



Crochet is mesmerizing! Crochet is fun! Eager learners being taught by Elina Mazin (second from left) at the 5th annual Craftstravaganza, March 2013. Photo by Sandra Somerville

About MAWA

Mildly Interesting Facts!

Are you kept awake at night with burning questions about your favourite artist-run centre? Does the thought of “the mysteries of MAWA” send shivers up your spine? Well, wonder no longer! Your curiosity will be quenched with the following bullet points. Here it is... everything you wanted to know about MAWA but were afraid to ask.

- MAWA started as the “Women’s Committee” of Plug In, out of concern regarding gender inequality in the arts. We became a separate organization in 1984. That means that right now MAWA is in its Saturn Return and next year will be turning 30!
- MAWA has a diverse Board comprised of 15 women who range in age from 23-69, of whom two are Aboriginal, one is Métis, one is Japanese-Canadian, two are Francomanitoban, one is living with a disability, two live in rural Manitoba and five are mothers. Eleven of them have visual arts practices, three are art historians/writers/curators, and one is a professional fundraiser. They work hard for MAWA: visioning, providing oversight, planning events, and sometimes painting the walls and sweeping the floor.
- MAWA’s Board Chair is Cheryl Orr-Hood, a painter who lives outside of Carberry, Manitoba. In September, Cheryl will be succeeded by current Vice Chair, Elise Dawson, who will be graduating from the Foundation Mentorship Program this fall.
- Each year, MAWA appoints a Student Representative to the Board. This year, U of W art history student Victoria Nikkel is our amazing Student Rep. In September she will be succeeded by a representative from the U of M.
- MAWA has two Honourary Board Mentors. They do not vote at meetings but provide historical knowledge and wisdom. These positions change every three years. Currently, Louise Duguay and Elvira Finnigan are MAWA’s Honourary Board Mentors.
- MAWA’s four year-round staff share a bit more than two full-time jobs. Dana Kletke and Shawna Dempsey are the Co-Executive Directors, and together work 47 hours/week. Lisa Wood is the Programming and Administrative Coordinator, and she is here 28 hours/week. Gurpreet Sehra is MAWA’s Administrative Assistant and she works about 6 hours/week. We are also all practicing artists.
- For the past two years, from October-April we have been assisted by the dynamic duo of Erna Andersen, Outreach Coordinator, and Jenel Shaw, Outreach Intern. Next fall they’ll be back!

- Our core program, the Foundation Mentorship Program, has been going since 1985.
- MAWA has guidelines and procedures that govern a lot of what we do (such as the selection of mentors). These are available on our website for your perusal. Wondering where MAWA stands on scented products? Or the use of our space? Look no further than www.mawa.ca/about-us/policies/
- Since 2005, MAWA has rented our storefront space at 611 Main Street. We pay \$1,107 per month, a reasonable \$8 per square foot.
- MAWA rents an apartment upstairs for our visiting foreign curators (such as the past year’s Sabine Maria Schmidt and Ombretta Agrò Andruff), our artists in residence (see pages 4-5) and our other guests (such as the 2012 Master Class leader, Huma Mulji). MAWA also rents out the apartment to rural members and other arts organizations to help offset our cost.
- And speaking of costs...MAWA has an annual operating budget of approximately \$260,000. The lion’s share of this budget comes from operating funding from the Canada Council, the Manitoba Arts Council and the Winnipeg Arts Council (\$159,500 all together). But what is really impressive is that MAWA self-generates 10% of our budget from Over The Top, and another 10% through membership fees, individual donations, registration fees and space rental.
- Donations by foundations, such as the Winnipeg Foundation, the RBC Foundation and the S.E. and W.H. Loewen Foundation, and corporate sponsors, such as the Assiniboine Credit Union, contribute a significant portion of our budget.
- MAWA has an \$11,955 surplus to be used in an emergency.
- Last year MAWA hired 50 artists. MAWA also co-produced programming with other arts organizations that hired more artists.
- Last year over 3,400 people participated in MAWA programming.
- MAWA is committed to professional development. Dana is finishing her certificate in Arts and Cultural Management. Shawna is taking typing classes (better late than never). Lisa will be attending courses in Project Management and Effective Written Communication in the fall. And we’re all studying French in 2014 so come by and say, “Hello,” or better yet, “Bonjour!”

If you have other questions, we’d be happy to answer them. We always welcome your feedback and suggestions. Each of you is what makes MAWA great.



