

Artworks explore time and space in accelerated culture

Four new artworks launch as part of Electric Speed exhibition at Surrey Urban Screen

What is too fast? According to the late Canadian media theorist Marshall McLuhan, speed impacts everything. It affects how we experience physical space and how our senses understand communication. Speed makes distances smaller. The speed of the modern world has created a simultaneous global present and the famous concept of the "global village."

Electric Speed is a two-part exhibition inspired by McLuhan's notion of speed. Artists were invited to create work that questions the existence of a simultaneous global culture and examines how accelerated culture affects our experience of time and space.

Presented as part of the McLuhan in Europe 2011 initiative celebrating the centennial of McLuhan, Electric Speed showcases new works from Canadian media artists. Curated by Kate Armstrong and Malcolm Levy for New Forms Media Society, Electric Speed is premiering at Surrey Urban Screen.

Part Two of Electric Speed launches video works from Jeremy Bailey, Jillian McDonald, Jon Sasaki, and Will Gill at Surrey Urban Screen on January 28 with a Conversation with the Artists at 3:30pm and a Reception and Publication Launch to follow at 5pm. These events are held at Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre. Admission is free.

In Explore the Future of Creativity, Jeremy Bailey produces a multi-level advertising campaign for himself as a "famous new media artist," using the large scale surface of the Surrey Urban Screen in conjunction with google ads and paid promotion on YouTube as a way to critique the role of the artist in a radically commercial, global sphere. With Hunger, Jillian McDonald is locked in a staring contest with famous vampires from films such as Twilight, inserting herself into a dialogue with popular culture and raising questions about the position of the consuming subject and the speed of desire. In Gravity, Jon Sasaki considers speed in the context of a daredevil culture, raising the spectre of radical collapse by filming a motorcyclist in slow motion on the vertical track of a "Wall of Death" motordrome. With Firefly, Will Gill uses a bow and arrow to shoot glowsticks across placid Newfoundland landscapes, producing mysterious bolts of light that are associative of an information-permeated world.

Part One of Electric Speed launched last December with Rewrite the Year, a large scale interactive installation by Montreal-based artists Mouna Andraos & Melissa Mongiat, in which the public was invited to rewrite 365 news headlines from the year 2011 as a way of reimagining our collective history and positing a hopeful message about the future.

Curators Kate Armstrong and Malcolm Levy say, "We find the artists in conversation with popular culture but also with the material world. The effects of technology are made a part of this dialogue. Though speed is neither celebrated nor rejected, we find in these works reminders of the slow."

A publication has been produced in connection with the exhibition, co-published by the Surrey Art Gallery and the New Forms Media Society, edited by Kate Armstrong with contributions by Caitlin Jones, Sylvie Parent, Mirjam Struppek, Steve Dietz, Garnet Hertz, Justin Waddell, Greg J. Smith, and The Cedar Tavern Singers AKA Les Phonorealistes.

Electric Speed continues to March 31, and more information is available at www.electricspeed.ca.

More information about the artists:

www.jeremybailey.net

www.jillianmcdonald.net

www.jonsasaki.com

www.williamgill.ca

Surrey Urban Screen exhibitions begin 30 minutes after sunset, and conclude at midnight. More information about Surrey Urban Screen is available at www.surreyurbanscreen.ca.

Events

**Conversation with Electric Speed Part Two Artists | Saturday, January 28, 2012 3:30pm
Opening Reception and Publication Launch to follow at 5pm**

These events are held at Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre (13458 - 107A Avenue Surrey, BC V3T 0G4).

Public Inquiries

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