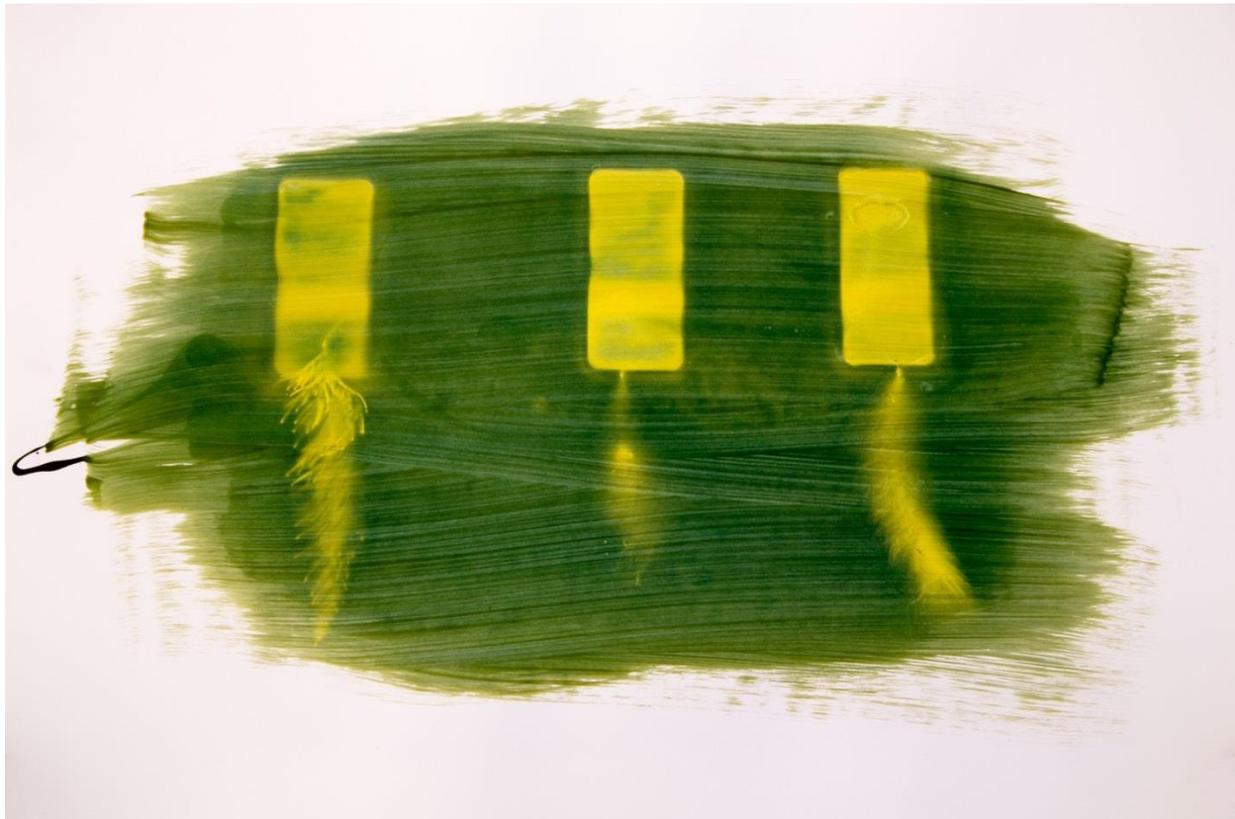


Tania Willard: dissimulation
September 15 – November 5, 2017

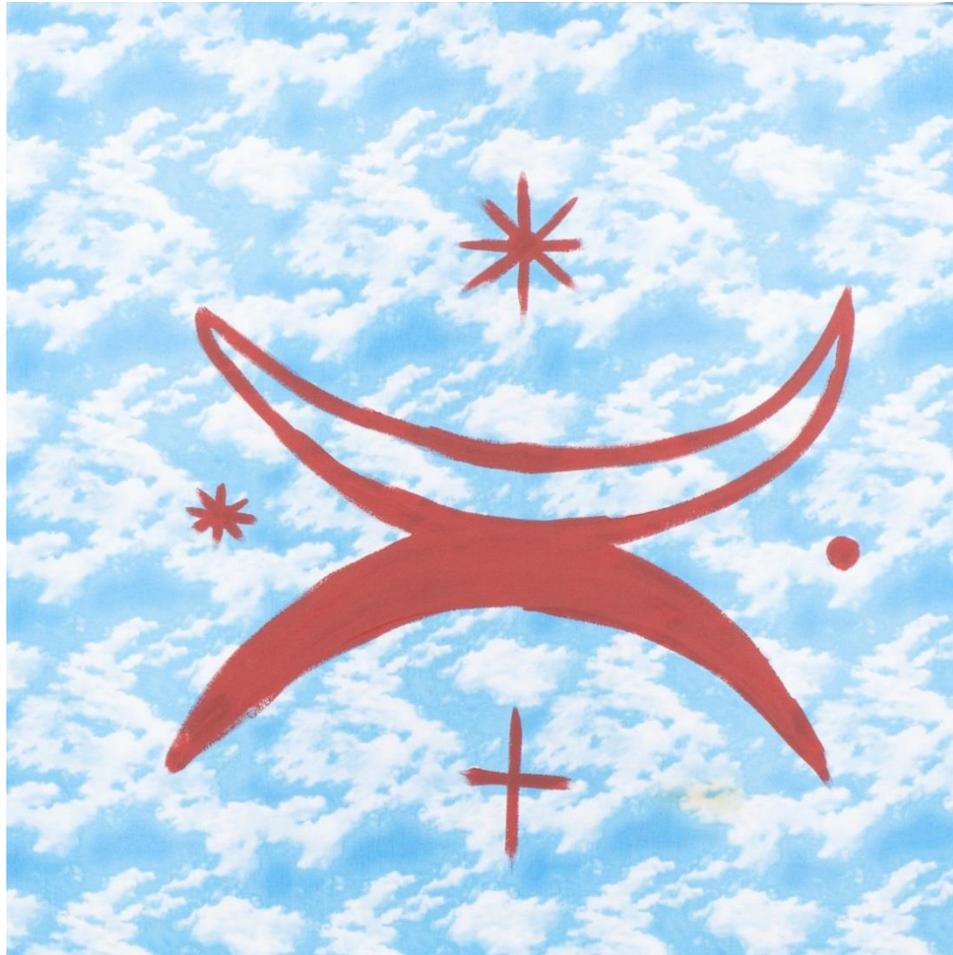
BURNABY, BC –The Burnaby Art Gallery (BAG) is pleased to present *Tania Willard: dissimulation*, a multidisciplinary exhibition featuring works by BC-based Indigenous artist/curator Tania Willard (Secwépemc Nation), alongside her collaborators Gabrielle Hill, Peter Morin, her family, home community and Secwépemc lands and territories.



These three artists, and their relationships to land, make up the *New BC Indian Art and Welfare Society Collective*, often creating work at Willard's BUSH Gallery, a residency space in Secwépemculecw, the territory of the Secwépemc Nation. BUSH Gallery acts as a conceptual space for land-based art and action led by Indigenous artists.

The public is invited to an artist talk with Willard on **Thursday, September 14** from 6-7pm at the Burnaby Art Gallery. The exhibition opening will follow the artist talk from 7-9pm. The public has the opportunity to meet the artist and to find out more about Willard's highly collaborative practice, including further insight into BUSH Gallery.

“The BUSH Gallery rez-idency was designed and programmed in order to activate concepts and ideas of contemporary Indigenous art, to further explore the parameters of BUSH Gallery and to build on past artist rez-idences,” says Willard. “A goal of the BUSH Gallery is to articulate Indigenous creative land practices, which are born out of a lived connection to the land. In the province of British Columbia, this lived connection to the land means a century and a half of land rights and legal struggles begun by our ancestors that continue to this day.”



The title of the exhibition, *dissimulation*, “implies a concealment of thought, disguise of one’s character or perhaps a hidden objective,” says Jennifer Cane, Assistant Curator at the Burnaby Art Gallery. “*Dissimulation*, for the purposes of this exhibition, is also akin to trickery and mimesis, the transformation of one material to another, the relationship between the traditional and contemporary, and between Indigenous and other cultures.”

Reclamation of land, language and culture form the thematic of this show, with images that challenge a history of colonialism and (mis)representation. The exhibition features artwork in a variety of mediums including photograms, woodcuts, digital prints, silkscreens, video and textile work.

