

PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY

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PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY presents EAST WEST NORTH, an exhibition featuring four new gallery artists from across Canada.

Exhibition: EAST WEST NORTH

Dates: AUGUST 18 TO SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

Opening Reception: FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2006
5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Artists: ELIZABETH BARNES
PAUL BERNHARDT
PAUL FORTIN
THE LIONS featuring
TASHA BROTHERTON
MATTHEW BROWN
BARRY DOUPE
JAMES WHITMAN

OTTAWA, August 15, 2006... PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY is pleased to present EAST WEST NORTH, an exhibition featuring four new gallery artists from across Canada.

The exhibition showcases new works by;

■ **ELIZABETH BARNES**, a Vancouver artist whose complex, layered paintings explore the junction where science, technology, mathematics, and art meet and feed one another;

■ **PAUL BERNHARDT**, a Halifax-based painter whose edgy and punky landscapes on steel and sheet metal have often been likened to works by the Group of Seven, and Edward Burtynsky's searing views of the wastelands around Sudbury;

■ **PAUL FORTIN**, a Peterborough native now living in Inuvik whose large-scale paintings, sculptures, and installations are strongly influenced by society's connection with natural and man-made environments; and

■ **THE LIONS**, the Vancouver collaborative drawing and painting group (featuring TASHA BROTHERTON, MATTHEW BROWN, BARRY DOUPE, and JAMES WHITMAN), that is causing a stir on the West coast with their quirky, inventive, and insane "exquisite corpse" style drawings and watercolours.

Please see attached for complete artist biographies.

Our fall season launches on October 2, 2006, with TEARS FOR AN EMPTY DESERT: THE INTERIORS, a solo exhibition of new works by renowned Canadian photo-based artist MICHAEL SCHREIER. The season continues with solo exhibitions by MATTHEW BROWN, WIL MURRAY, and VERA GREENWOOD.

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For more information, please contact:

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Elizabeth Barnes

Elizabeth Barnes is a popular and accomplished artist who lives and works in Vancouver. Her paintings, in various mediums, are borne out of an innate interest in the repeated patterns of life, revealed through the use of imaging technologies, as well as the new, virtual world surrounding us. Barnes is especially interested in the junction where science, technology, mathematics, and art meet and feed one another. She explores these complex threads through layering paint and subtle colour shifts to create a tenuous visual balance. Often these mathematical constructs mimic life forms in an uncanny way. She questions where the natural and synthetic meet and how they affect one another. Ms. Barnes has an MFA from the University of North Carolina and has exhibited extensively in Canada and the United States. She is also represented by Herringer Kiss Gallery in Calgary, and Winsor Gallery in Vancouver where she has experienced great success. Her solo exhibition at PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY is scheduled for fall 2007.

Paul Bernhardt

Over the past four years, Paul Bernhardt's painting practice has been concerned with the exploration of alternative painting materials, and their application to landscape based imagery. He works with materials that carry industrial associations—tars, acids, and patina applied to steel surfaces. Working with these materials demands extensive technical exploration: the drying times of tars, the intentional rusting or preservation of steel, the effective use of patinas or acids, and the various methods of abrasion, all require consideration. The process alludes to heavy industry, entropy, and potential deterioration through the strong material presence in the simplified landscape image. Inspired by frequent hikes through the landscape, the works are created from memory. Ultimately, the paintings explore the tensions between various oppositions: image and surface, abstraction and figuration, beauty and toxicity. These tensions may serve to both engage and alienate the viewer, an allegory for our own contradictory relationship to the land. Mr. Bernhardt has a BFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and is completing his MFA at SUNY University in Purchase, New York. He was an Eastern Canada finalist in the 2005 RBC Canadian Painting Competition. His work is included in corporate and private collections across Canada.

Paul Fortin

Paul Fortin originally hails from Peterborough, a community nestled in the mixed agricultural and woodland landscapes of the Kawartha Lakes region of Ontario. His formal art training has taken him to the Ontario College of Art in Toronto, Maine College of Art in Portland, Maine and to the MFA program at the Nova Scotia college of Art and Design in Halifax. Between 1997 and 2004, he has lived and worked in numerous regions throughout Canada. This nomadic lifestyle 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 societies' connection with environments (both natural and manmade) and can be seen in both his painted and sculptural works. Constructed environments, housing, industrial machinery, northern forests, as well as appropriated wallpaper and wrought-iron floral patterns have all played a part in the work that Mr. Fortin has created. 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 and is particularly evident in his enamel on canvas works produced in early 2005. Work from 1997 to the present can be found in public and private collections in Canada, the United States, and Europe. In 2007, Mr. Fortin will have artist residencies at: Gil-society Akureyri, Artist in Residence, Akureyri, Iceland; Kulturhuset USF, Artist in Residence, Bergen, Norway; and Canada Council for the Arts International Residency Program - CCA Trinidad.

The Lions

■ **Tasha Brotherton** is an animator and filmmaker from Skokie, Illinois, an old growth suburb of Chicago. Brotherton moved to Vancouver in 2001 to study animation at The Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, and in 2006 receives her Bachelor of Media Arts degree. Her film, "The Good Life of the Cacti" was recently screened at the Northwest Film Forum in Seattle.

■ **Matthew Brown / 2006 RBC Canadian Painting Competition, Western Canada Finalist**

Mathew Brown works with painting and drawing. He was born in Birmingham, U.K., and currently resides in Vancouver. He has a BFA from the University of Victoria and an MFA from Concordia University. Mr. Brown was a finalist in the 2005 RBC Painting Competition, which toured Canada in Fall 2005. He was recently interviewed by Robert Enright for the Winter 2006 issue of *Border Crossings*, and was profiled by Lee Henderson in the U.K.'s *Contemporary Magazine*.

Mr. Brown has been nominated as a Western Canada finalist in the 2006 RBC Canadian Painting Competition. He is currently exhibiting his work at Marlborough Gallery in New York City's Chelsea district, and in a September exhibition entitled PAINT, at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

■ **Barry Doupe** is a filmmaker and animator living in Vancouver. He holds a Bachelor of Media arts degree from The Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. He is the recipient of a 2005 Media Arts Canada Council Production Grant and is presently working on a film entitled, "Distraught Mother Reunites with Children." His films have been screened throughout Canada and internationally. *A BOY ON A DOCK BLOWING HIS NOSE* was included in the 2005 Images Fest in Toronto, and most recently, at Les Inattendus in Lyon, France.

■ **James Whitman** is a Vancouver-based artist who mainly works in drawing and painting. He received his BFA from the University of Victoria in 1998, and since then has been exhibiting in Artist-Run centres in Vancouver and across Canada. He is currently on the Board of Access Artist Run Centre in Vancouver, and has worked with such collaborators as Jo Cook, Owen Plummer, 536, Cartoon Wars (Tasha Brotherton, Carly Haddon, Lief Hall, Guinivere Pencarrick), and The Lions.