Annie Lalande at work

Ces lieux qui murmurent/ Whispering Grounds

by Annie Lalande

Thursday, June 6 to Friday, August 2, 2013

Opening: Thursday, June 6, 5-8 pm

Centre culturel franco-manitobain, 340 Boul Provencher

Gallery hours: 9 am – 8 pm daily

Co-presented with the Centre culturel franco-manitobain

The exhibition *Ces lieux qui murmurent/Whispering Grounds* explores the multiethnic reality of the artist, and the richness, challenges and ambiguity that it generates. Annie Lalande's graphite drawings evoke an intimate, abstracted universe in which elusive spaces give way to metamorphosis, movement and double-entendre. The *Whispering Grounds* project ponders the complexity of existence through texture, line and implied gesture. For more information about Annie Lalande, please see page two.

The Stuff of Motherhood Artist Mothers at MAWA

Friday, June 7 – Friday, June 28, 2013

Opening: Friday, June 7, 5-9 pm

Artsjunktion, 312B William Ave.

Gallery hours: Mon., Wed. and Thurs. 1-5 pm,

Sat. 12-4 pm

This exhibition gives voice to the act and occupation of mothering, and features works in diverse media by Carolina Araneda, Charlene Brown, Sandra Brown, Jocelyn Chorney, Melanie Dennis Unrau, Mary Ferguson, Brenna George, Briony Haig, Colleen Leduc, Rose Montgomery-Whicher, Allison Moore, Susan Swinn and Shelley Vanderbyl.

Légers tremblements/Slight Tremors

by Barbara Claus

Thursday, September 12 – Friday, November 1, 2013

Opening: Thursday, September 12, 5-8 pm

Centre culturel franco-manitobain, 340 Boul Provencher

Gallery hours: 9 am – 8 pm daily

Co-presented with the Centre culturel franco-manitobain

From September 7-12, artist Barbara Claus will be working *in situ* to create an immersive environment of mixed media. Drawings, video and text will comprise an installation that will create a space of reflection, thought, sensation, reaction and remembrance—a space where links are created. For more information about Barbara Claus, please see page three.



Barbara Claus, *Paysage Flamand (Flemish Landscape)*, detail, from the *Chalkboard Series*, digital print on polypropylene, 2010

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The Current Beneath the Surface

with Annie Lalande

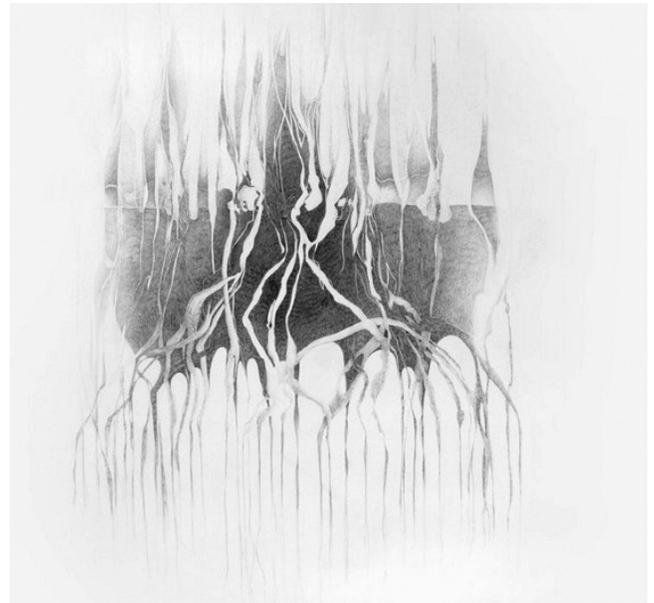
Friday, June 7, 2013,

noon-1 pm at MAWA

Presented in partnership with
Centre culturel franco-manitobain

Drawing upon works by multi-cultural Canadian artists in different disciplines, this lecture will frame a discussion regarding the complexity of identity, particularly with respect to visible minority, multi-ethnic French Canadian artists. For Lalande, it was the creation of a body of work in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery that connected her art, her roots and motherhood.

Born to a mother from Ontario and a biological father from Tobago, artist Annie Lalande was cradled in a traditional Caucasian family in a small, rural francophone township near Ottawa. Since founding a family of her own, she has been driven to deepen her research about identity, to develop a newfound, complex heritage for herself and for her children, and to create a bridge between Caribbean and Franco Ontarian cultures. She currently lives in Quebec City where she is pursuing a Masters degree in Fine Arts.



Annie Lalande, *Stonehedge #2* (detail), 53" x 35", pencil on paper, 2010



Followed by

MAWA Honours Helen Granger Young

Friday, June 7, 2013, 1 pm at MAWA

Snacks will be served

Please join us after Annie's talk for a special presentation in honour of Helen Granger Young and a short slide presentation about her work. Helen, who is in her nineties, will be present and happy to answer questions.