An exhibition catalogue features an introduction by Jennifer Cane and entries from Tania Willard and Tara Hogue—curator, writer and Vancouver Art Gallery’s new senior curatorial fellow focusing on Indigenous art.

“[Willard] interrupts the colonial desire to consume images of otherness and claims these images for herself and for her community. Confronting history means confronting a history of representation,” writes Hogue.

Willard and Hogue have worked together previously on two exhibitions about the Indian Residential School system: *NETETH: Going Out of the Darkness* and *Witnesses: Art and Canada's Indian Residential Schools*.

The exhibition catalogue will be available for purchase for \$15 at the Burnaby Art Gallery from September 14. *Dissimulation* will be on display at the Burnaby Art Gallery from September 15-November 5, 2017. For more information: burnabyartgallery.ca.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Tania Willard has worked as a curator in residence with grunt gallery and Kamloops Art Gallery, and her past curatorial projects include *Beat Nation: Art, Hip Hop and Aboriginal Culture*, a national touring exhibition, *CUSTOM MADE (translation)* at Kamloops Art Gallery, and select recent curatorial work includes: *Nanitch: Historical BC Photography, Unceded Territories: Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun* as well as *LandMarks 2017/Repères 2017*. For more information: taniawillard.ca/.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Artist Talk

September 14, 6-7pm | Free, Everyone Welcome

Join artist Tania Willard in a discussion of her highly collaborative practice, including BUSH Gallery, a residency space that is part of the Secwépemc Nation.

Exhibition Opening

September 14, 7-9pm | Free, Everyone Welcome

Join us for the opening of *dissimulation* at the Burnaby Art Gallery. The evening will feature opening remarks, followed by a reception, with artist in attendance.

In the BAG: Family Sundays - Sponsored by ABC Recycling

September 17, 1-4pm & October 15, 1-4pm | drop-in, all ages

Come and make art! Get your minds humming with a visit to the gallery and then into the studio for family-friendly art projects. In September and October, learn about Tania Willard's exhibition *dissimulation* before making your very own work of art.

Tea & Tour

September 19, 2-3:30pm | \$7.50, 55 yrs+

Call 604-297-4422 to register | Barcode: 456205

Join gallery staff for a guided tour of *dissimulation* and finish the tour by settling into the Fireside Room for tea and treats.

CULTURE DAYS AT THE BAG – FREE!

Deer Lake Plant Walk with Cease Wyss

October 1, 10-11:30am | Registration recommended. Call 604-297-4422 to book.

Join artist and Indigenous ethnobotanist T'uy'tanat Cease Wyss for a walk around Deer Lake Park where she will share knowledge of the plants in the park, including what is local, indigenous, and concerns about invasive plants.

Sun Printing

October 1, 10am-12noon & 1-3pm | Registration recommended. Call 604-297-4422 to book.

Sun prints or Cyanotypes are the result of a photographic printing process that produces a blue and white print. Start with a tour of Tania Willard's exhibition *dissimulation* which investigates the collaborative process an artist has with the environment. Be inspired by the surrounding environment at Deer Lake to create your own sun print using the fall sky.

SCHOOL TOURS

Tania Willard: dissimulation

Available for bookings between September 26 – November 2, 2017

Grades 1-12 | Teachers across Metro Vancouver can book field trips at the BAG

In the gallery, students will investigate Willard's collaboration with land and explore what art looks like outside of a conventional gallery space. Following the tour, students will engage in a hands-on art studio workshop. Participants are challenged through cultivated learning, close observation and thoughtful discussions about the featured works in the gallery.

MEDIA CONTACT

Parm Johal, Marketing and Sponsorship Coordinator | 604-297-4857 | parm.johal@burnaby.ca

Note: High-resolution images and exhibition catalogue available upon request.

Image Credits:

(top) Tania Willard, Peter Morin, Jeneen Frei Njootli, *New BC Indian Art and Welfare Society Collective, Sovereign Sun*, photograms of cell phones with a supe7 (tail), 2016; (bottom) Tania Willard, from *Irreconcilable* (series), 2013, chalk and acrylic on printed cotton, 61.0 x 61.0 cm, image courtesy the artist.

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.

For more information - www.burnabyartgallery.ca

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.

