

For Immediate Release

The Fleishman Gallery

Sydney Lancaster 21st Century Nesting Practices

Opening Reception Friday February 1st 2013 7 - 9 pm
Exhibition Runs until March 15th 2013

21st Century Nesting Practices, is a mixed-media installation by Sydney Lancaster that examines the reality of specific objects, namely birds' nests, and what they may signify psychologically and emotionally. The exhibition consists of digital photographs, gel transfers on birch panel, charcoal and ink works on paper, video projection and sculptural 'nests' made of welding rod and wire. The projection, titled "500 lines about childhood, or it can take a bird up to 500 trips to complete a nest" is a video rendering of a collaborative poem reflecting on family, gender, the creation of identity and sense of self. The artist explores the physical and conceptual aspects of nests as liminal objects suggesting meaning in both complicated and contradictory ways. Nests exist as homes as well as empty spaces - as markers for absence and loss – at the same time, they point to the potential for growth, protection, and nurturance.



Nest Entry, Digital Photograph, 2012

Our experience of home is visceral, primal, and largely abstract. We collect a set of notions and images that signify 'home' within our mind and memory. From this vantage point, we map the significance of objects, places, and people over time. This is the emotional 'nest' from which we experience the world, and we consequently need the refuge it provides for all levels of survival. To continue to access this nest, we fetishize objects and invest them with emotional and symbolic import, in a cycle of attaching and re-attaching our presence to a version of the past: a 'nest' associated simultaneously with personal history and also within the larger cultural narratives of childhood and family and home.

My work is concerned with the intersection and friction between personal and public narratives of place and identity. I am interested in tracing the connections between physical objects, the landscapes in which they are found, and the various "maps" of meaning conjured by these (sometimes arbitrary) situations. What is left out is as important as what is chosen: we construct reality and identity for ourselves and others through objects, images, words, actions and the workings and edits of memory. I employ a variety of media ... to create space to reflect upon the assumptions and conventions underlying the construction and interpretation of lived experience.

Biography:

Sydney Lancaster is an Edmonton-based mixed media artist and writer. She has exhibited nationally in Edmonton, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, and St. Albert. Recent projects include: *Make: Believe* - a living sculptural installation (ongoing) & *EGG* - a sculpture-based ritual/performance and *Lost and Found*, at the Art Gallery of St. Albert. She was the 2012 Artist in Residence at Harcourt House artist-run centre. Current projects include the creation of *YORK*, a collaborative photo-based installation. Visit www.sydneylancaster.ca

fleishman gallery

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<http://www.gowonderworks.com/exhibpage>

Gallery Hours: Tuesday to Friday 11 – 6pm

The artist gratefully acknowledges support from the Edmonton Arts Council and the City of Edmonton.