Helen Granger Young's career has spanned over 70 years. She was born in Mimico, Ontario and has resided in Winnipeg for most of her life. Her talent was recognized at a very young age when she won a scholarship to the Ontario College of Art. During her time at the college, she was privileged to have studied under Franklin Carmichael,

member of The Group of Seven, as well as Charles Fraser Comfort. These early experiences cemented the direction of her life as an artist, leading to the creation of hundreds of works including bronze monuments and sculptures, porcelain sculptures, and portraits and landscapes in oil and pastel. Her porcelain sculptures can be found in Buckingham Palace, the Kremlin, the White House, Rideau Hall and the Vatican. Helen Granger Young's bronze monuments are in public sites throughout Canada and include the Bison Reliefs on the Queen Elizabeth Way (Main Street bridge) and the Famous Five Monument on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature.



"Important things are never done quickly"

by Barbara Claus

Friday, September 6, 2013,

noon-1 pm at MAWA

Presented in partnership with
Centre culturel franco-manitobain

Barbara Claus will illustrate how art can create spaces of silence, reflect upon the role of the sacred and insert slowness into a world that is increasingly fast-paced. Her talk will examine memory, death, ritual, transience and permanence in the work of various artists. Rituals and mourning periods interrupt the tendency toward speed that has intruded into every aspect of life. "Important things are never done quickly" (Henry Bauchau).

For over twenty years, Barbara Claus has created site-specific installations. She began her artistic practice in Brussels, Belgium, and now lives in Quebec. She has exhibited in Canada, South America and Europe, and has participated in numerous artist residencies. She writes, "I am ephemeral, I am slow and I am old."



Barbara Claus, *Je Suis Foutue/I am finished* (detail), plaster, 2.5 x 2 m X 1.5 m, 2012

Artists in Residence, 2013

Hosted with the support of the Winnipeg Foundation *Triple A Fund*

MAWA is pleased to announce our five artists in residence for 2013, selected from among sixty-eight excellent applicants from all over the globe. This summer, Barbara Meneley (Kingston), Sharlene Bamboat (Toronto), Cecilia Stenbom (Gateshead, England, originally from Sweden) and Vanessa Roy (Edinburgh, Scotland) will each be spending a month in our loft apartment, researching and creating. Then in the fall, Barb Flemington (Brandon) will be in residence for

two weeks.

We had also hoped to host Neda Travallae from Tehran, Iran, but unfortunately the difficulties in obtaining a Visa and the resources required to make her residency possible have thwarted our plans.

Barbara, Sharlene, Cecilia and Vanessa will be presenting artist talks about their practices during their residencies. Don't miss this opportunity to meet our guests and see what they've been up to.



Photo by Alun Macanulty

Barbara Meneley in residence May 28 - June 25, 2013 Artist Talk Thursday, June 20, 7 pm at MAWA

Barbara Meneley's visual art practice engages the landscapes and histories of colonialism from a settler perspective. Her work evolves through theoretical inquiry and contemporary intermedia art (installation, sculpture, trans-disciplinary media, performance, dialogic and engaged practice).

Barbara has an active professional practice and has exhibited her work across Canada and the US. She has taught at Queen's University, the University of Regina and First Nations University, and has developed creative residencies in Regina, Vancouver and New York. Barbara has an MFA in Visual Arts from the University of Regina and is currently a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies at Queen's. www.barbarameneley.com

While she is in Winnipeg, Barbara will be researching Clifford Sifton, Canada's Minister of the Interior from 1896-1905, as a means of discovering creative strategies of decolonization, as well as Manitoba filmmaker James Freer. Barbara will be working on a new time-based media piece growing out from her research.



Barbara Meneley, *Unofficial Apology*, performance 2011. Photo by Jason Cawood



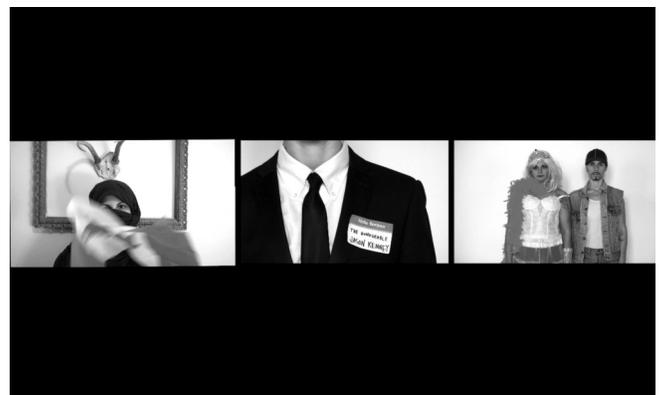
Photo by Alexis Mitchell

Sharlene Bamboat in residence July 1-18, 2013 Artist Talk Wednesday, July 17, 7 pm at MAWA

