

Gallery

MEDIA RELEASE - PRESENTATION HOUSE GALLERY

Jin-me Yoon's *Touring Home From Away* opens on January 5th, 2002.

From January 5th to February 10th, Presentation House Gallery hosts the exhibition *Touring Home From Away* by Vancouver-based artist Jin-me Yoon. **Guest curator:** Annette Hurtig.

Considering the ideologies of place and of racialized and gendered subjectivity for more than a decade, Jin-me Yoon's work critically explores the mechanisms and functions of identity construction.

Prince Edward Island's tourist industry promotes the island as a destination for visitors from around the world, especially targeting nations such as Japan. It does so by selectively representing the island's landscape, history, and social conditions. Like tourism anywhere, the imaginary situation portrayed by PEI is strategically constructed. What is pictured aims to attract visitors rather than reflect or represent diverse and complex local realities.

Visitors in PEI are often still identified as "from away," even though tourism is now the mainstay of the province's economy. Jin-me Yoon's *Touring Home From Away* investigates the ways in which PEI's particular touristic myths generate identities of place and populace while hiding, and also revealing, the problematics of these identities. Along with the artist and members of her family, the project features John Joe Sark, who is a Native activist and the Keptin of the local Mi'kmaq Grand Council, and Shauna McCabe, currently Curator of Contemporary Art at Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum, who appears as a stand-in for the fictional character Anne of Green Gables.

The exhibition *Touring Home From Away* presents three related works: two wall-mounted diptychs, and an installation comprised of nine paired images displayed in double-sided lightboxes. The images suggest stories about heroism, homeland and nationhood; family, gender and sexuality.

Jin-me Yoon began exhibiting in 1989. Her work has been included in group exhibitions presented and toured nationally since 1990, internationally since 1992 and featured in solo exhibitions in Canada and abroad. Works by Yoon are included in numerous public collections. This exhibition is supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.

EVENT: A tour of the exhibition and informal discussion with the artist and curator on Saturday, January 5, at 2 pm. The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication with texts by Annette Hurtig and Shauna McCabe to be published at a later date.

Media contact: Diane Evans – phone: 604-986-1351

GALLERY HOURS: Wed - Sun, 12 – 5 pm; Thurs 12 - 9 pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

Address: 333 Chesterfield North Vancouver V7M 3G9

Phone: 604-986-1351; fax: 604-986-5380 www.presentationhousegall.com