

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Oshawa, Ontario – April 28, 2016

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery presents *Lucie Chan and Jérôme Havre: Liminal*

Lucie Chan and Jérôme Havre: Liminal

Curated by Pamela Edmonds

May 21, 2016 - September 11, 2016

Opening and Curator's Talk: Sunday, May 29 from 1-3pm

This spring, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery (RMG) will present an exhibition by two Canadian contemporary artists, Lucie Chan and Jérôme Havre, entitled *Liminal*. The artists' respective practices explore the transitory and incidental nature of human connections in an era of cosmopolitanism. Disturbing the boundaries between self and other, their work draws attention to liminal "in-between" spaces and states of being bringing to light ephemeral relationships between people and environments.

Lucie Chan assembles multi-figure ink, watercolour and pencil drawings with digital prints and animated video in narrative-based installations that allude to cultural displacement and fluid ethnicities. Informed by interviews and conversations with individuals from diverse immigrant communities in various locales, Chan uses portraiture as a trace, a record of temporary encounters and everyday rituals.

Jérôme Havre combines various media, including sculpture, photographic imagery and wall painting to create immersive scenographic installations that explore speculative ways of engaging with diverse audiences and which reflect on the politics of representation. Interested in accidental and optical forms, structures and spaces, this new installation investigates notions of the subliminal, considering how this phenomena can cause profound shifts in perception.

The artists' works in *Liminal* explore the way our identities are forged through alterations related to mind/body, conscious /unconscious and location/displacement. *Lucie Chan and Jérôme Havre: Liminal* is guest curated by Pamela Edmonds and will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue documenting the installations and featuring an essay by Edmonds and a contextual essay on liminality by Toronto-based guest writer Ricky Varghese. Please join us and celebrate the exhibition with an opening and Curator's Talk on Sunday, May 29 from 1-3pm.

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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 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 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; Sunday: 12 pm - 4:00 pm. Admission by donation.

Parking available. Accessible location.

Lucie Chan and Jérôme Havre: Liminal **Fact Sheet**

Curated by Pamela Edmonds

Exhibition Dates: May 21, 2016 - September 11, 2016

Exhibition Summary:

This exhibition presents the work of contemporary artists Lucie Chan and Jérôme Havre whose practices employ immersive multi-media installations to explore the transient nature of human connections, communities and territories in an era of cosmopolitanism.

Cosmopolitanism is the view that all human beings are world citizens with responsibilities that extend beyond national borders and imposed borders. Both artists address liminality and space (both psychological and physical) through visual and spatial play bringing to light relationships between people environments, particularly within situations of social transformation. The liminal, which is defined as a space of the “in-between” defies categorization and allows for the exploration of states of being between past and future identities and further into notions of transculturalism and cultural fluidity.

Lucie Chan assembles multi-figure ink, watercolour and pencil drawings with digital prints and animated video to create composite structures that suggest suspended states of being. Informed by in-depth interviews and conversations with individuals from diverse immigrant communities in various cities, Chan uses portraiture as a trace, a record of the encounters, revealing stories that touch on and make evident the nature of shape-shifting identities in a globalized world. As each narrational position combines and recombines with others, the viewer is empowered to read different relationships between and through the layers. Her drawn environments have less to do with representation and more to do with collectivity through a merging of her’s and other people’s stories of loss, belonging and adaption.

Jérôme Havre’s creative process combines photography, drawing and textile-based works to explore questions of nationalism and nature, reflecting on themes of identity and the politics of location. Interested in incidental or optical forms, structures and spaces, this new installation created specifically for this exhibition space, investigates notion of the subliminal and how this phenomena can cause profound shifts in perception through multiple points of entry. In work that makes use of various sensorial stimuli, motion, projections, shadows, and reflections, Havre brings to light relationships between the body, representation and “otherness” challenging the ways in which we perceive our surroundings through the breaking of thresholds.

The artists’ works in *Liminal* propose an investigation of the changing notions of selfhood and challenge the way our identities are forged through these alterations related to mind and body, conscious and unconscious. Together they create a space of ambivalence, working to displace the fixity of meaning and structures of power and knowledge. These are creative environments that ultimately direct viewers towards spaces of contemplation allowing us to face, question and experience the challenges that arises from an acute sense of otherness and difference, in order to find new ways of speaking to aspects of humanity and cultural representation, even when those meanings remain elusive and fleeting.

Catalogue:

An illustrated catalogue documenting the installations and featuring an essay by curator Pamela Edmonds and a contextual essay on liminality by Toronto-based guest writer Ricky Varghese will accompany the exhibition.