"I'm nostalgic for a country that doesn't yet exist on a map." This quote by Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano marks a point of departure for Sharlene Bamboat's work, which explores diaspora, nationalism, and territorial and figurative borders. Drawing on queer critique and working in film, video and performance,

she challenges, subverts, questions and plays with the categories of race, ethnicity, gender, desire and the nation. Sharlene often works in collaboration with artists and academics. Her most frequent co-conspirator is mixed-media artist Alexis Mitchell, and together they form Bambitchell. She is on the programming committee of the Pleasure Dome Film & Video Collective, as well as Artistic Director for SAVAC (South Asian Visual Arts Centre) in Toronto. www.sharlenebamboat.com

During her residency at MAWA, Sharlene will be working on a film, *Xerxes in Space* (working title), which is a performative documentary that is rooted in Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*, French philos-



Sharlene Bamboat, *Citizen Kenney: A Love Letter in 3 Parts*, video, 2012

opher Gaston Bachelard's *The Poetics of Space*, and Henri Bergson's *Matter and Memory*. The film follows the memories and movements of the (semi) fictional character of a gender-bending, queer, diasporic subject named Xerxes.

Cecilia Stenbom

in residence July 23 - August 20, 2013

Artist Talk Wednesday, August 14, 7 pm at MAWA



Photo by Paul Moss

Cecilia Stenbom was born in Stockholm, Sweden, completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in Helsinki, Finland and a Masters of Fine Art at the Glasgow School of Art. She has worked with film, video, installation, photography, drawing and painting to explore notions of identity in a consumer-driven and information-saturated culture. Usually, she mines

found material as a means to examine how an overflow of ideas, imagery and information creep into our personal lives. Cecilia's work has been exhibited in the UK, Europe and the U.S. Recent projects includes *Nobody gets out of here alive*, a solo exhibition at Kaapelin Galleria, Helsinki, *The Artist Cut*, commissioned by Northern Film & Media in association with Channel 4, and *North by North East*, a film commissioned by the Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival. www.ceciliastenbom.se

This summer, Cecilia will develop a screenplay for an upcoming film project about survival in the public space and contemporary anxiety.



Cecilia Stenbom, *How To Choose*, single channel HD film, 3:31, 2012

Vanessa Roy

in residence August 22 - September 20, 2013

Artist Talk Wednesday, September 18, 7 pm at MAWA



Vanessa Roy's practice consists of the photography of reclaimed textiles. Whether presented as an empty vessel or a more abstract form, the material creates a strong presence without a real presence, constructing an altered reality that evokes the hidden or the uncanny. In doing so, she explores the themes of absence and, the strange and the mysterious, while creating fabricated and fragmented narratives. She is from Scotland, holds an MA in Photo-

graphy from the University of Brighton and has exhibited extensively in the UK. www.vroyphotography.com

Vanessa will be completing a project based on Victorian studio photography of "the invisible mother" (infants photographed in the arms of their mothers draped in black, so as to render them invisible). She will be working at Manitoba Printmakers Association (Martha Street) and Platform Centre for Digital + Photographic Arts.



Vanessa Roy, *Frayed*, Detail, photograph, 2012

Artist Residencies at MAWA

Deadline: Friday, June 28, 2013 at 4 pm
for residencies in May, June, November and December, 2014

MAWA is offering our urban, loft-style apartment to women visual artists for self-directed residencies of 1-4 weeks in duration. Applicants can use this space, free of charge, for research, reflection, networking and/or production.

The MAWA residency program is intended to increase dialogue between our geographical community—Winnipeg—and the art world beyond, to create networking opportunities for women artists and to provide an oasis in which women artists can do whatever they need to do in order to move their practices forward.

The MAWA apartment is fully furnished and includes a kitchen, a bathroom with shower, a queen bed, a double futon/couch and a designated parking space. All linens and cooking utensils are provided. The apartment is located on the second floor of 611 Main Street in downtown Winnipeg. Please note, it is a walk-up and is not wheelchair accessible. The MAWA apartment is a clean space that is not conducive for painting and many forms of sculpture.

National and International Residencies

National and International Residencies are 2-4 weeks in duration. If you need specific facilities, we will work with you and other Winnipeg art centres to help you gain access to the space resources you need. These could include a rough studio, printmaking, video and darkroom facilities, or introductions to like-minded artists and curators.

