will be held at the gallery from **September 9 to October 23, 2016**. Investigating the impermanence of language and the complexity of human myth-making, the exhibition merges historical and fictionalized narratives set in British Columbia and beyond.

Reinterpreting the biblical Tower of Babel as a western mine and ghost town, Langergraber's sculptural work fuses spiral train tunnels, dilapidated rigging systems and downed power lines. The show

incorporates a series of large-scale mixed media works on paper, scraps of handwritten journal entries, detailed drawings of fossils and relics, and maps of natural terrain and settlements.

For the project, Langergraber worked with Carl Alexander, an elder from the Nxwísten (Bridge River) Indian Band in Lillooet to explore traditional St'át'imcets place names and provide an account of the impact of industry—dams, forestry, mining and the railroad—in the region.

*Double Negative, Double Whammy* (2016), a short film by Langergraber, screens as part of the show—following a gang of meteorite hunters across a surreal landscape, the film draws on motifs from sci-fi, western and disaster film genres. A mythic tektite meteorite also stands on display.

*Betrayal at Babylon* examines not only the construction of language, but also demonstrates the limitations of language in conveying environmental issues that have occurred through natural forces over time as well as through more recent human-driven exploits.

### **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

**Opening Reception** | Thursday, September 8 | 7-9pm | FREE

**In the BAG: Family Sundays** | 1-4pm | FREE

Sunday, September 11 - Drawing Spaces

Sunday, October 9 - Mapping Terrains

**Artist Talk + Film Screening** | Saturday, September 10 | 2pm | FREE

**Art Tour Tuesday** | Tuesday, September 20 | 12:15pm | \$5 | NEW PROGRAM

**Tour & Tea** | Tuesday, September 20 | 2pm | \$7.50 | NEW PROGRAM

**One Place, Many Names Talk** | Sunday, September 25 | 2pm | FREE

**Culture Days Guided Tour** | Sunday, October 2 | 2pm | FREE

## EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION

Keith Langergraber's new body of work explores the subculture of meteorite hunters, following a motley group of prospectors across a surreal landscape. Focusing upon the intricacies of language, the story integrates and gradually distorts the folklore of treasure hunters and prospectors through a search that eventually brings them to the base of the Tower of Babel. Langergraber's work looks at language, exposing it as a process rather than a constant. By problematizing the nature of fictional narrative, and the role and function of language, a sanctioned "Babel" emerges through the underlying metonymic use of myth, challenging our faith in language as a valid source of knowledge, and serving as a meditation on impermanence.

## ABOUT KEITH LANGERGRABER

Keith Langergraber is a mid-career artist living and working in Vancouver. He received his BFA from the University of Victoria and his MFA from the University of British Columbia. He has exhibited extensively in solo and group shows in galleries in Canada, the United States and Asia since 1995. He has received many grants and awards for his work including having been nominated for the Sobey Award in 2009 and teaches at Emily Carr University of Art and Design.

## MEDIA CONTACT

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High-resolution images are available upon request.

## ABOUT THE BURNABY ART GALLERY

The Burnaby Art Gallery (BAG) is dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting a contemporary and historical visual art program by local, national and internationally recognized artists. The BAG acts as a leader in the collection, preservation and exhibition of artists who choose to work on paper—we are the only art museum in British Columbia dedicated to works of art on paper. Through our collection and exhibition practices the BAG endeavours to represent the best and most promising artists within the Canadian print culture community. The BAG cares for and manages over 5,000 works of art in the City of Burnaby's Permanent Art Collection.

For more information about the gallery's exhibitions, programs, and tours, call 604-297-4422 or visit [www.burnabyartgallery.ca](http://www.burnabyartgallery.ca). Located in the beautiful surroundings of Deer Lake Park, the Burnaby Art Gallery is open Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 4:30pm and on Saturday and Sunday, 12noon to 5pm. Admission is by donation; suggested donation \$5. Parking is free.

**Website:** [www.burnabyartgallery.ca](http://www.burnabyartgallery.ca)

**Blog:** [www.burnabyartgallery.tumblr.com](http://www.burnabyartgallery.tumblr.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/BurnabyArtGallery](http://www.facebook.com/BurnabyArtGallery)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/bbyartgallery](http://www.instagram.com/bbyartgallery)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/BurnabyArtGall](http://www.twitter.com/BurnabyArtGall)

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.

