

PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY

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PATRICKMIKHAILGALLERY.COM

**PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY presents
WHITE, new paintings by artist PAUL FORTIN**

Exhibition:
WHITE

Artist:
PAUL FORTIN

Dates:
February 6, 2008, to March 2, 2008

Artist Reception:
Friday, February 8, 2008
5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

“She felt the world around her suddenly out of reach. Not only was she exiled in Paris, she was exiled from the whole world. The people sitting on the sidewalk terrace, the people who were walking in the street, they were insubstantial, they were shadows; the houses were nothing but painted backdrops with no depth.”

Simone de Beauvoir
She Came to Stay

OTTAWA, FEBRUARY 6, 2008...PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY is pleased to present WHITE, a new exhibition of stunning, large-scale paintings and works on paper by Canadian artist PAUL FORTIN.

In this newest body of work, Mr. Fortin presents fragments of visual culture that have been appropriated from diverse sources and pared down, re-drawn, and abstracted to their basic forms. Intrigued by the depth that results with the dropping away of details, the artist explores the emptiness or void—the whiteness—that is created when objects and places do not fully register in our minds, giving us nothing but unanswered questions. In WHITE, the artist has

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developed paintings that are brief glimpses into landscapes and moments that may or may not fully develop into what they truly are. The work remains open, allowing the viewer to fill in the blanks, to absorb and construct what they are seeing.

Over the past ten years, Mr. Fortin has lived a nomadic lifestyle settling in and moving throughout numerous regions of Canada. This has allowed for the collection of a vast database of visual imagery, both two and three dimensional, which has been used to create an eclectic and diverse body of paintings, sculptures, and installations. His work is strongly influenced by society's connection and disconnection with environments (both natural and manmade) and draws upon the emotion of loneliness and feelings of emptiness. His move to Inuvik, Northwest Territories in 2004 along with the unique arctic geography, isolation, and the study of Inuit graphics and prints has been a major influence in his work.

Originally from Peterborough, Ontario, Mr. Fortin's formal art training has taken him to the Ontario College of Art in Toronto, the Maine College of Art in Portland, Maine, and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Mr. Fortin is the recipient of numerous grants and has been awarded artist in residence positions at the: Pouch Cove Foundation in Newfoundland; Banff Centre for the Arts; Canada Council's International Residency Program at CCA in Port of Spain, Trinidad; Kulturhuset USF in Bergen Norway; and artist in residence at the Gil -Society in Akureyri, Iceland. His work can be found in public and private collections in Canada, the United States, and Europe.

IN OTHER GALLERY NEWS...

We are pleased to announce the work entitled "Disaster Series, Triptych" by artist **Cindy Stelmackowich** has been purchased by the Canada Council Art Bank for its permanent collection as part of its 2007 Purchase Program. The work was featured in Ms. Stelmackowich's PMG exhibition entitled ANATOMIA in October 2007. For more information about the artist and to view images from the exhibition, please visit

<http://www.patrickmikhailgallery.com/artists/stelmackowich/>

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Nichola Feldman-Kiss has joined the gallery and will exhibit a new body of work in a solo exhibition in Fall 2008. Ms. Feldman-Kiss is a conceptual artist researching body, gaze, and identity. Among her digital, analogue, and performance works is the “mean body database,” an extensive database of self-referential surface anthropometry studies. She has an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts, and has exhibited her work in numerous venues including Carleton University Art Gallery, Art Metropole, Milan’s Museum of Contemporary Photography, Axe néo-7, and the Ottawa Art Gallery. A portfolio of her photographic works will be published in the Spring 2008 issue of Prefix Photo magazine.

The Ottawa Art Gallery has purchased two photographic works for their permanent collection from **Michael Schreier’s** Tears for an Empty Desert. Mr. Schreier new body of work entitled “Waiting for Words, The Vienna Interiors” will be launched in Fall 2008 at PMG.

Cheryl Pagurek’s video work entitled “Passage” will be screened at the Ottawa Art Gallery on February 5, 2008, to launch their Persistent Vision: 20th-Anniversary Screenings film and video series curated by Emily Falvey.

Opening next at Patrick Mikhail Gallery.... **SHOWCASE**, a group exhibition featuring works by Paul Bernhardt, Dennis Ekstedt, Adrian Fish, Paul Fortin, Vera Greenwood, Nichola Feldman-Kiss, Deborah Margo, Uta Riccius, Frank Rodick, and Cindy Stelmackowich...from March 5 to 24, 2008.

For more information:

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