

WHERE IS HERE - SYMPOSIUM

SMALL CITIES, DEEP MAPPING, SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

JULY 20 (WEDNESDAY) Comox Valley Art Gallery (CVAG)

4-6pm Registration
6pm Opening – CVAG Exhibition
Welcoming Ceremony and Reception featuring work of artists-in residence Barbara Meneley, Joanne Bristol and Clive Powsey

JULY 21 (THURSDAY) Native Sons Hall

8-9am Registration
9am Intro to Conference/Opening
9.30am **KEYNOTES**
Nancy Duxbury: *Global Trends and Dialogues in Mapping Cultures and Meanings of Place*
William Garrett-Petts: *Cultural Mapping as Cultural Inquiry: Mapping the Contours of an Emerging Field*
11:00am COFFEE BREAK
11.30am **PANEL - Mapping and Unmapping as Creative Practice**
Joanne Bristol
Ernie Kroeger
Justin Langlois
Barbara Meneley
1:00pm LUNCH
2.00pm **PROJECT PRESENTATION – Where is Here**
Sharon Karsten
Pam Shaw
Nicole Vaugeois
Alanna Williams
3:30pm COFFEE BREAK
4:00pm **KEYNOTE**
Stuart Poyntz: *Digital Frictions: Urban Space – Learning, Dwelling and Imagining through Media*
4:45pm COFFEE/APPIES BREAK
5.15pm **SITE VISITS:** place-based site works bus tour curated by CVAG:
Site-Specific Performance and Installation tour featuring work by Andy Everson and Karver Everson.

JULY 22 (FRIDAY), Native Sons Hall

- 9:30am **PANEL: Mapping, Critical Engagement & Justice**
Ken Blackburn and Sara Vipond
Glen Lowry
Eric Moschopedis
Matt Rader
- 11:00am COFFEE BREAK
- 11:30am **PANEL: Cultural Mapping In-Place**
Nancy Holmes
Patricia Huntsman
Kathleen Scherf
Kirsten Schrader
- 1:00pm LUNCH
- 1:30pm **PANEL DISCUSSION (over lunch) – Building our Here**
Cultural Action and Change in the Comox Valley
Meaghan Cursons
Edwin Grieve
Hans Peter Meyer
Tatsuyuki Setta
- 3:00pm COFFEE BREAK
- 3:30pm **PANEL: Mapping Sacred Space**
Liz Carter
Andy Everson
Karver Everson
George Littlechild
Toby Lawrence
- 5:00pm BREAK

JULY 22 (FRIDAY EVENING), Comox Valley Art Gallery

- 8:00pm Closing Celebration, Concluding Remarks & Outdoor Video Screening
presented by CVAG – featuring new works by Elizabeth Carter, George
Littlechild, Steven Thomas Davies and Lindsay Delaronde, with guest
curator Toby Lawrence.

JULY 23 (SATURDAY), Post-Symposium Events

Presented by North Island College, in partnership with the Comox Valley Art Gallery and the *Where is Here* symposium

Walking as Mapping: A Creative Laboratory – Art Exhibition @ North Island College

Walking is a kind of mapping, a locating of our community and selves in a topographical schema. The topography we live in exerts a subtle and subliminal influence over us as inhabitants. This exhibition brings together the work of NIC students, faculty and Artist-in-Residence. Our research encourages experimental and collaborative work that explores Walking as Mapping as a creative inquiry.

Date – Exhibition Opening: Saturday July 23rd, 10am-11:30am

**Location: North Island College, Comox Valley Campus
2300 Ryan Road, Courtenay, Shadbolt Studios, Rm 109**

Talk, Walk and Make with Local Artist Clive Powsey

A Journey to the Horizon Line: A Hike to the Mount Washington Summit

Experience a journey to the horizon line. Walking to the horizon is a kind of mapping, a locating of our community and selves in a topographical schema. The topography we live in exerts a subtle and subliminal influence over us as inhabitants. In the Comox Valley the nearby horizon of mountains and ridges in the southwest overshadows our daily living. Join Artist-in-Residence, Clive Powsey, on a hike to the summit of Mount Washington. Clive is intrigued by our cultural conceptions of the landscape. What will it mean to journey to the horizon and look back and beyond? We will hike to the summit to observe the 'complex terrain' of central Vancouver Island, a region that exists in close proximity to populated areas on the coastal fringe. Participants will be encouraged to write, draw and photograph their experience of the journey to the horizon. The day's activities begin at 10 am at North Island College followed by an Artist Talk by Clive Powsey at 10:30.

