Works by

Patrick Cruz, Erika DeFreitas, Walter Scott, Catherine Telford Keogh, Sojourner Truth Parsons

Curated by Lillian O’Brien Davis

This exhibition is produced as part of the requirements for the MVS degree in Curatorial Studies at the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, University of Toronto.

2019 MVS Curatorial Studies Projects

What do we mean when we say ‘content moderation’?
May 25–26, 2019
Symposium Organized by Pegah Vaezi
—
Hart House

In & Out of Saskatchewan
June 5–July 27, 2019
Curated by Kate Whiteway
—
University of Toronto Art Centre
This exhibition takes its name, *Common Place: Common-Place*, from the writings of Édouard Glissant, a poet and writer from the island of Martinique. Glissant’s common place was characterized by the gesture of relation: between people, places, and things. He understood relationality as being enacted in a place that is common—common ground. An archipelago of islands was Glissant’s metaphor of relation, a site of generative exchange that does not homogenize people or cultures but produces difference from which something new can emerge.

This exhibition explores relations, contradictions, and the considered use of space as an examination of what it means to live together in a common place. Humans are messy and ungraspable, not clean and rigid. The common ground is a space of entanglement. Within the common place existence is not fixed but mutable and articulated through movement as people and objects affect and impinge on one another. The purpose of this exhibition is not to reach conclusions but to explore possibilities.

The artworks included in this exhibition engage with notions of a common place through a variety of entry points to their conceptual and material presences. They are accumulations of interconnectivity—kinships within themselves, with each other and with us. Catherine Telford Keogh’s sculptures contain data from previous moments; they include objects that are in and around us, deposits that slowly shift and change state over time, reacting in relation to each other. Erika DeFreitas’s video depicts a figure in constant movement, resisting a settled or permanent position. The sound generated by her presence permeates the surrounding space. Patrick Cruz’s wall painting engages with the gallery as place, a site for experimentation and assertive gestures that push back against the power of white walls. Walter Scott’s humanoid sculptures extend into the gallery; the vulnerability and humour associated with their forms is a variation of representation, proposing alternate possibilities of perception. Sojourner Truth Parsons’s paintings work through the cacophony of existence. Acting as memorials or visual representations of an emotional process, each painting becomes a site of exchange with and in response to the activities of the world. We care where we put things and we care where we are put. *Common Place: Common-Place* looks at the structures that hold us, considering what it means to be in a state of constant exchange and the difficulty as well as the generative possibilities of that state.

Traces of a previous exhibition remain in the space—two small peep holes in one of the walls. They are a gesture acknowledging the life and continuity of thought in the gallery. According to Glissant, place functions as the model for the common—a model that is by necessity a work in progress. The not unwelcome ghosts of previous exhibitions echo through the gallery, reminding us that nothing has been decided yet, no conclusion has been reached—that we are in a place in process. Welcome to the Common Place.
Opening Event

Reception
Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 6–8pm
University of Toronto Art Centre

Public Programs

Weekly Drop-In Tours
Exhibition Tours
Tuesdays, 2pm
Meet at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery

Malcove Collection Tour
Last Wednesday of each month, 12 noon
University of Toronto Art Centre

Hart House Collection Tour
Last Wednesday of each month, 2pm
Meet at the Hart House information desk

For program details visit
artmuseum.utoronto.ca

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Visiting the Art Museum

Justina M. Barnicke Gallery
7 Hart House Circle
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H3
416.978.8398

University of Toronto Art Centre
15 King’s College Circle
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H7
416.978.1838

Wheelchair access to University College, and therefore the Art Museum’s University of Toronto Art Centre location, will be closed due to University College building revitalization. Accommodations for accessibility are available upon request.

Curator’s Acknowledgments

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