



Galerie d'art Louise et Reuben-Cohen

Pavillon Clément-Cormier

Centre universitaire de Moncton

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Press release

For immediate release

Biographies: A Contemporary Look at Acadie

Homestyle maison (détail), André Alan Phelps



Moncton, Mai 24 2010 – *Biographies: A Contemporary Look at Acadie* will be presented at the Galerie d'art Louise et Reuben-Cohen over the Summer, **from June 16 to August 29 2010**. Curated by Jennifer Bélanger and Mario Doucette at the invitation of the Owens Art Gallery (in 2008), *Biographies* presents work by eight Acadian artists from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Ontario. The **opening, attended by the artists, will be held between 5 and 7 PM, on Wednesday, June 16**. The opening will begin with a guided tour by Jennifer Bélanger and Mario Doucette explaining the work in relation to the theme of *Biographies*, at 5 PM.

Biographies illustrates the link between the identity of the artist and contemporary art practice. “In our era, life and art have become increasingly interlocked, and who a person is becomes an inescapable factor in the creative process. It is through this biographical tallying or narrative interpretation of individuality that we unveil to others who we think a person is” (J. Bélanger*). Thus the works of Maryse Arsenault, Jean-Denis Boudreau, Herménégilde Chiasson, François Gaudet, André Lapointe, Mathieu Léger, André Alan Phelps, and Stefan St-Laurent offer insights into their life stories and suggest a more multifaceted Acadian identity.

“[...] several group exhibitions of contemporary Acadian art have been curated around the assumption that artists are inspired by their communities. Such projects try to define an Acadian art, assuming that similarities must exist in the work of artists of like origins [...], but there are numerous exceptions” (M. Doucette*). As a whole, this exhibition puts forth a wide variety of manifestations of identity that span beyond a cultural and collective representation. These examples are invested in a modern concept of identity, one that is more complex, individual, and fabricated from multiple elements, including the desire to reinvent oneself. “Though some focus on reality and others on fiction, they all convey personal truths” (J. Bélanger*).

This exhibition was produced and presented by the Owens Art Gallery in 2008. Galerie d'art Louise et Reuben-Cohen is located at 405, Université Avenue, in the Clément-Cormier Building on the Université de Moncton campus. The gallery is open between 10 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, and between 12 and 5 PM, Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free. For information, please call (506) 858-4088 or email galrc@umoncton.ca.

(* Excerpt from the exhibition catalogue « *Biographies, Un regard contemporain sur l'Acadie / A Contemporary Look at Acadie* », Jennifer Bélanger and Mario Doucette, Owens Art Gallery, 2008.)

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