The hike will begin at the main lodge of Mount Washington. The walk to the summit is approximately 2.5km on an intermediate trail (about a 45 minute to 1 hour walk). Participants are also welcome to take the Mount Washington Scenic Chairlift. Lift prices, \$19 (plus taxes) are not included.

Date: Saturday July 23rd, 10am-3:30pm

**Location: Meet at North Island College, Comox Valley Campus
2300 Ryan Road, Courtenay, Shadbolt Studios, Rm 109**

Open to the public. Fee: \$10 per participant

Pre-registration is required. Contact: Sharon Karsten, sharonkarsten@live.com

A simple brown bag lunch will be provided (if you have food allergies please bring your own food)

Presenters:

JULY 21 (THURS)

9.30am

KEYNOTES – Nancy Duxbury/William Garrett-Petts

NANCY DUXBURY, University of Coimbra, Centre of Social Studies

Global trends and dialogues in mapping cultures and meanings of place

Cultural mapping provides an enriching, participatory, and interdisciplinary set of methodologies for articulating and making visible the multi-layered cultural aspects and meanings of a particular place.

Leading approaches to cultural mapping today acknowledge the shifting and fragmented nature of many communities and aim to reflect and privilege pluralistic local knowledges, perceptions of importance, and ways of understanding. Extending from this, they also aim to draw connections and articulate relationships between people and place, culture and nature. This work aims not only to document and preserve this information but also to catalyze and propel place-embedded cultural traditions and knowledges into the future, constructing the scaffolding for pluralist cultural sustainability. In this context, this presentation will discuss key aspects of emerging international dialogues on culture and mapping and the importance of local cultural mapping in a global world.

Dr. Duxbury is a Senior Researcher and Co-coordinator of the Cities, Cultures and Architecture Research Group of the Centre for Cultural Studies at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. She is an expert in cultural mapping methodologies, culture-led development in smaller cities and rural areas, and culture and sustainability (with a particular interest in approaches to integrating cultural dimensions in local sustainability planning initiatives).

WILLIAM GARRETT-PETTS, Thompson Rivers University, Faculty of Arts

Cultural Mapping as Cultural Inquiry: Mapping the Contours of an Emerging Field

Drawing upon his recent publications on cultural mapping, Garrett-Petts' presentation will outline a framework for situating an emerging, very interdisciplinary field of activity that intertwines trajectories of both research and practice. Cultural mapping is a tool for urban planning, cultural sustainability, and community development; it also aims to recognize and make visible the ways local stories, practices, relationships, memories, and rituals constitute places as meaningful locations. This presentation argues the need for histories and case studies of cultural mapping that are globally distributed and that situate the practice locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. In particular, the presentation will explore innovative ways communities and artists have come together to encourage urban and cultural planning, community development, artistic intervention and public participation in cultural mapping.

Dr. Garrett-Petts is the co-editor of a groundbreaking book on cultural mapping, and co-organizer of two international conferences helping define the field. He is former Principal Investigator and Director for the Small Cities Community-University Research Alliance, a 12-year national research program funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. In addition, he is an Advisory Board Member with the international knowledge community Arts in Society. His recent books include Cultural Mapping as Cultural Inquiry (2015); Whose Culture is it, Anyway? (2014); Writing about Literature, 2nd Ed. (2013); Imaging Place (2009); Artists' Statements and the Nature of Artistic Inquiry (2007); The Small Cities Book: On the Cultural Future of Small Cities (2005); and PhotoGraphic Encounters: The Edges and Edginess of Reading Prose Pictures and Visual Fictions (2000). He's currently engaged in exploring questions of artistic inquiry, cultural mapping, and the artistic animation of small cities.