We can also provide you with up to three studio visits by members of the Winnipeg art community, who will provide you with feedback about your work and networking opportunities.

Early in your stay at MAWA, we ask that you present your work to our members in a form of your choice (screening, talk, performance, showcase of work-in-progress, etc.). This presentation should be approximately 20 minutes in length and will be followed by a reception with members of our art community and the general public. You will be paid CAD\$150 for this presentation.

Women artists at all stages of their careers are encouraged to apply. Equal consideration will be given to emerging and established artists.

Residencies for Rural Manitoba Artists

Residencies for rural women artists are 1-2 weeks in duration. Imagine an urban retreat! MAWA provides free use of our apartment. Production facilities, if needed, are up to the applicant to arrange.

Women artists at all stages of their careers are encouraged to apply. Equal consideration will be given to emerging and established artists.

Applications for all residencies must be received by email or post by Friday, June 28 at 4 pm, and should include:

- a cover letter saying why you would like time in the MAWA apartment, articulating your goals and rationale
- a detailed description of what you will need while you are here, such as access to other facilities or equipment (required by national and international applicants only)
- your first choice and second choice of preferred dates, including start and end dates between May 1 and June 30, and/or November 1 and December 31, 2014
- an artist's CV
- up to 20 images as jpgs, 72 dpi at 1024 X 768 pixels, not embedded in a program such as PowerPoint
- up to two videos on playable DVD, in QuickTime or as a web link

If applying online, please format your application so that the text documents are in one PDF file but the images are not embedded (individual jpg files, please). Please put "National and International Residency" or "Rural Residency" in the subject header and send to programs@mawa.ca.

If applying by mail, please send applications to: "National and International Residency" or "Rural Residency," MAWA, 611 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1E1. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the return of your materials, if required.



Program and Administrative Coordinator Lisa Wood in the beautiful MAWA residency apartment

Grant Writing Intensive

with Diana Thorneycroft

Saturday, June 8, 2013, 10 am - 4 pm at MAWA (bring a lunch!)

Presented in partnership with Arts and Cultural Industries Association of Manitoba

\$20 for MAWA and ACI members, \$30 for non-members; places are limited

Registration deadline: Friday, May 31 at 4 pm

This workshop on grant writing begins with a review of different application forms, their guidelines, criteria and deadlines, and then moves on to the basics of grant writing. Topics such as resumes, budgets and choosing support material will be covered, but the focus will be on the written proposal. Learn how to express what you want to do and why! The workshop will be a mixture of lecture, discussion and feedback. Bring your questions and, if you have them, rough drafts. Get prepared for the fall grant deadlines!

Diana Thorneycroft has exhibited various bodies of work across Canada, the US and Europe, as well as in Moscow, Tokyo and Sydney. She is the recipient of numerous awards including an Assistance to Visual Arts Long-term Grant from the Canada Council, several Senior Arts Grants from the Manitoba Arts Council and a Fleck Fellowship from the Banff Centre for the Arts. Thorneycroft is currently completing a series of photographs called *Canadians and Americans (Best Friends Forever...it's Complicated)*. In the fall of 2013 this work will be shown at the Michael Gibson Gallery in London, Ontario. She taught at the University of Manitoba's School of Art as a sessional instructor from 1984-2010.



Diana Thorneycroft. Photo by Karen Sharma

To register for the workshop, contact programs@mawa.ca and put "grant writing" in the subject line.

Clothing Grab!

Friday, May 31, 2013, 7-8:30 pm at MAWA

\$10 admission



Come to MAWA for your fill of women's and children's clothes, shoes, accessories and more. Fantastic fashions! Stupendous finds! Amazing mix-and-match potential! All accompanied by stylin' beats, once again provided by DJ Mama Cutsworth. Danceable, fashionable fun! All you can carry for the low, low cost of \$10.

By coming to the Clothing Grab you can support MAWA and funkify your wardrobe at the same time. Even better, all the clothing that isn't taken by the end of the evening will stay in the neighbourhood, and will be donated to the North End Women's Centre. Donations of clothing accepted May 28-31, 10 am-4 pm.

DJ Mama Cutsworth, aka Sarah Michaelson, spinning tunes and eating pizza at last year's Clothing Grab, May 2012

MAWA New Canadian Crafts at Makers' Market

Friday, June 7, 2013, 5-10 pm,

Frame Gallery, 318 Ross Ave.

Free!

