

MEDIA RELEASE

Presentation House Gallery opens two new exhibitions on Friday, November 5 at 8 pm

KEVIN SCHMIDT: FOG

November 5 to December 19, 2004

KEVIN SCHMIDT is a Vancouver-based artist who references the pictorial traditions of landscape art through representations of nature as sublime spectacle. His new installation for Presentation House Gallery is comprised of slide projections of a woodland setting enshrouded in artificial fog. The theatrical presence of these seductive pictures create a sensory engagement with nature. As with previous works, Schmidt is interested in presenting landscape images that evoke extreme states of mind and emotion, while at the same time revealing the artifice of spectacle through the clichés of science fiction and horror films. This work investigates possibilities of transcendence in a culture of irony.

Since graduating from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in 1997, Schmidt has received considerable recognition as an important emerging Vancouver artist. His video work of 2002, *Long Beach Led Zep*, has been exhibited across Canada and abroad, and is in the collection of the National Gallery of Canada. Kevin Schmidt is also a musician. This aspect of his artistic sensibility will be profiled in a concert/artist talk with his band for which lyrics and music have been specially composed. This free concert is on Tuesday, November 9 at 8 pm in the Presentation House Theatre.

Special Event

Tuesday, November 9 at 8 pm

In the Presentation House Theatre

A free concert by Kevin Schmidt and his band.

Please contact Diane Evans for images, additional information and artist interviews.

Devans@presentationhousegall.com

604-986-1351

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ANDREW WRIGHT: SKIES

November 5 to December 19, 2004

ANDREW WRIGHT often works with archaic photographic devices. This exhibition features photographs of the sky taken with a camera obscura – a viewing apparatus that predates the camera – and a lenseless pinhole camera. Wright exploits the imperfections and unpredictable results of these hand-made cameras. Using a hole in his studio fitted with a makeshift lens and shutter, he records arbitrary encounters of light and water vapour that pass overhead. These abstracted images suggest the ephemerality of natural phenomenon, and light itself. The artist positions himself at a conceptual distance from aesthetic choice, as if a scientific observer of cloud patterns, to reflect on the nature of perception. Andrew Wright will create photographs from an on-site camera obscura at Presentation House Gallery and give a demonstration of his techniques on Sunday, November 7 at 2 pm.

Andrew Wright teaches photography and lives in Kitchener/Waterloo Ontario. He has exhibited across Canada, and recently in New York, and is represented by Peak Gallery, Toronto. His art production includes sculpture, installation, prints, outdoor works and recently he produced a feature-length film. *Skies* is his first exhibition in Vancouver.

Special Event

Sunday, November 7 at 2 pm

A demonstration of the camera obscura by Andrew Wright at Presentation House Gallery.

Please contact Diane Evans for images, additional information and artist interviews.

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