

**Burnaby Art Gallery:
New Offsite Exhibitions for March – May, 2017**

BURNABY, BC—The Burnaby Art Gallery will open two new exhibitions at local libraries the week of March 20th. The exhibition *Adventures of a Drawing Boy* will display a range of mixed media drawings by artist Brian Grison who provides commentary on the mental life of the student, with himself as the artist/student model. A series of photo-based collages from Vancouver artist Jesse McNeil will be on view in *The Errand and the Epiphany*, in association with the Capture Photography Festival.

Brian Grison: Adventures of a Drawing Boy

March 20 – May 14, 2017

FREE | Bob Prittie Library (Metrotown)

6100 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby

FREE | Shadbolt Centre for the Arts

6450 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby

The Errand and the Epiphany:

Photo-based collage work by Jessie McNeil

March 21 – May 15, 2017

FREE | McGill Library

4595 Albert Street, Burnaby

Brian Grison:

Adventures of a Drawing Boy



For this series of mixed-media drawings on heavy watercolour paper, Brian Grison has developed a project that is a commentary on the mental life of the student, with himself as the artist/student model. The appropriated image of a boy making a drawing is a stand-in for Grison, as well as the typical student, who is engaged in a practice similar to the process of making art.

The apparently random composition and deep layering of images is meant to create distractions from the drawing boy. It is also meant to represent the mental processes that interfere with the student/artist's ability to concentrate.

About the Artist:

Brian Grison was born in Toronto in 1947. After graduating from the five-year program of the Art Department of Central Technical High School (CTS) in Toronto, he lived in Mexico for about two years. Later he completed Honours Bachelor's degrees in Fine Art (Drawing and Painting) and in Art History from the University of Victoria, and a Master's degree in the History of Art at Carleton University, Ottawa.

Beginning in 1970, he was a part-time instructor at CTS for eight years. He was a sessional instructor at York University in 1975, Camosun College in Victoria in the early 1980s and the University of Alberta in 2004. As well as teaching part-time at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design from 1978 to 1987 and the Art Gallery of Ontario from 1988 to 1992, he taught drawing part-time at the University of Victoria since about 1977 to 2011, as well as for art schools in Victoria, Toronto and Ottawa.

Between 1975 and 1992, he received ten artist's grants from the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council. Since 1970, he has mounted solo exhibitions in public, artist-run and commercial galleries in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. His work has been in group exhibitions in New York, Paris and Belgrade as well as Ontario and British Columbia. Public galleries in Ontario and British Columbia have collected his work.

***The Errand and the Epiphany: Photo-based collage work by Jessie McNeil*
Presented in association with Capture Photography Festival**

In her figurative street-scene collages Jessie McNeil takes the perspective of the flâneuse—the keen-eyed observer, contemplating the ever-evolving nature of urban culture, signification and memory. Featuring everyday studies of environment and wonders, *The Errand and the Epiphany*, reflects on how built spaces impact human participation in public life. McNeil's meditative and meticulous process of collage-making, based off of her own photographs of city dwellers, re-communicates the light and texture found in the streets, capturing moments when the miraculous and fleeting is confused with, or transformed from ubiquity.

About the Artist:

Jessie McNeil (b. 1987) is a Vancouver-based interdisciplinary artist. Her work contemplates human relationship to the "path" and how environments are constructed, navigated and documented. Her work addresses themes of place and memory with an emphasis on cultural history, identity and language. McNeil has exhibited locally and internationally since receiving her BFA in Visual Arts at Emily Carr University in 2013. She completed an artist residency project in 2014 at the Estonian Printing Museum/Studio, Tartuensis (Tartu, Estonia). In 2015, McNeil won the Hnatyshyn Foundation's William and Meredith Saunderson Prize for Emerging Artists, along with two other nominated Canadian artists. That fall, McNeil also received a Juror's Choice Award at the Salt Spring National Arts Prize Exhibition. McNeil is represented by Elissa Cristall Gallery (Vancouver) and has works in the Vancouver Art Gallery's Art Rental and Sales program held in private and corporate collections throughout North America and Europe.

MEDIA CONTACT

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High-resolution images are available upon request.

Image Credits:

(Top) Brian Grison, *The Scholar (detail)*, 2016, mixed media on paper, 23 x 23 inches (left); Brian Grison, *The Idealist (detail)*, 2016, mixed media on paper, 23 x 23 inches (middle); Brian Grison, *The Lover (detail)*, 2016, mixed media on paper, 23 x 23 inches (right);
(Bottom) Jessie McNeil, *Bus stop (Tartu) II (detail)*, 2016, mixed media collage on paper, 12 1/2 x 13 x 1/4."

ABOUT THE BURNABY ART GALLERY

Since 1967, the Burnaby Art Gallery (BAG) has been 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—the only public art museum in Canada dedicated to works of art on paper. Through our collection and exhibition practices the BAG endeavours to represent the best and most promising Canadian artists. The BAG cares for and manages over 5,000 works of art in the City of Burnaby's Permanent Art Collection. In 2017, BAG is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a full year of special events, exhibitions and programs.

Website: www.burnabyartgallery.ca

Blog: www.burnabyartgallery.tumblr.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BurnabyArtGallery

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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 sponsors, patrons and visitors.

