



MEDIA RELEASE

MIKE MACDONALD, *SECRET FLOWERS*
CORNELIA WYNGAARDEN, *FORGED SUBJECTIVITY*
April 14 - May 30, 1993

Presentation House Gallery continues to explore innovative photography with the premiere of video installations by Vancouver artists Mike MacDonald and Cornelia Wyngaarden. In their recent works, these two internationally recognized artists approach the documentary dimension of the medium through an indirect expression of socially relevant themes.

Mike MacDonald's videotapes often focus on First Nations and ecological issues. His latest work, *Secret Flowers*, is a 16-screen videowall. The images of rare and endangered plant species, including many used in traditional native medicine, form an immense, gently moving quilt. MacDonald's footage is an "ethnobotany", a minute examination of nature through the video camera. At the same time as its exhibition at Presentation House, *Secret Flowers* will be displayed on the 48-screen videowall in the Eaton's Centre Mall at Metrotown, Burnaby.

Cornelia Wyngaarden's *Forged Subjectivity* is a multimedia installation of videos, photographs, paintings and text. Through her reconstruction of the inner life of a 19th century woman, the artist investigates feminist issues such as gender difference and its public expression. Wyngaarden was inspired by the life of Eliza McCormick who, disguised as a man, ran for Canadian Parliament as John White. This work is a reflection on the difficulty of representing women's history.

Please contact Gallery Assistant, Diane Evans at 986-1351 for further information and to arrange interviews with the artists.

Reception for the artists: Tuesday, April 13, 8-10 PM

Artists' lectures in the Gallery:

Wednesday, April 14, 8pm, Mike MacDonald, *Secret Flowers* and the endangered plant species it documents.

Friday, April 30, 8 pm, Cornelia Wyngaarden, "The Lesbian as Erotic Monster: A Historical Perspective on Crossdressing."

Gallery hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 12-5 PM, Thursday, 12-9 PM

The exhibition and production of these works has been generously sponsored by the Canada Council.