



Immersion Emergencies and Possible Worlds

Engaging Water as Culture and Resource through Contemporary Art

In the present socio-cultural moment, *water* is increasingly the subject of discussion and contestation in public discourse. As Canadians, we know it as a resource that is ubiquitous within our history and an increasingly desirable international commodity. Our project uses research and practice in visual art to address the subject of water regarding its cultural and environmental importance, linking the historical art practice of *picturing nature* with the potential of visual representation to offer opportunities for aesthetic and socio-cultural engagement. The project is generously funded by the Social Sciences Research Council of Canada. (see www.immersion-emergencies.ca)



Patrick Mahon – Artist & Lead Researcher

Artist, writer and professor at Western University, Mahon's artwork has been exhibited widely, both nationally and internationally in group and solo exhibitions. He led the SSHRC-funded collaborative artist's project and published book, *Art and Cold Cash*, between 2004-2011. He also co-curated the exhibition *Barroco-Nova: Neo-Baroque Moves in Contemporary Art*. Mahon is represented by the Katzman Kamen Gallery in Toronto



Gu Xiong – Artist & Second Lead Researcher

A multi-media artist from China who now lives in Canada, Xiong works with painting, sculpture, photography, video, digital imagery, performance art, and installation. He has exhibited in over 70 prominent national and international group exhibitions including the Shanghai Biennale (2004), the Kwangju Biennale (Korea, 1995); and the groundbreaking China Avant-Garde exhibition at the China National Museum of Fine Arts (Beijing, 1989). Gu Xiong is a professor at UBC.

Colin Miner – Artist & Researcher/Coordinator (1)

Miner works primarily in the area of photography. Miner has exhibited nationally in Canada and abroad in Germany and China. He completed his MFA at the University of British Columbia and is currently in the second year of the PhD program in Art and Visual Culture at Western University.

Nadine Bariteau – Artist (2)

A multi-disciplinary Franco artist based in Toronto, she completed her MFA at York University and has exhibited nationally and internationally. Nadine has received arts grants and participated in residencies in Argentina, Belgium, and Canada. Bariteau teaches printmaking at York and OCAD University.

Raymond Boisjoly – Artist (3)

An Aboriginal artist based in Vancouver, Boisjoly completed his MFA at The University of British Columbia, and has since exhibited in Canada and the USA. He recently participated in a residency at the Banff Centre and is represented by Republic Gallery in Vancouver.

Soheila Esfahani – Artist (4)

Esfahani grew up in Tehran, Iran, and moved to Canada in 1992. She received her Master of Fine Arts degree from Western University and was a semi-finalist for the 2004 RBC New Canadian Painting Competition. Esfahani's work is represented in private and public collections including the Canada Council's Art Bank.

Gautam Garoo – Artist (5)

In the works of Indian-born visual artist repetitive actions present an emptiness that is emulated on the surface of the work. Of interest to him is the past resurfacing in the present. Garoo received his BFA from the University of Delhi and recently completed his MFA at Western University.

David Barber – Scientist & Research Collaborator

Barber is Canada Research Chair in Arctic System Science at the University of Manitoba since 2002. He is currently Director of the Centre for Earth Observation Science (CEOS), and Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Environment. His research interest is the coupling between physical and biological marine systems in the Arctic and in the use of Earth Observation technologies in the study of ocean-sea ice-atmosphere (OSA) processes.