The New Canadian Craft Workshop instructors have been working with MAWA Board member Kelly Ruth this spring, learning how to sell their crafts in a Canadian context. This four-part course will culminate on June 7 at the Makers' Market craft sale.

Please support our New Canadian artisans at their first table at a commercial craft fair, supported by MAWA. Shopping, economic development and international artistic practices, together at last!



One of the city's fantastic New Canadian craftswomen, Naw Kay Seng (centre), teaching backstrap weaving at MAWA, April, 2013

Over The Top was Over The Top once again!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the hundreds of MAWA supporters —artists, donors, sponsors, bakers, buyers and volunteers—who made the Over The Top Art Auction such a success. Together we

raised almost \$28,000 that will be used toward MAWA programming. We are so grateful to you for making this possible. Your involvement and commitment is OVER THE TOP!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED ARTWORK

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PHOTOS BY LINDSEY BOND



You Make It Possible!

Volunteers make everything possible at MAWA. You staff our bingos, you cook for our fall supper, you donate clothes for our Clothing Grabs, you stuff envelopes, you patch and paint our walls, you help out at Crafternoons and you staff one of the most successful annual art fundraisers in Winnipeg, the Over The Top Art Auction and Cupcake Party.

Thank you to all of the Over The Top volunteers this year: Gwen Armstrong, Joy Balmana, Zahra Besseri, Lindsey Bond, Willy Carleton, Elise Dawson, Lily Despic, Louise Duguay, Sophie Dumontier, Chantal Dupas, Richard Dyck, Heidi Eigenkind, Elvira

Finnigan, Tania Gauthier, Jane Gelhorn, Erin Josephen-Laidlaw, Lindsey Keopke, Val Klassen, Sacha Kopelow, Megan Krause, Susan Krepart, André Lavoie, Emma Mayer, Shawn McGillivray, Ivy Mendoza, Kelsey Middleton, Sheila Mogg, Victoria Nikkel, Gerry Oliver, Keith Oliver, Melly Oz, Cheryl Orr-Hood, Tracy Peters, Stephanie Poruchnyk-Butler, Candace Propp, Ann Rivera, Kelly Ruth, Morag Schonken, Jenel Shaw, Becca Taylor, Katie Twomey, Tricia Wasney, Anna Weibe, Barbara Wood, Tracy Woodward and Jamie Wright.

And hats off to all the other MAWA volunteers (more than 350 each year!) who contribute so much to our community.



OTT cupcake server Jane Gelhorn



Over The Top Committee ticket takers Heidi Eigenkind (left) and Willy Carleton (right)



Don't mess with our OTT marshals, particularly Anna Wiebe!



Raffle Captain extraordinaire, Tracy Woodward



OTT runners (left to right) Stephanie Poruchnyk-Butler, Ann Rivera and Emma Mayer



This year's celebrity host, Susan Krepart

PHOTOS BY LINDSEY BOND

An Interview with Alexis Dirks

by Erica Mendritzki

In the studio, Alexis Dirks flips through vintage magazines and old books, pulling out images of beautiful things: landscapes, eyelashes, gemstones. Using masking tape, toothpicks and chunks of clay, she assembles these cuttings into fragile sculptures and photographs them, creating smooth images of fragmented pictures. These are works that are both plain-speaking and beguiling—photographs that reveal how beauty is constructed, even as they put us under its spell.

Alexis grew up in Winnipeg and graduated with an Honours BFA from the University of Manitoba in 2006. She and I met in 2007, when we were both living in Scotland and Alexis was working towards her MFA at the Glasgow School of Art. This fall, our paths crossed again. I had just moved to Winnipeg to teach at the U of M, and Alexis was in town for a few months. We shared a studio while she was here, and it was wonderful to have the chance to reconnect with her and to see how she goes about making images. Now she is living in Yellowknife. When I interviewed her via gchat in March, I began by asking her what she could see out of her window.

Alexis: I'm facing the street, so there are at least eight homes within view. My favourite house has this huge picture window with massive plants in front of it. It's so nice to see all this green when everything else is frozen. It takes so long for anything to grow here—I'm sure the plants in that house are a couple decades old. They're all wild. I wish I could live in that room with those plants!

Erica: Do you think that this longing for greenery and warmth will find its way into your work?

Alexis: I think that it could, yes. I've been thinking about shelter a lot these days. Going back and forth between comfort and discomfort. It's so comfortable indoors here, and if you want to go outside you have to put a lot of time and effort into preparing for it, because the cold is so brutal. I guess that's true of Winnipeg as well. But Winnipeg is much more urban. Here it's all lake and forest, and you're really aware of the elements.

