

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Oshawa, Ontario – January 7, 2016**

**The Robert McLaughlin Gallery presents *The Other NFB: The National Film Board of Canada's Still Photography Division, 1941-1971***

**The Other NFB: The National Film Board of Canada's Still Photography Division, 1941-1971**

Curated by Carol Payne. Organized and circulated by Carleton University Art Gallery, Ottawa

**Exhibition Dates: January 23, 2016 - May 1, 2016**

Reception: RMG Fridays, March 4, 2016, 7-10pm

Symposium: March 19, 2016 from 10am – 4pm

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery is pleased to present *The Other NFB: The National Film Board of Canada's Still Photography Division, 1941-1971*. During this pivotal period in Canada's history—the mid-twentieth century—the NFB functioned as the country's official photographer. Mandated by the federal government to promote the nation, the NFB's Still Photography Division produced an "official" portrait of Canadian society. *The Other NFB* looks at how this agency imagined Canada and Canadian identity, what role photographs played in that imagining, and how the NFB's photographic archive was—and continues to be—used.

The image of Canada produced by the NFB is celebratory and optimistic. The pressures and hardships of life during the Second World War and in subsequent decades are rarely visible. Instead, the photographs champion the country's scenic beauty. The NFB did not construct Canadian national identity through the grand gestures of public monuments. Instead, it produced representations of the everyday, rendered in photography, a common and accessible medium. Taken together, the NFB's Still Division photographs create a composite portrait of Canada made from nationalistic and bureaucratic points of view and holds a unique position in the history of Canadian visual culture as a conveyor of shared values and governmental programs in photographic form.

*The Other NFB: The National Film Board of Canada's Still Photography Division, 1941-1971*. Is curated by Carol Payne and organized and circulated by Carleton University Art Gallery, Ottawa. Please join us and celebrate the exhibition at RMG Fridays on March 4, 2016 from 7-10pm. As well, the RMG will offer a one-day symposium addressing Canada and Canadian identity through visual image on March 19, 2016.

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**The Robert McLaughlin Gallery**

72 Queen Street, Civic Centre, Oshawa, ON L1H 3Z3

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Directions: 401 to Oshawa, exit Simcoe St, North to Bagot St. Turn left at Bagot, 2 blocks to Gallery.

Gallery Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Thursday: 10:00 am - 9:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; Sunday: 12 pm - 4:00 pm.

Admission by donation. Parking available. Accessible location.

## **The Other NFB: The National Film Board of Canada's Still Photography Division, 1941-1971 - Fact Sheet**

Curated by Carol Payne. Organized and circulated by Carleton University Art Gallery, Ottawa

### **Exhibition Dates**

January 23, 2016 - May 1, 2016

### **About the Exhibition**

The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) has long been acclaimed for documentary, animated and feature films, which are among Canada's iconic cultural products and exports. But few Canadians know that during a pivotal period in the country's history—the mid-twentieth century—the NFB also functioned as the country's official photographer.

Mandated by the federal government to promote the nation, the NFB's Still Photography Division produced an "official" portrait of Canadian society. The Division commissioned its photographers to travel across the country, where they shot approximately 250,000 images of people, places, work, leisure, and cultural activities. Millions of Canadians as well as international audiences saw these photographs reproduced in newspapers, magazines, books, filmstrips, and exhibitions. *The Other NFB* looks at the how this agency imagined Canada and Canadian identity, what role photographs played in that imagining, and how the NFB's photographic archive was—and continues to be—used.

The image of Canada produced by the NFB is celebratory and optimistic. The pressures and hardships of life during the Second World War and in subsequent decades are rarely visible. Instead, the photographs champion the country's scenic beauty. They extol the Canadian economy in shoots on forestry, mining, and agricultural plenitude, and its booming urban centres. They honour Canadian artists, scientists and politicians. They depict thousands of unidentified citizens, and chart Canada's increasingly diverse population. They also reflect trends in photojournalism and commercial photography of the day, and are among the most dynamic media images produced in mid-twentieth-century Canada.

The NFB did not construct Canadian national identity through the grand gestures of public monuments or stirring political oratory that we typically associate with nation building. Instead, it produced representations of the everyday, rendered in photography, a common and accessible medium. Such images were powerful in part because they were so familiar, so widely available, and so unassuming: they formed a kind of backdrop to daily life in Canada.

Taken together, the NFB's Still Division photographs create a composite portrait of Canada made from nationalistic and bureaucratic points of view. The NFB aspired not just to present an image of the country, but the image. As a result, the NFB holds a unique position in the history of Canadian visual culture as a conveyor of shared values and governmental programs in photographic form.

