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O'BORN CONTEMPORARY presents:

## BEHIND THE HIGH GRASS

An installation of recent work by

## SOFT TURNS

AUGUST 7 – AUGUST 28, 2014

[www.oborncontemporary.com](http://www.oborncontemporary.com)



© Soft Turns, "a new path to the waterfall (p.157)", acrylic on acrylic, 22 x 33 cm, 2014

DATES:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2014, 6-8 p.m.

Exhibition Opening and Reception

Artist will be in attendance.

LOCATION:

131 Ossington Avenue, Toronto.

GALLERY HOURS:

Tuesday – Saturday, 11 – 6 and by appointment.

TELEPHONE:

416.413.9555

## EXHIBITION STATEMENT

The mutable nature of space and time seems all the more evident given the post-digital capacity in which we lead our lives today. Much of human existence is now poised on the act of travel, from the intertwined subterrain of urban public transit to sky-born birds of metal leaving white trails in their wake. This physical ubiquity runs parallel to that of the contemporary technological id, a psychic force that seeks both immediate consumption of and presence in the everyplace.

A foundation of Soft Turns' long-term research, movement in space and time is a topic of continual contention. The reason, other than its wily character, is that it is belied by stasis—the human experience is oftentimes a bisection of the self wherein past and present bodies coexist. The same can be said of distance and proximity, collapsing perception into something of a closed circuit. For their second presentation in O'Born Contemporary's gallery space, *Behind the High Grass* (2012—), Soft Turns has ensnared this particular perceptive enigma, reiterating it through three distinct video works and a suite of auxiliary paintings and installations. This project is an ongoing excavation of source images taken from a found post-war travel book by Czech explorers and filmmakers Jiri Hanzelka and Miroslav Zikmund.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

SOFT TURNS is the collaborative effort of artists Sarah Jane Gorlitz and Wojciech Olejnik. Currently based in Toronto, Canada, they have been collaborating on video installation and stop-motion animation since 2006. The idea of an encounter with something, as an ever-changing space between the foreign and the familiar, the accessible and inaccessible, is a central theme of their practice. Their collaborations employ found objects, common, easily available materials (i.e. paper and plywood), D.I.Y. methods, and experimentation as much as intuition to make stop-motion animations and installations that invite viewers into an active encounter with a narrative, subject or space.

Wojciech (MFA University of Waterloo 2002) and Sarah Jane (MFA Malmö Art Academy 2011) have received support from the Swedish Edstrand Foundation, as well as numerous grants from the Toronto, Ontario, and Canada Arts Councils; including the Joseph S. Stauffer Prize in 2008 and a 2013 CCA Paris Residency. In 2011, they were featured in the Fall issue of Canadian Art. They have exhibited frequently in Canada and internationally; having recent solo exhibitions at YYZ (Toronto), Southern Exposure (San Francisco), Foundation 3,14 (Bergen), Skånes konstförening (Malmö) and Greusslich Contemporary (Berlin), and significant group exhibitions such as SESC\_Videobrasil 18th and 17th International Contemporary Art Festival (São Paulo), Now&After '12, Museum of Modern Art (Moscow), Interaccess (Toronto), Dortmund Bodega (Oslo), Soap Factory (Minneapolis), and in early 2014, Oakville Galleries (Oakville).

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