JULY 21 (THURS)

11.30am

PANEL - Mapping and Unmapping as Creative Practice

JOANNE BRISTOL, University College London, Bartlett School of Architecture

Interspecies pathways

This presentation traces the forceful yet intangible ways in which animals inscribe physical and representational spaces of urban built environments. Feminist theorist Elizabeth Grosz claims the production of knowledge in the humanities is structured via a 'forgotten or repressed dependence' on more-than-human forces which 'drop out of relevance as they are synthesized, symbolized, and transformed into cultural products'. If this is so, how is it possible to acknowledge and make room for the spatial inscriptions of animals with whom we share worlds-in-the-making? Interspecies pathways explores sensory, material and performative practices of writing to articulate more-than-human realms of spatial production and more-than-representational languages. It focuses on examples of recent artistic fieldwork and production using interspecies writing as a mode of poetic biopolitics.

ERNIE KROEGER, Thompson Rivers University, Visual and Performing Arts

Pedestrians vs Cars

The presentation will give a brief historical overview of tensions that have arisen between pedestrians and cars. Following this a number of examples of how artists have responded to this will be presented and discussed.

JUSTIN LANGLOIS, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Faculty of Culture and Community

When Participation Fails: New Forms of Engagement through Socially Engaged Art

This presentation will explore a critical perspective of participatory and socially engaged art, aiming to develop an argument towards a more nuanced understanding of engagement based on resistance, antagonism, and critical pedagogy. Langlois will discuss a number of his projects as examples of these practices through his role as Research Director of Broken City Lab, Founder of the School for Eventual Vacancy, and host of the Academy of Tactical Resistance. Ultimately, he will offer some summaries of tactics and methodologies to more deeply explore notions of place, locality, and civic change.

BARBARA MENELEY, University of Regina, Faculty of Fine Arts

Dialogic Cartographies

This presentation will engage questions on cartographic representation. Whose story does a map tell and why? How can maps express complexity and contradiction? What are strategies for alternative cartographies, for mapping-back and counter-mapping? Time and space permitting, the presentation will include a participatory mapping exercise.

JULY 21 (THURS)

2.00pm **PROJECT PRESENTATION – Where is Here: Finding Community through Place**

SHARON KARSTEN , Simon Fraser University, School of Communication
PAM SHAW, Vancouver Island University, Geography
NICOLE VAUGEOIS, Vancouver Island University, Faculty of Management
ALANNA WILLIAMS, The University of British Columbia, Arts and Humanities

Where is Here? is an evolving project that examines an individual's connection to place and space in the downtown cores of three municipalities on Vancouver Island.

This team of presenters brings perspectives from different disciplines on the relationships between culture, community, and data visualization. Through lenses that include arts and culture, urban geography, tourism, and data visualization, the research team will speak to the meanings that can be found in individual stories of place and space and how these stories and visualizations can be used to inform positive change in urban cores.

On the street interviews were conducted with over 75 participants across Nanaimo, Port Alberni, and Courtenay and an innovative mapping tool was developed to present qualitative, geo-referenced data in a way that is accessible and easily reproduced: the possibilities for sharing information and finding community through place and space are infinite through this digital application.

Ultimately, the research will be used to inform future civic engagement, economic development, cultural amenity planning, and arts-related development within these core areas.

4.00pm **KEYNOTE – Stuart Poyntz**

STUART POYNTZ, Simon Fraser University, School of Communication
Digital Frictions: urban space - learning, dwelling and imagining through media
At least since the 19th century in Europe the histories of consumerism, media and cities have been wound together, the one forming the spectacle through which the other is made light and mirror of our lives. The power of media in cities is not only as industrial and corporate bodies directly linked to economic power or to the communication networks such corporate structures create. The accumulative power of life in cities means that mediated experience is realized and calibrated through a complex array of forces that sometimes mitigate and contest the homogenizing, unifying power of corporate, consumer culture and the surveillance structures with which it is linked. Drawing on research about how youth media actions are situated within the city, this presentation suggests that the complicated and contradictory ways these initiatives are producing learning and citizen engagement spaces is part of a vernacular cosmopolitanism that serves to thicken up and enrich public life.

Dr. Poyntz' research interests include children, youth and media cultures, theories of the public sphere, with specific concern for the work of Hannah Arendt, and young people's historical thinking, particularly in relation to digital media technologies. He has extensive background in the history of media literacy, nationally and internationally, and has written on Canadian cinema and the relationship between film and historical representation. His keynote presentation draws attention to the complicated, contradictory and nuanced ways in which media is and can be used to reflect a plurality of voices within the public sphere.

