

Gallery

Media release

MARIAN PENNER BANCROFT **By Land and Sea (Prospect and Refuge)**

November 6 - December 17, 1999

One of the most timely and contended issues of the late twentieth century is individual identity in relation to community and place. *By Land and Sea (Prospect and Refuge)* is an artist's project by Marian Penner Bancroft, a photographic journey through place and time, and through the idea of landscape.

Bancroft's lush landscape images are a site of exploration of landscape itself. As an artist using photography, she positions herself within geographies, not as representative of the omnipotent view, but as an individual among others with a personal and social history. The exhibition is a journey through the idea of landscape and through the sites of the artist's own family history which is, like that of many Canadians, a history of migration, in this instance, from South Russia (now Ukraine) to Saskatchewan with the German-speaking Mennonite community; and from the Highlands of Scotland to Manitoba and ultimately to BC. Images of letters, diaries, maps and drawings provide entry to the specificity of the photographs. This work operates within the context of other contemporary landscape photography which explores the social and formal phenomena of landscape. In current art practice, landscape is most often anti-nature, industrial, urban, infused with the foreboding of environmental disasters; but in *By Land and Sea*, Bancroft has returned to nature as genealogy, once again drawing on personal history as a primary source for her work.

Marian Penner Bancroft lives and works in Vancouver where she has taught photographic practice at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design since 1981. She has exhibited at the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Anna Leonowens Gallery in Halifax, the 49th Parallel in New York, the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography in Ottawa, Sala 1 in Rome, Italy, and the Seattle Art Museum, among others. Her artist's book *Two Places At Once* (Western Front, 1986) won first prize at the International Artists Book Contest in Montreal. In 1995 she completed a public art project called *Lost Streams of Kitsilano* - a brochure and map is available from the Kitsilano Community Centre.

This exhibition is curated by Karen Henry, Adjunct Curator for PHG, and supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.

The opening reception for *By Land and Sea (Prospect and Refuge)* is Saturday, November 6, at 2pm. The artist will give a slide talk about her work on Saturday, November 20, at 2pm. Both events are free and open to the public.

Gallery Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 12 – 5 pm; Thursday, 12 – 9 pm.
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Operated by the British Columbia Photography and Media Arts Society