

o'born contemporary

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O'BORN CONTEMPORARY presents:

TRANSLATION

Curated by O'Born Contemporary's new Associate Director,
Rachel Anne Farquharson

ALEX FISCHER PETRINA NG
JOHN MONTEITH CALLUM SCHUSTER

March 1 – March 30, 2013

www.oborncontemporary.com



DATES: FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2013, 6 – 9 p.m.
Exhibition Opening and Reception

LOCATION: 131 Ossington Avenue, Toronto.

GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday – Saturday, 11 – 6 and by appointment.

TELEPHONE: 416.413.9555

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

A translation can be many things: It can be a conversion or transformation from one physical form to another, it can be a progression in biological stage, and it can even be, in the most geometric of terms, the movement of a shape along an axis. Within art's pedagogical premise, the most apt definition for translation might be the rendering of something into one's own language, semiotically or aesthetically. Viewed through this lens, geographies that are foreign, ideologies that are suspect, and modes of technology to which we find ourselves unwittingly beholden need a level plane upon which to exist in globalized society. The arrow of understanding, as *Translation* permits, rarely points in one direction, however. The exhibition provides recourse to how translations can also abet the fetishization of objects, enabling simple acts to suddenly become estranged.

Alex Fischer reappropriates digital imagery culled from today's archival internet abyss, exacting the terror of the sublime through an exposition of our dissolved communion with nature. As the artist's high-resolution content surpasses any interface capable of displaying the work in its "natural state", it is revealed that human vision has entered into stalemate with contemporary pixel acuity and printing technology. *John Monteith* transforms composite digital photography into a continuous film loop, a transubstantiation that exposes the foreign social and ideological landscape of North Korea as viscerally tangible, yet absent, unreachable, and indeterminate. Gazing at the visually noisy, obscured surveillance of *Pyongyang, North Korea, June 5 101, 6:57 pm*, the viewer's built knowledge of the world is challenged, rendering typical modes of socio-cultural analysis inapplicable. Here, digital photography reprinted as film is as much an impossible duplicate as *Petrina Ng's* tri-part work, *Heirloom Facsimile*, which explores not only the physical journey artefacts take as they are passed between relatives but also the way in which language and concepts translate between Eastern and Western socio-cultures, at times precipitating an unintentional propagandistic tone. Complimenting this work is a set of seven diamond forms felted from the archived fur of Ng's deceased childhood pet dog. Furthering an investigation of remembrance, *Callum Schuster* creates abstracted daily journal entries by grinding mundane objects down to particulate matter and suspending them in acrylic or varnish. This preservation becomes a ritualistic and alchemical act as solid matter is translated into a medium that bears enhanced meaning. Bringing his metaphysical exercise back into the realm of lived space, Schuster also offers an infinity mirror portal, the optics of which bend and transform our eye's path into a quaternary dimension.

In conversation, the artists in this exhibition aim to translate aspects of life, either by material or digital processes. Transformed in these ways, the landscapes of social, psychic, cultural, physical and political content breach the boundaries of ordinary experience, inciting their audience to new personal and collective understanding.

ABOUT RACHEL ANNE FARQUHARSON

Rachel Anne Farquharson is a Toronto-based essayist and curator who read Modern and Contemporary Art History and Connoisseurship at Christie's Education, London, earning a First in her Master's Degree. The Tate Britain has published her critical writings on the Gallery's new acquisitions and a monograph essay relating Brian Adam Douglas's cut paper images to choreographic revolutionary Pina Bausch was produced by DRAGO in 2011.

Farquharson is a regular feature contributor to C Magazine, having published an interpretive essay on Kerry Tribe in the fall of 2012. She also writes content for Carousel Magazine and the Huffington Post, critiquing both local and international exhibitions and artists. Over the past two years, she has published texts on O'Born Contemporary artists Alex Fischer and John Monteith in addition to moderating a round-table seminar with Kate McQuillen in conjunction with her 2011 solo exhibition, *Conventional Weapons*. Recently, as a part of "C Magazine|Conversations" at Art Toronto 2012, Farquharson conducted a public interview with artists Elle Flanders and Tamira Sawatzky (Public Studio) which focused on the social politics of architecture within visual art. *Translation*, a group exhibition opening at O'Born Contemporary in March 2013, will represent her first curated show at the gallery.

For media information:

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