

Burnaby Art Gallery's Upcoming Exhibitions:
Tara Nicholson: Arctic Claims & Les McKinnon: Reflecting on Headlines

BURNABY, BC—The Burnaby Art Gallery (BAG) is excited to present two new exhibitions for the month of June. Tara Nicholson's *Arctic Claims* incorporates large-scale photography to document, question and visualize the reality and processes surrounding scientific work currently taking place in remote and often disputed territories. In *Reflecting Headlines*, Burnaby artist Les McKinnon riffs on newspaper headlines inspired by his visits to Scotland.

The public is invited to the opening reception for both exhibitions on **Thursday, June 8 at 7pm**.

TARA NICHOLSON: ARCTIC CLAIMS
June 2-July 2, 2017 | Lower Gallery



In 2015, Tara Nicholson travelled to Western Greenland to produce a new body of work exploring climate change research, based at the University of Copenhagen Arctic Station. In 2016, she travelled to Inuvik to record and study alongside climate scientists in Canada's north. Nicholson's work reveals the aesthetic of taxonomies – the processes of collection and classification that develop scientific data, helping us understand what is occurring in our changing environment.

Nicholson's photographic exhibition also draws connections between the artist's studio and scientific lab. "I am interested in exploring links between scientific and creative thought and visualizing elements within climate research, as my images depict the Arctic Circle not as an untouched vista, but as an active site for discovery. I am interested in de-cloaking scientific spaces, collaborating with scientists and documenting these sites of innovation amongst the landscape of the Arctic," she explains in her artist statement.

Tara Nicholson received a BFA from Ryerson University, Toronto, and an MFA from Concordia University, Montreal. She has exhibited and attended residencies internationally and has been an instructor at the University of Victoria since 2010. She lives and works in Victoria, BC.

Arctic Claims opens on June 2 at the BAG and runs until July 2, 2017. For more information: <http://taranicholson.com>.

LES MCKINNON: REFLECTING ON HEADLINES

June 9-July 2 | Upper Gallery



Burnaby artist Les McKinnon riffs on newspaper headlines in this playful exhibition. During recent visits to Scotland, the artist was intrigued by the bold headlines of newspapers displayed outside small stores. This series of paintings flips the headlines to typeset, obscuring and disrupting the original message.

“It occurred to me that the [headlines] would be interesting if you took one step back and read them as old-fashioned handset type. While I would find them easy to read, others would have to work hard to discover their meaning,” he says in an artist statement.

Les McKinnon has always worked in series and this exhibition traces one of the threads in his forty year career as an artist. He completed a degree in Education at UBC in 1967 and majored in Fine Arts with printmaking. He began his career as an art teacher with the Vancouver School Board. After 32 years of teaching, he retired in 1999 to devote more time to creating art, as well as travelling, as a source of inspiration. McKinnon’s work can be found in private collections in Canada, US, Europe and Australia, as well as with the Burnaby Art Gallery, Penticton Art Gallery, University of Oregon (Carvallis), UBC Faculty of Education, Regent College (Vancouver), and Strathcona School (Vancouver).

Reflecting on Headlines opens on June 9 at the BAG and runs until July 2, 2017. For more information: <http://les-mckinnon.squarespace.com/>.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Tea & Tour: Tuesday, June 6, 2-3:30pm | \$7.50, 55 yrs+

Call 604-297-4422 to register

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

Opening Reception: Thursday, June 8, 7pm | Free, everyone welcome

Join us for the opening reception at the Burnaby Art Gallery. The evening will feature opening remarks, live music and refreshments on the gallery verandah, with artists in attendance.

Artist Talk: Sunday, June 11, 2-4pm | Free, everyone

Contemporary artists Tara Nicholson (works in Lower Gallery) and Les McKinnon (works in Upper Gallery) lead a tour and talk through their solo exhibitions revealing the inspiration and influences behind their work.

In the BAG Family Sundays: Sunday, June 11, 1-4pm | Drop-in, all ages

Sponsored by ABC Recycling

Come and make art! Get your minds humming with a visit to the gallery and then into the studio for family-friendly art projects. This month, learn about Tara Nicholson's exhibition *Arctic Claims* and Les McKinnon's exhibition *Reflecting on Headlines* before making your very own work of art using photo abstraction techniques.

MEDIA CONTACT

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High-resolution images are available upon request.

Image Credits:

Arctic Claims: (left) Tara Nicholson, *Arctic Station Lab, Greenland*, 2015, limited-edition, pigment print; (right) Tara Nicholson, *Tent Site, Arctic Station, Greenland*, 2015, limited-edition, pigment print.

Reflecting on Headlines: (left) Les McKinnon, *Reflecting on Headlines #2*, 2016, acrylic and pencil on paper, collection of the artist, photography: Harry Booth; (middle) Les McKinnon, *Headlines/Type Lines #1 of 27*, 2016, acrylic and pencil on paper, collection of the artist, photography: Harry Booth; (right) Les McKinnon, *Headlines/Type Lines #15 of 27*, 2016, acrylic and pencil on paper, collection of the artist, photography: Harry Booth.

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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Twitter: 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 sponsors, patrons and visitors.