Erica: So to survive, you have to bring some of the comfort of the indoors to the outdoors. Do you think your work reverses the process, by taking the idea of a wild landscape and domesticizing and interiorizing it?

Alexis: Yes...there's something interesting about houseplants as a kind of stand-in for the landscape. Like a fragment from the outdoors that exists under a new set of conditions and relies on our care to stay alive! I am interested in this idea of a fragmented landscape, which is why I often take found pictures of nature and re-photograph them. They become disconnected from their origin.

Erica: In the studio, along with books of landscape imagery, you had all these old issues of *Seventeen Magazine*.

Alexis: Oh yeah, those were so great. I had to be careful not to tear them up too much, since my mom wasn't all that keen on me using them. Had to make careful selections.

Erica: Oh, that's funny! Did you give them back to her before leaving Winnipeg?

Alexis: Yes. She saved them for so many years, and wasn't willing to let me have them just to cut up! I've looked for old women's maga-



Alexis Dirks, *New Nails*

zines online and they cost a fortune! I'd love to get my hands on some old *Vogue* magazines from the 60s and 70s. I bet the editorials are pretty great.

Erica: Why are you particularly interested in vintage women's magazines?

Alexis: I think it's probably less to do with the content, and more about the compositions in the photography, the colours, just the feeling of another era.

Erica: Do you think there is some kind of connection between the way femininity is portrayed in those old magazines and the way you use landscape? A kind of nostalgic idealization?

Alexis: Yes. I think photography often aims to capture an ideal—at least, in the kinds of photos I want to work from. Whether it's the perfect sunset, or the best set of false eyelashes.

Erica: How is that idealism transformed in your work?

Alexis: I think that by reproducing an image of some kind of idealized landscape or picture of femininity, attention is drawn to its falseness. It's not my picture of those idealisms, it's my picture of a picture that I found. I want my photographs to be self-conscious of the fact that they are a second-hand viewing of an existing picture. They're about the act of looking.

Erica: How have the different places you've lived—Winnipeg, Glasgow, and now Yellowknife—affected your practice?

Alexis: My work changes based on the materials I am able to access. In Glasgow and Winnipeg there were lots of resources at my disposal—art supply stores, printing labs, and second hand book stores—but here in Yellowknife it's very limited. I'm trying to work with what's available to me now. I'm using a combination of found organic materials and more utilitarian items I might find in hardware stores. My work doesn't reference a single location or landscape, but still, there are elements of my specific environment that end up coming through.

Erica Mendritzki is an artist and educator who lives and works in Winnipeg. When she was an undergrad, one of her profs said, "The most successful artists I know are the ones who are the most resourceful." That observation has stayed with her and strikes her as particularly true of Alexis Dirks.

Interested in doing some critical writing for the newsletter and our website? Contact Shawna at dempsey_millan@mawa.ca. It pays!



Artist Mothers at MAWA, at their monthly meeting, March 2013



Johanna Caithness (second from left), leading the Wills, Estates and Art Artist Bootcamp sponsored by Fillmore Riley LLP (Anita Southall, Fillmore Riley partner, far left)



At Shabnam Shafar's workshop in Persian Calligraphy there was a record Crafternoon crowd, February 2013



Elina Mazin (centre) teaching Sacha Kopelow (right) the acrobatics of lace crochet, Craftstravaganza, March 2013. Photo by Sandra Somerville



Darlene Wight (left) in conversation with MAWA member Sandra Campbell (right) after Darlene's First Friday lecture, *The Feminine Perspective in Inuit Art*, May 2013



Eva Gleason (left) engaged in conversation after her First Friday lecture *Frida Kahlo*, March 2013



Henriette Mukesa (right) hard at work at the African Hair Styles station, Craftstravaganza, March 2013



Artist Janet Dwyer teaching Photographing Works of Art Artist Bootcamp, February 2013



Rural Mentee Audrey Lute (left) with Rural Mentors Diane Whitehouse (centre) and Linda Fairfield (right) at the opening of the mentees exhibition *Journey by 6-7-8* at the New Iceland Heritage Museum, March 2013



Korean Tea Ceremony led by Jeongie Kim (left) at the Craftstravaganza, March 2013. Photo by Sandra Somerville



Participants hard at work at Richilieu embroidery, taught by Agnieszka Marcinow at the Craftstravaganza, March 2013. Photo by Sandra Somerville



Ajoullu Okello (centre) teaching Sudanese beading at the Craftstravaganza, March 2013. Photo by Sandra Somerville

Staff



Lwam Eyassu

This summer you may see some new faces around MAWA. For the month of July, we will be joined by Lwam Eyassu, a Junior at Northern Kentucky University studying visual communications and marketing. Lwam will be visiting her grandmother in Winnipeg and helping out with our Artist in Residence program. Someday

she would like to open a contemporary art gallery in Eritrea, her family's ancestral home. We eagerly look forward to welcoming her to the arts community of Winnipeg!

