



WINTER 2014

LUCIEN DUREY & KATIE KOZAK: SNOW GALLERY

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EXHIBITIONS | IN SITU

Lucien Durey and Katie Kozak: *Snow Gallery*

Curated by Blair Fornwald

FEBRUARY 14 TO SPRING THAW, 2014

Opening Reception: Friday, February 14, 6:00 pm, Victoria Park

Commissioned by Dunlop Art Gallery, 2014

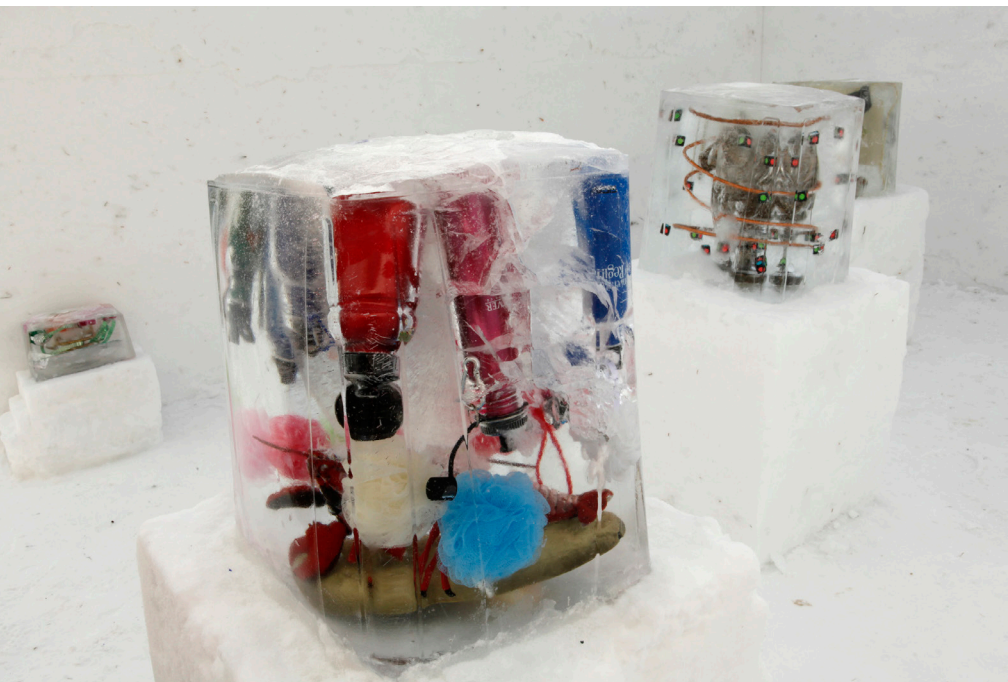
Presented in partnership with New Dance Horizons' Ice & Fire Festival

The Making and Unmaking of Snow Gallery

by Blair Fornwald, Assistant Curator, Dunlop Art Gallery

Conceived of as an ephemeral third exhibition space for the Dunlop, *Snow Gallery* will be constructed in Victoria Park by artists Lucien Durey and Katie Kozak, alongside a team of volunteers, and will remain as long as the prairie winter.

Four packed snow walls form an impermanent structure that functions simultaneously as a gallery and public artwork. Inside the gallery walls are found objects, encased in ice vitrines and set atop snow plinths. These objects, sourced from local thrift shops and antique stores, carry with them unknown personal significance and histories, and together form a loose portrait of the city, while reflecting the artists' curatorial interests. As the exhibition melts, or is deconstructed by passersby, the objects have the potential to be claimed or to



disappear, landing in unforeseeable places: back to the thrift store, into people's houses, or garbage bins. The gallery too will melt, and will become part of the water system from which it was created, drawing parallels between the cycle of consumer goods and the cycles of nature.

Artworks comprised of nonstable materials will, Martha Buskirk notes, "give rise to spatial and temporal shifts for viewers, who may have radically different experiences depending on when and where the work is encountered."¹ Someone attending the opening reception will contribute to the convivial and friendly atmosphere; bundled up in winter parkas and sipping hot chocolate, they will contribute to a reading of the work as a social and performative gesture. Visit the work when it is fresh, with sun glinting off the ice vitrines and the snow walls unmarred or after a recent snowfall when it is covered in powder, or near its eventual end when it is crumbling and in ruin, and it will look and function very differently. Visit at the very end of winter, and it may not be recognized as an artwork at all.

The project underscores the contingent nature of post-Duchampian practice and the paradigm of the readymade, described by Thierry de Duve as "the operation that reduces the work of art to its enunciative function, and the 'result' of this operation, a work of art reduced to the statement 'this is art.' as exemplified by Duchamp's readymades."² *Snow Gallery*, as a temporary institutional structure (albeit one affiliated with a real, brick-and-mortar institution nearby, lending it credibility and authority), temporarily confers the status of "art" upon chosen objects, a status that will only remain viable as long as the structure remains intact. It proves that if the act of making art may be reduced to the act of declaration, then logically, it is just as simple to "unmake"



a work of art and return the object to its prosaic origins. The return, in this case, will be aided by the changing of the seasons, from winter to spring.

Snow and ice will longer be snow and ice. The institutional structure will melt away and will seep into the ground. The objects, unfrozen and unmoored will cease to be art. They will cease to function, collectively, as a portrait of this city. They will cease to signify anything but their own objecthood, tinted perhaps, by the abject cloud that lingers around things discarded. The entire structure will undergo an anticipated and expected ontological shift as it moves from the conceptual space of “art” and “everyday life,” before disappearing altogether.

¹Martha Buskirk, *The Contingent Object of Contemporary Art*, (Cambridge, MA. and London, UK: MIT Press, 2003),14-15.

²Thierry de Duve, *Kant After Duchamp*, (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1996), 389.

Artist Biographies

Lucien Durey is a visual artist and singer working in Saskatchewan and Vancouver. Durey holds a BFA from Emily Carr University of Art and Design and is an MFA in Interdisciplinary Studies candidate at Vancouver’s SFU School for the Contemporary Arts. He has exhibited in Saskatchewan, Vancouver, Portland, and New York.

Katie Kozak is a Creighton, Saskatchewan artist of Métis and Ukrainian descent, whose work is a thoughtful blend of visual art and science. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Victoria and attended Emily Carr University of Art and Design from 2009 through 2012. She has exhibited artworks in the Prairies and Western Canada.

IMAGE CREDITS

LUCIEN DUREY AND KATIE KOZAK *Snow Gallery* 2014 snow, ice, found objects

Photo: LIZ CRONIN

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Photo: UNIVERSITY OF REGINA PHOTOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT



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The Dunlop Art Gallery is a unit of the Regina Public Library that informs the practices and understanding of visual art through activities that include exhibitions, public programs, research, publishing and collecting. The Dunlop Art Gallery also offers an Art Rental Service from the Gallery office, during office hours.

For more information, please visit our website, www.dunlopartgallery.org.

FREE ADMISSION

The Dunlop Art Gallery is wheelchair accessible.



Central Gallery & Mediatheque

2311 - 12th Avenue

HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9:30 am to 9:00 pm
Friday 9:30 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Closed statutory holidays

Sherwood Gallery

6121 Rochdale Boulevard

HOURS

Monday 9:30 am to 6:00 pm
Tuesday/Wednesday 9:30 am to 9:00 pm
Thursday/Friday 9:30 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Closed statutory holidays

Office

2311-12th Avenue

HOURS

Monday through Friday
9:30 am to 5:00 pm



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