

STRAIT LINES + DISRUPTING CURRENTS

Ruth Beer and Kit Grauer

in collaboration with Soledad Munoz, Miles Thorogood, Andres Wanner, Phillip Robbins
Coordinated by Jennifer Dysart

Exhibition: April 19 to May 26, 2013

Opening: April 19 at 7:00 PM

Haida Gwaii Museum, Skidegate, BC

The Haida Gwaii Museum and Heritage Centre at Kaay Llnagaay proudly presents **Strait Lines + Disrupting Currents**, a thought provoking exhibition of artworks by Ruth Beer and Kit Grauer in collaboration with Soledad Munoz, Miles Thorogood, Andres Wanner, and Phillip Robbins. The exhibition features sculpture, video, photography and interactive new media that highlight visual patterns and forms provoking questions about the relationship of our present ecological circumstances, our history and our impact on the future.

Strait Lines + Disrupting Currents examines salmon and its ecological and marine environmental relevance for the west coast from a contemporary and interdisciplinary perspective.

Mosaic, a video montage of interview based excerpts with people from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds who relate their perspectives on salmon. They include a Haida carver, a marine biologist, a cook, a former cannery worker, a commercial fisherman, and a museum interpreter. **Soundposts** is an interactive sound sculpture composed of a dense cluster of obsolete salmon cans. Sounds that emanate from speakers embedded in the cans create a listening forum and soundscape of wind, water, rain and various marine related audio samples collected during a fishing trip at sea. **Disrupting Currents (Observatory)** consists of moving patterns that evoke the flow of ocean currents. Aesthetic and scientific considerations are combined in this artwork based on the visual translation of data measuring temperature, oxygen, salinity and current from sophisticated marine sensors operated by NEPTUNE Canada underwater ocean observatory, that are located in Georgia Strait. **Copper Currents** weaves together lines of copper wire in patterns referencing graphs derived from NEPTUNE-supported scientific experiments tracking the condition of the ocean. **Magnetic Shimmer**, an artwork composed of shimmering strands of magnetic audio tape woven into a form and flickering surface that responds to viewer interaction with sounds of the sea. **Geoscapes** are sculptures inspired by geological and mineral structures and formations. Photo-based Banners continue the theme of geological features and disruptive currents.

Dr. Ruth Beer is a Vancouver-based artist whose artistic practice includes sculpture, video, photography and interactive projections. She is interested in interdisciplinary approaches to artistic, collaborative and pedagogical practices. Her work has been shown in national and international exhibitions and she has been awarded several public art commissions. Her recent artwork addresses social history and geo/marine conditions focused on the Pacific northwest region. She is a Professor of Visual Art at Emily Carr University of Art and Design.

Dr. Kit Grauer is Professor Emerita in Art Education at the University of British Columbia. Also interested in interdisciplinary approaches to artistic, collaborative and pedagogical practices, she has presented both national and internationally and published extensively on her research. She holds numerous awards for scholarship and teaching.

This exhibition is made possible through the support of the Haida Gwaii Museum, BC Arts Council, Pacific Coastal Airlines, Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).



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