**About the Curator:**

Carol Payne is Associate Professor of Art History at Carleton University and a research associate of the university's Public History program. She is the author of *The Official Picture: The National Film Board of Canada's Still Photography Division and the Image of Canadian Nationhood, 1941-1971*. (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013) and coeditor with Andrea Kunard of *The Cultural Work of Photography in Canada* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2011). She is also author of numerous essays on photography, from the historic to the contemporary

**Opening Reception:**

***A Spring Thing***

**March 04, 2016 from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM**

Birds of Bellwoods are back by popular demand for an entire evening of sweet, sweet harmonies! Learn more about *The Other NFB: The National Film Board of Canada's Still Photography Division, 1941-1971* with curatorial tour and in Gallery A, join The IRIS Group for an opening reception.

**Symposium:**

**The Other NFB: The National Film Board of Canada's Still Photography Division**

**March 19, 2016 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

This one-day symposium addresses Canada and Canadian identity through visual image. A tour of the exhibition will be given by curator Carol Payne, followed by an interactive discussion with panelists, including Ted Grant (photojournalist) and Sonya Jones (Curator of the Thomas Bouckley Collection). More details to follow!

A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. Advanced online registration is required. \$15 Members/\$20 Non-Members

**About Carleton University Art Gallery:**

CUAG is a vital cultural resource for the University and the wider community, bringing art and minds together. As a curatorial laboratory, its research and exhibitions of art illuminate the past, engage the present, and stimulate curiosity about the future. CUAG builds and preserves the University's art collection as a rich resource for research, teaching, learning and discovery through the direct experience of original works of art. As a public art gallery, it connects the cultural life of the University to that of the wider community through a lively and critical program of exhibitions, publications, and events that foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the visual arts.



**Credit Line**

Organized and circulated by Carleton University Art Gallery, Ottawa  
*Please note the credit line must be used on all published materials.*

**For all press inquiries, please contact:**

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**The Robert McLaughlin Gallery**

72 Queen Street, Civic Centre, Oshawa, Ontario L1H 3Z3

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Directions: From Toronto, 401 East to Oshawa, exit Simcoe Street, North to Bagot Street. Turn left at Bagot, 2 blocks to Gallery. Parking available.

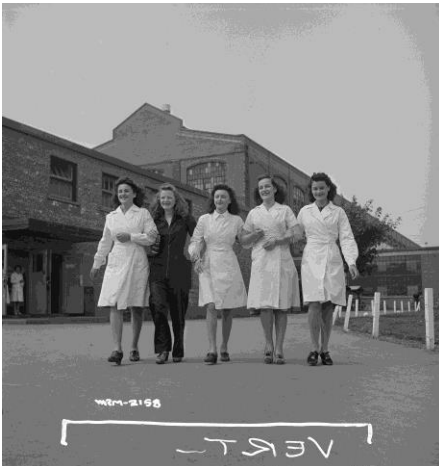
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## The Other NFB: The National Film Board of Canada's Still Photography Division - Contact Sheet

**\*\*Please note that all images must be accompanied by complete credits\*\***



Unknown photographer  
*Veronica Foster, an employee of John Inglis Co. Ltd. and known as "The Bren Gun Girl" posing with a finished Bren gun in the John Inglis Co. Ltd. Bren gun plant, Toronto*  
10 May 1941  
Contemporary print from vintage negative  
National Film Board of Canada. Photothèque /  
Library and Archives Canada e000760453



Harry Rowed (Canadian, b.1907)  
*Women munitions workers enjoy a lunch-time walk with friends at the Dominion Arsenals Ltd. Plant, Quebec City* (From left to right: Hélène Perry, Celine Perry, Roberte Perry, Alphonsine Roy, Laurette Maurice)  
24 August 1942  
Contemporary print from vintage negative  
National Film Board of Canada. Photothèque /  
Library and Archives Canada e000760791



Gar Lunney (Canadian)  
*Governor General's Northern Tour. Three Inuit men with their Brownie cameras await the arrival of the Governor General, Vincent Massey, at Resolute Bay, Northwest Territories* (Qausuittuq, Nunavut)  
March 1956  
Contemporary print from vintage negative  
National Film Board of Canada. Photothèque /  
Library and Archives Canada e002265651



The  
Robert  
McLaughlin  
Gallery



Chris Lund (Canadian, 1923-1983)  
*Examining new arrivals in Immigration  
Examination Hall, Pier 21, Halifax*  
March 1952

Contemporary print from vintage negative  
National Film Board of Canada. Photothèque /  
Library and Archives Canada PA-111579



Chris Lund (Canadian, 1923-1983)  
*Mrs. E. Marr, physiotherapist, with Gifford, 2 1/2  
years old, at the walking bars in the polio clinic at  
the Sudbury General Hospital*  
March 1953

Contemporary print from vintage negative

**For access to high resolution images, please contact:**

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