

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Oshawa, Ontario – August 30, 2016

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery presents *The Images in Our Heads*

*The Images in Our Heads*

Curated by Vanessa Dion Fletcher and Lindsay Fisher

September 10, 2016 – January 8, 2017

This fall, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery (RMG) is pleased to present the *The Images in Our Heads*. This exhibition explores stereotypes and cultural perceptions of the ‘real’ and how our imaginings can be hijacked by messages in the media.

Fantasy and reality, the internal world and the external world interweave when we tell, and are told to believe, stories about our bodies, our minds, our histories, our ancestors, our gods, our identities, our purposes or roles in society. Living with and taking pride in the experience of disability and difference lends itself to dismantling these messages that isolate, exclude, segregate and tell us that we shouldn’t be here.

As the RMG’s mandate makes clear, the gallery is a place dedicated to sharing, exploring and engaging with our communities through the continuing story of modern and contemporary Canadian art.

This exhibition includes images from Alana McDougall, Syrus Marcus Ware, Alexis Bulman, Jennifer Martin and Andrew McPhail explore the tension between their external reality and what Anzaldúa describes as “the world of the soul and its images.” Breaking apart the visible and invisible, the artists negotiate the ‘real’ and deliver their imaginings of difference as a point of invention, magic, survival, resistance, celebration and unexplored territory.

Visit the exhibition website at [theimagesinourheads.ca](http://theimagesinourheads.ca) for the digital catalogue, more information about the artists, curators, programming, and exhibition as well as details about accessibility.

*The Images in Our Heads* is curated by Vanessa Dion Fletcher and Lindsay Fisher.

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**THE ROBERT McLAUGHLIN GALLERY**

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

905-576-3000 [communications@rmg.on.ca](mailto:communications@rmg.on.ca) | [www.rmg.on.ca](http://www.rmg.on.ca)

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Media Inquiries: Sam Mogelonsky, Manager, Marketing & Communications | [smogelonsky@rmg.on.ca](mailto:smogelonsky@rmg.on.ca) | 905-576-3000 ext 109

Directions: From Toronto, 401 E 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 & Sunday: 12 noon - 4:00 pm. Admission by donation. Parking available. Accessible location.

## The Images in Our Heads

Curated by Vanessa Dion Fletcher and Lindsay Fisher

### Exhibition Dates

September 10, 2016 – January 8, 2017

### About the Exhibition

Feminist writer, poet, and social justice activist, Gloria Anzaldúa describes fantasy and the world of images as being that of “the underworld”, a world where desire and dreams are unattached to our external reality and free from any expectation for reason or convention. Imagining alternative spaces fuels us with the agency to be different, to try on new identities and embodiments, to express individual experience and longing, to disrupt the status quo and to form pathways to change. Through our bodies, our words, our communities and our art, these imaginings find their portals out to the public and find meaning in those who witness, who watch and who carefully listen.

Sometimes our imaginings are hijacked by messages in the media, and by stereotypes and cultural perceptions of the ‘real’. Fantasy and reality, the internal world and the external world interweave when we tell, and are told to believe, stories about our bodies, our minds, our histories, our ancestors, our gods, our identities, our purposes or roles in society. Living with and taking pride in the experience of disability and difference lends itself to dismantling these messages that isolate, exclude, segregate and tell us that we shouldn’t be here.

*The Images in Our Heads* takes its title from a passage in “Borderlands/ La Frontera” by Gloria Anzaldúa. Writing from the geographical position of the American Southwest, Anzaldúa identifies the cultural, territorial, spiritual and sexual borders in her life, and describes the psychological and emotional states that occur when inhabiting these borders. She talks about a back and forth negotiation between the internal and external forces and understanding of difference. “The struggle has always been inner, and is played out in outer terrains. Awareness of our situation must come before inner changes, which in turn come before changes in society. Nothing happens in the “real” world unless it first happens in the images in our heads.”

Alana McDougall, Syrus Marcus Ware, Alexis Bulman, Jennifer Martin and Andrew McPhail explore the tension between their external reality and what Anzaldúa describes as “the world of the soul and its images.” Breaking apart the visible and invisible, the artists negotiate the ‘real’ and deliver their imaginings of difference as a point of invention, magic, survival, resistance, celebration and unexplored territory.

Visit the exhibition website at [theimagesinourheads.ca](http://theimagesinourheads.ca) for the digital catalogue, more information about the artists, curators, programming, and exhibition as well as details about accessibility.

Funding for this project has been provided by a Deaf and Disability Project grant through the Ontario Arts Council.

**Featured Artists:**

Alana McDougall  
Syrus Marcus Ware  
Alexis Bulman  
Jennifer Martin  
Andrew McPhail

**About the Collection**

The RMG's collection consists of over 4500 works of art, acquired either by purchase or gift. About 60 of these works are on view at any one time in the Permanent Collection galleries. Works are also loaned to other institutions locally, nationally and internationally. The RMG collects historical, modern and contemporary Canadian art, and holds Canada's largest collection of works by Painters Eleven. The RMG also has a growing collection of Public Art.

**Events and Programming:**

[RMG Fridays: All Access Pass](#)

September 9, 2016 from 7-10pm

Celebrate *The Images in Our Heads* with a performance by Alexis Bulman. Curators Lindsay Fisher and Vanessa Dion Fletcher, along with the artist in the exhibition, will be in attendance to talk about the exhibition throughout the evening. Gillian Nicola and Fiùran take the stage with exciting vocals for a sensational performance.

Free to attend | 7-10pm | Cash Bar | All ages welcome.

Follow the twitter feed at #RMGFridays!

[Guest Speakers Forum](#)

October 22, 2016 from 1-4pm

*The Images in Our Heads* curators Vanessa Dion Fletcher and Lindsay Fisher have invited scholar/writer Karleen Pendleton Jiménez, Afro-Goth poet and multimedia artist Lynx Sainte-Marie, and visual artist Elizabeth Sweeney to consider the role that fantasy and imagination play in changing how we think about difference and disability. Imagining alternative spaces fuels us with the agency to be different, to try on new identities and embodiments, to express individual experience and longing, to disrupt the status quo and to form pathways to change. Through our bodies, our words, our communities and our art, these imaginings find their portals out to the public and find meaning in those who witness, who watch and who carefully listen.

A complimentary shuttle bus from 401 Richmond in Toronto will be provided. The bus will leave promptly at 12pm and will be unable to wait for late-comers. The Speakers Forum is free to attend, but registration is required. Please state any accommodation requirements when you register. The gallery is barrier-free and there will be ASL interpretation during the symposium.

[Click here to register now!](#)



**Credit Line**

Organized by The Robert McLaughlin Gallery.

*Please note the credit line must be used on all published materials.*

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

Amy Breedon – Manager of Marketing and Communications

[abreedon@rmg.on.ca](mailto:abreedon@rmg.on.ca) | 905-576-3000 x109

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The Images in Our Heads  
Contact Sheet

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



Jennifer Martin; *Shift (Blue)*, 2016, Inkjet Print



Syrus Marcus Ware, *Portrait of Queen Tite*, 2016



Alana MacDougall, *Untitled (Pin Piece)* 2016 -  
alternate installation view, Ceramic, Steel Wire,  
Cable, Hardware Variable dimensions

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