Artist's Biographies:

Lucie Chan holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts with distinction from the Alberta College of Art and a Master of Fine Arts from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design with a specialization in drawing. She has shown nationally and internationally in various group and solo exhibitions and has been an artist-in-residence in places such as ARTerra in Lobão da Beira, Portugal; the Ross Creek Center for the Arts in Canning, Nova Scotia; Banff Centre for the Arts in Banff, Alberta; Museum London in London, Ontario; the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in Halifax and Richmond Art Gallery in Richmond, British Columbia. She has been the recipient of numerous provincial and national grants including being long-listed twice for the Sobey Art Award (2005, 2010). Chan currently lives and works in Vancouver where she teaches at Emily Carr University of Art and Design.

Jérôme Havre completed his studies at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He was awarded three scholarships that enabled him to pursue different art practices: silk printing techniques in New York (Cooper Union), printing techniques in Barcelona (Bellas Artes) and painting and video in Berlin (Universität der Künste Berlin – HDK). He has exhibited his works in Europe, Africa and North America, including at the Textile Museum of Canada, Toronto and the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver. Havre has been awarded several grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, Quebec Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council and in 2010 was long-listed for the Sobey Art Award. He recently completed an Artist in Residence Program at the Art Gallery of Ontario and is represented by the Donald Browne Gallery in Montreal. Havre currently resides in Toronto.

Curator's and Writer's Biographies:

Pamela Edmonds is an independent curator currently based in Toronto. Her primary focus has been on contemporary art that explores the politics of representation particularly as they relate to issues of race, gender and cultural identity. Curatorial projects include *Between Spheres*, Daniels Spectrum Artscape, Toronto, 2015; *Skin Deep: Reimagining the Portrait*, Project Gallery/Nia Centre, Toronto, 2015; *Confluence: Shifting Perspectives of the Caribbean*, Art in Transit, 2014; *Tracings: Recent Work by the W5Art Collective* at the Women's Arts Resource Centre Gallery, Toronto, 2014; *Bounty: Chikonzero Chazunguza*, Gallery 101, Ottawa, 2013. She is a founding member of Third Space Art Projects, a curatorial collective co-founded in 2009 with Sally Frater. TSAP is a forum for the promotion and presentation of multidisciplinary art projects that explore transculturalism, with a particular focus on visual cultures of the Black Atlantic. Her curatorial work can be viewed at www.pe-curates.space.

Ricky Varghese received his PhD in Sociology of Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto in 2014. He serves presently as an advisory editor for *Drain: A Journal of Contemporary Art and Culture* and has been the lead editor for a special issue of the journal on the theme of the "Ruin" which came out in October 2014. He is presently acting as lead editor for a special issue of the same journal on the theme of "AIDS and Memory," which is slated to be released in the later part of summer 2016. Trained as a social worker, with both his BSW and MSW, he currently has a private practice as a therapist in downtown Toronto.

Events:

Opening and Curator's Talk at Spring Exhibitions Launch Sunday, May 29 from 1-3pm

Join us and celebrate the launch of our spring programming including *Sarindar Dhaliwal: The Radcliffe Line and Other Geographies* and *Lucie Chan and Jérôme Havre: Liminal*. Join us for a performance by ArtLab resident Jessica Field as part of her residency *Mapping Subjectivity* using the Scientific Method.

RMG Fridays, The Pride Show June 3, 2016 from 7-10pm

In partnership with Pride Durham, the RMG is celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgendered, Queer (LGBTQ) and associated peoples throughout our community. Listen to Adam McMaster and Kate Reid, tour *Liminal* and get a sneak peek at Driftwood Theatre's summer production.

Free to attend | 7-10pm | Cash Bar | All ages welcome.
Follow the twitter feed at #RMGFridays!

Credit Line

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For all press inquiries, please contact:

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**Lucie Chan and Jérôme Havre: Liminal
Contact Sheet**

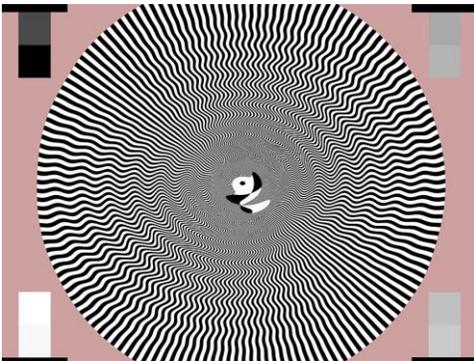
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Lucie Chan, *Poem For Taxi Drivers*, installation: gel pens, water color, ink, pencil crayon, 2013. Photo credit: Lucie Chan



Lucie Chan, *LoFoSto (Longing For Stories)*, installation: digital print and watercolour, 2009. Collection of Zoe Chan. Photo credit: Lucie Chan



Jérôme Havre, *Variation for a pattern* (detail), 2016 (proposal for installation)

For access to high resolution images, please contact:
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