

Media Release

October 31, 2003

Three new exhibitions at Presentation House Gallery:

ANSEL ADAMS: *THE MANZANAR PHOTOGRAPHS*

LEONARD FRANK: *THE B.C. SECURITY COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPHS*

EILEEN LEIER: *GROSSE-ÎLE: THE IMMIGRANT QUARANTINE STATION*

November 13 to December 20, 2003

Opening reception: Thursday, November 13, 8 - 10 p.m.

With detention & quarantine in the news every day, Presentation House Gallery presents an intriguing group of three related exhibitions showing separate histories of human detention, incarceration and quarantine. Each exhibition documents a historical moment in government attempts to control the force of history by isolating people.

Ansel Adams photographed Japanese American internees at the Manzanar Relocation Camp in 1943. The self-financed project was published by *US Camera* in 1944 in the book "*Born Free and Equal*" and the photographs were subsequently donated by Adams to the Library of Congress.

Leonard Frank, the official Dominion of Canada photographer in British Columbia, was hired to document the internment of the Japanese Canadians for the B.C Security Commission, a federal agency. Frank's photographs include scenes of the temporary internment at Hastings Park (the PNE Grounds), and the construction of and life at the camps throughout the B.C.'s interior.

Eileen Leier photographed the Grosse-Île quarantine station historic site on the Saint Lawrence River that was the point of entry to Canada for European immigrants from 1832 to 1937. She was given free access to a site that was also home to Canada's bacteriological weapons program.

The exhibitions open on Thursday November 13 at noon.

EVENTS:

Thursday evening November 13 at 7pm – an illustrated talk by Dr. Kirsten McAllister from Simon Fraser University "*PHOTOGRAPHS OF INTERNMENT CAMPS: A VIEW FROM INSIDE*" Japanese Canadians secretly brought cameras into the internment camps. What type of photographs did they take?

Saturday afternoon November 15 at 2pm – artist talk by Eileen Leier on several of her projects that re-visit key sites in Canadian history, including the Grosse-Île immigrant quarantine station. Followed by a reception for the artist.

Eileen Leier teaches photography at University College of the Cariboo in Kamloops. Ansel Adams photographs courtesy of the Library of Congress; Leonard Frank photographs courtesy of the Japanese Canadian National Museum. Events are free and open to the public.

The Gallery's hours are Wednesday through Sunday, from noon to 5 pm, and Thursday evening until 9pm.

Images available. For more information contact Diane Evans at 604-986-1351