

Stan Douglas: Synthetic Pictures

March 21 to May 25, 2014

Opening Reception: Thursday, March 20, 7PM

Presentation House Gallery is proud to launch *Stan Douglas: Synthetic Pictures*, an exhibition of new photographs by world-renowned Vancouver artist Stan Douglas. His complex artworks interpret the social impact of optical technologies. Frequently borrowing from popular culture and literary sources, Douglas examines the legacies of modernity and historical narratives of socio-cultural events through photographs, film and installation.

This exhibition marks the artist's first foray into abstract imagery. *Corrupt Files* is a suite of photographic scans extracted from Douglas' film works, reduced to patterns of data. These synthetic images capture a sense a 'ghost in the machine' interfering with electronic information. The exhibition features a large-scale black and white photographic panorama depicting postwar Hogan's Alley in Strathcona. Distilled from the artist's new online web application *Circa 1948*—which constructs an immersive experience of Hogan's Alley and the Hotel Vancouver during the postwar period—the digitally reconstructed scene, rendered with intricate historical accuracy, blurs distinctions between artifice and realism. The photograph is accompanied by a documentary survey of this mixed race neighbourhood when it became slated for urban renewal with the construction of the Georgia Viaduct in 1972. The exhibition also includes photographs in the style of postwar news photographs from Douglas' recent *Midcentury Studio* series, and reference his cinematic stage production *Helen Lawrence*, a multimedia film noir thriller about the social tensions and corruption in postwar Vancouver.

Stan Douglas was born in 1960 in Vancouver, where he continues to live and work. He graduated from Emily Carr College of Art in the early 1980s. His international solo exhibitions include: the Serpentine Gallery, London (2002); the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2005); and the Staatsgalerie and Württembergischer Kunstverein in Stuttgart (2007). He has participated in important group exhibitions worldwide including Documenta IX, 1992; X, 1997; and XI, 2002 as well as the Venice Biennale in 1990, 2001 and 2005. Douglas' work is in the museum collections of Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; MoMA, New York; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and Tate Modern, London. His accomplishments have been recognized through numerous awards: the Bell Canada Video Award (2008), the Infinity Award from the International Center of Photography, New York (2012) and the Scotiabank Photography Award (2013), among others. He is represented by David Zwirner Gallery, New York/London and Victoria Miro, London. Douglas teaches at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. Two new books on Stan Douglas, published by Prestel and Steidl, will be launched in the coming months, and the world premiere of *Helen Lawrence* is currently at the Stanley Theatre, Vancouver.

Presentation House Gallery is grateful from the ongoing support from our funders: The Canada Council for the Arts, the British Columbia Arts Council, the city of North Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver Arts Office, BC Gaming Commission, Metro Vancouver, and the Yosef Wosk Foundation.

Research for this exhibition, as well as *Helen Lawrence* and *Circa 1948*, was supported through financial assistance from a grant from Arts Partners in Creative Development.

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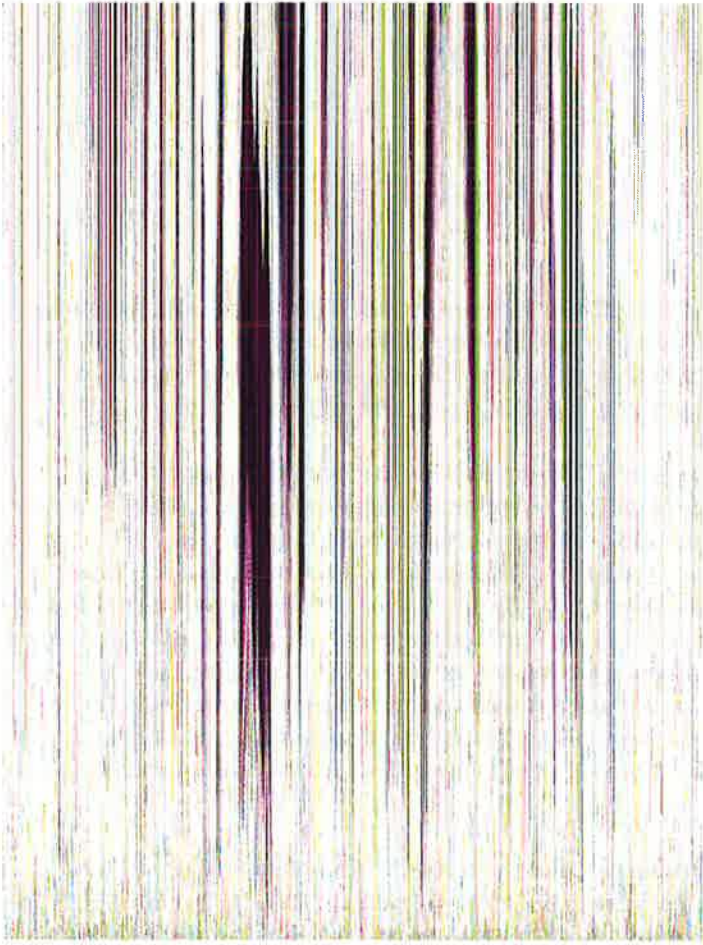
333 CHESTERFIELD AVENUE
NORTH VANCOUVER, BC CANADA, V7M 3G9
WWW.PRESENTATIONHOUSEGALLERY.ORG
WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY, 12 TO 5PM

MEDIA CONTACT: TOBIN GIBSON

E: T.GIBSON@PRESENTATIONHOUSEGALLERY.ORG

T: +1.604.986.1351

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Clockwise from top left:

Stan Douglas, *2012_0290*, 2013, inkjet print mounted on Dibond, 182.9 x 121.9 cm,
Courtesy the artist, David Zwirner Gallery, New York/London and Victoria Miro, London

Stan Douglas, *Machine*, 1948, 2010, inkjet print mounted on Dibond, 60.9 x 35.5 cm,
Courtesy the artist, David Zwirner Gallery, New York/London and Victoria Miro, London

Stan Douglas, *Suspect*, 1950, 2010, inkjet print mounted on Dibond, 45.7 x 60.9 cm,
Courtesy the artist, David Zwirner Gallery, New York/London and Victoria Miro, London

View from the back of 818-826 Main Street, c.1972, courtesy City of Vancouver Archives,
CVA 203-15