MAWA has also applied for funding for an additional student to work here throughout the summer. If we are successful, you'll see two new, young women around MAWA.

MAWA's Outreach Coordinator Erna Andersen and Outreach Intern Jenel Shaw will be taking a break for the summer, but will be back in the fall when the Crafternoon program starts up.

Summer Hours

Although MAWA will be hosting our artists in residence and will be open for their artist talks, we won't be keeping regular office hours this summer. This means between July 1 and September 1, we suggest that you phone before dropping by or, better yet, make an appoint-

ment. Flexible hours will allow us to take vacations and work on projects like the messy basement. That said, the MAWA staff is still here for you! If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please call us. And have a great summer!

Artist Mothers at MAWA

The June meeting of Artist Mothers at MAWA on Wednesday, June 5, 6:30-9 pm, will be on the theme of mythical mothers, magical babies, mermaids, fairies and animals that wear clothes. We read so many lovely storybooks to our children and this meeting will be devoted to making mother-and-child images of fancy. A fun summer meeting of playfulness!

Then in July, Artist Mothers at MAWA will be meeting informally at Assiniboine Park. Meet in the English Garden on Wednesday, July 3 from 10 am-2 pm. Bring your paints, pencils or cameras to record the summer flowers in bloom, as well as a snack to share. Finally it is summer in Winnipeg! Why not chat, eat snacks and make art *en plein air*?

Put your work on MAWA's WAM! Wall

The WAM! Wall provides an opportunity for MAWA members to showcase their artistry. Each month the wall features artwork on the 45"-wide "bump" of the north wall. All media are welcome. If there

is something you would like to show, email Shawna at dempsey_millan@mawa.ca.



Sacha Kopelow, *How sweet the night when sleeping safe*, (detail), 6 components each 5" x 7", silverpoint on board, 2013

" Sooner or later everyone
needs a little cloth..."

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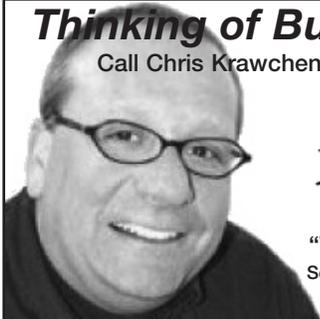
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MAY

Fri. May 31
7-8:30 pm
Clothing Grab!

JUNE

Wed. June 5
6:30-9 pm
Artist Mothers at MAWA
Informal artmaking drop-in

Thurs. June 6
5-8 pm
Ces lieux qui murmurent/Whispering Grounds
Exhibition by Annie Lalande, opening
Centre culturel franco-manitobain,
340 Provencher

Fri. June 7
noon-1 pm
First Friday lecture
Annie Lalande: *The Current Beneath the Surface*
Followed by a special presentation to artist
Helen Granger Young

Fri. June 7
5-10 pm
MAWA's New Canadian Crafters Sale
Makers' Market, 318 Ross

Fri. June 7
5-9 pm
The Stuff of Motherhood
Artist Mothers at MAWA exhibition opening
Artsjunktion, 312B William

Fri. June 7
6-9:45 pm
MAWA Bingo at Club Regent
Volunteer Opportunity
Call Lisa at 204-949-9490

Sat. June 8
10 am-4 pm
Artist Bootcamp
Diana Thorneycroft: Grant Writing Intensive

JUNE cont.'d

Thurs. June 20
7-8 pm
Artist in Residence Artist Talk
Barbara Meneley

JULY

Wed. July 3
10 am-2 pm
Artist Mothers at MAWA
Artmaking *en plein air*
English Garden, Assiniboine Park

Wed. July 17
7-8 pm
Artist in Residence Artist Talk
Sharlene Bamboat

AUGUST

Wed. Aug 14
7-8 pm
Artist in Residence Artist Talk
Cecilia Stenbom

SEPTEMBER

Fri. Sept. 6
noon-1 pm
First Friday Lecture
Barbara Claus:
Important things are never done quickly

Thurs. Sept. 12
5-8 pm
Légers tremblements/Slight Tremors
Exhibition by Barbara Claus, opening
Centre culturel franco-manitobain,
340 Provencher

Wed. Sept. 18
7-8 pm
Artist in Residence Artist Talk
Vanessa Roy



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WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!**

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