

Noise Ghost

Opening: Thursday, May 28, 5-7 p.m.

Exhibition Dates: May 28 - August 23, 2009

Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, University of Toronto



Image left: Shary Boyle, *Iceberg*, ink and gouache on paper, 76 x 57 cm, 2007.

Image right: Shuvinai Ashoona, *Monster*, ink and pencil on paper, 66 x 50.6 cm, 2003-2004.

Noise Ghost

With work by Shuvinai Ashoona and Shary Boyle

Curated by Nancy Campbell

The Noise Ghost is an Inuit poltergeist, an arctic auditory phenomenon of incorporeal guile. This unseen, unbodied noise ghost may announce his haunting visitation by curling around a northern house on a cold quiet night and emitting a small, high-pitched hissing.

The Noise Ghost circles the igloo and, always the constrictor, wraps the fragile ice in singing folds of death. The hiss susurrates, skitters about the room, swooping on the face of a screaming terrified child. Its high buzz mingles with gasping whispers a low, obscene anticipatory gurgling as of a meat-lusting animal in full slobber. Sometimes you can see the raw noise itself, curling impudently in the cold air. - William Gordon Casselman, 2006

This tale is a fitting introduction for the two-person exhibition of Toronto artist Shary Boyle and Cape Dorset artist Shuvinai Ashoona. Boyle is a performance artist, sculptor, painter, and filmmaker whose work provides deeply personal, physiologically moving imagery that recalls the bittersweet fantasy worlds of childhood. Boyle's projections are whimsical and dynamic, employing obsolete overhead projectors. Works such as *Skirmish at Bloody Point* (2007) present a delicately layered narrative--both real and imagined--that subtly reveals the struggles of indigenous peoples to establish land claims.

Similarly, Shuvinai Ashoona's drawings are both personal and dream-like, suggesting altered states of mind and shifting perceptions. Her work ranges from closely observed, naturalistic representations of her Arctic home, to fantastical, monstrous, and strange visions. Her vivid and often inexplicable imagery is disturbing, presenting man-eating beasts, monsters, and dark, fantastical landscapes. Ashoona sources images from both her imagination and residential environs, infusing these with her fascination for horror films, comic books, and television. Ashoona and Boyle's imagery recalls and articulates the anxieties of life.

For information on this exhibition and other Gallery programming please contact:

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Please note that the Gallery Offices will be operating during regular gallery hours only; office hours are reduced as regular staff will be at the Canada Pavilion, at the 53rd International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale 2009, for the first two weeks in June.

Summer Gallery Hours

Monday to Saturday 12pm - 5pm

The Gallery is closed on statutory holidays.

The Gallery is wheelchair accessible.

The Justina M. Barnicke Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.

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