JULY 22 (FRI)

9.30am

PANEL: Mapping, Critical Engagement & Justice

KEN BLACKBURN & SARA VIPOND, North Island College, School of Fine Art and Design
Space & Place: Cultivate, Retaliate, Respond - Contemporary Artists re-positioning a sense of place
Blackburn and Vipond will co-present at the symposium. They will talk about their pedagogical approach to creatively exploring the topic of space and place. They will also outline how this topic is explored in their own art practices. The presentation will feature artwork by students and contemporary artists working in this milieu.

GLEN LOWRY, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Faculty of Culture and Community
The culture of the map / the mapping of culture?engaging Indigenous knowledge here and now
Taking up questions of reconciliation and Aboriginal justice in Canada, this presentation looks at the role of artists and creative practitioners in challenging our understandings of urban space. In particular, it looks at questions of spatial representation or representations of space relating to BC's participation in LNG and petroleum economies. Borrowing from Soja's notion of Spatial Justice, this paper will make connections between urban development, creative practice, and Aboriginal title.

ERIC MOSCHOPEDIS, Self-employed, Independent Artist and Researcher
Unmapping the terrain: working through colonialist tendencies in contemporary placemaking practices
In his book, *The Practice of Everyday Life*, Michel du Certeau poetically suggests that, "what the map cuts up the story cuts across" (129). This brief expression is packed with deep insight into the ways in which knowledge is produced spatially. On the one hand, you have official demarkation (the map) and on the other, unofficial narratives or stories that resist solidification. The trend of placemaking within urban and small city contexts uses the maps of local stories as a way of fixing a place. Instead of being a liberalizing force, the maps created by placemakers often reinforce injustice and dominant narrative structures. Using my critical and creative artistic practice as case study, *Unmapping the terrain*, will seek to illustrate how critical and creative mapping can be used to unsettle fixed physical and psychological boundaries within a city or community.

MATTHEW RADER, The University of British Columbia, Creative Studies
Desecrations: Imagination as Site of Real Experience
"I shall create!" wrote Gwendolyn Brooks, "If not a note, a hole. If not an overture, a desecration." This presentation will examine how imagination is not other to lived, embodied experience but rather an essential and definitive aspect of that experience, one that begins in the desecrated location of the body, using desacralized state as a compositional opportunity to rethink and reconstitute relationship and meaning. Using the history and example of his own creative works that arise from and attend to the Comox Valley as subject, Rader will sketch an argument for cultural mapping as an intrinsically imaginative activity and the imagination as a critical geography for any "deep" mapping project.

11.30am **PANEL: Cultural Mapping In-Place**

NANCY HOLMES, Nancy Holmes is currently involved in stakeholder meetings to develop a management plan for a park where she works a great deal as an artist. The principles that have been developed have been sound. However, as the draft plans have come from the consultants, especially around mapping and zoning, it's clear the conservationists and biologists find integrating human activity, heritage and culture challenging. Human activity can be perceived as a hindrance, or worse a danger, rather than as a living and critically important feature of the ecosystem. Holmes will analyze the maps and zones of the draft plan and see how the strategic goals and principles are in conflict with the proposed park development. Finding a way to help the park developers live up to their goals is important. Community-based art practices, and other such methods, can be used as part of the work needed to break the human-nature dualism concept that continues to lurk within ecology and that continues to be mapped onto park plans, potentially undermining the drive for local care and stewardship.

PATRICIA HUNTSMAN, Patricia Huntsman Culture + Communication, Principal Consultant
Gathering PLACE: grassroots approaches to understanding how people are experiencing their place and culture in rural settings. In 2009, Patricia Blakney Huntsman took several months to review the international academic research and secondary publications on cultural mapping and planning. Where she saw a gap in the practice of cultural mapping was in appropriately applying tools and techniques to communities. There was a noticeable lack of fit in critically reflecting the community in its mapping approach. This presentation will share community self-assessment considerations to facilitate the identification of grassroots approaches to understanding place.

KATHLEEN SCHERF, Thompson Rivers University, Tourism Management
Beyond the Brochure: An Unmapped Journey into Deep Mapping
Using the British Columbia Mountain Resort Municipality of Sun Peaks and the Sun Peaks Ski Resort as a platform, Scherf works alongside 19 students to develop and explore 'deep mapping' principles, approaches and technologies -- building a map that is dynamic and responsive, and that goes 'beyond the brochure'. In the process, she uncovers debates around the political nature of mapping, highlights the communicative potentials embedded in new mapping technologies and calls for a more nuanced and 'deep' understanding of place that acknowledges, through rich content, the stories and shared understandings underlying place.

KIRSTEN SCHRADER, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Arts and Culture Division
Cultural Mapping and the process of establishing a regional arts service
The Arts and Culture Division of the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is working on a service case analysis for the creation of a regionally funded arts and culture service function. Currently, there is no established fund for arts grants in the region. If established, this fully regional function would provide annual grant money to eligible non-profit organisations, as well as to existing and new, registered arts councils in the region. The results of the CVRD's alternate approval process will be known in late November 2015, and if approved, the new arts function will be established in 2016. These results will be presented at the symposium. Integrally connected to this initiative is the Cowichan Valley's Cultural map www.cowichanclature.ca. The existing cultural map provides a hub for Cowichan Valley cultural activity, and will be further developed/expanded if the Cultural Service is approved.

1.30pm **PANEL: Building our Here – Cultural Action and Change in the Comox Valley**

MEAGHAN CURSONS, Community Animateur

Activating Space and Animating Community

How do we breathe life into the nooks, crannies and corners of our small cities? How do we do it with minimal budgets? Meaghan explores examples, ideas and tried and true tactics for animating and activating both public and private spaces and celebrating "The Commons". Meaghan is a community animateur who has worked extensively in the local tourism, culture and conservation sectors. She currently manages the Cumberland Forest campaign to purchase threatened forest lands surrounding Cumberland and co-produces the Elevate Arts Festival in Downtown Courtenay. Meaghan is passionate about celebrating "The Commons", grassroots community economic development, sustainability and the network economy and dedicates herself to projects that support these values. She also works as a facilitator and strategic planning consultant for organizations across Vancouver Island and the Salish Sea.

EDWIN GRIEVE, Comox Valley Regional District

HANS PETER MEYER, #WeAreYQQ Founder

Branding and lifting a community of creatives & entrepreneurs

Short, snappy tags are useful in attracting attention, generating curiosity, growing a following. It's especially helpful in the 140 character world of Twitter and the hashtag obsessed world of Instagram when these brands are extra to-the-point. When I launched the #WeAreYQQ "movement" it was to draw the world's attention to our Comox Valley talent resource. I was borrowing from the WeAreYVR initiative to brand and map Vancouver's tech startup talent. I knew the Comox Valley had lots of talent. But no one was seeing it as an economic development opportunity. That's what #WeAreYQQ is about. The "where" is "YQQ" – which unequivocally points to our region. "We are" is the "who," the community of talent in the arts, business, etc that generates the cultural and economic value of this place. Where is here? Here is the Comox Valley. A place endowed with a surfeit of talent. Our mission with our project? To encourage local talent to think and do BIGger. We are leading, inspiring, and fuelling talent in the Comox Valley. To rise by lifting others.

TATSUYUKI SETTA, Manager of Planning, City of Courtenay

Envisioning Future Courtenay Downtown through Design Charrette

The City of Courtenay in partnership with the DCBIA, the Chamber of Commerce, and members of the public has successfully completed the revitalization visioning exercise earlier this year. Many revitalization opportunities as well as challenges were discovered during the first stage of consultation. This process was particularly important for all of us to identify what the Downtown Courtenay means to our community and which direction it should be heading while maximizing its potentials. As a result of fruitful discussion, the team of urban designers and architects was able to produce "big ideas" in the second stage. The presentation will go over the consultation process and present some of the "big ideas" that came out the process.

JULY 22 (FRI)

3:00pm **PANEL: Mapping Sacred Space**

LIZ CARTER, North Island College, Emily Carr University Extension Program

Forced Evolution

Transformation/Evolution? Self Portrait Video. Transforming from a cultural silhouette, Into a "progressive" of a modern women. Like a ticking clock the transformation will return me to my roots. Set in the forest, moving to a urban setting and returning to the land (forest) Physical transformation from regalia to mainstream clothing and back to regalia. Born a political child under Government rule, I Lost my culture only to be granted the cultural rights once again but my teachers where lost to me. New teachers arrived and re-appropriations have begun.

ANDY EVERSON

KARVER EVERSON, North Island College, Fine Arts and Design

Reclamation

Traditional K'ómoks territory was historically saturated with totem poles -- symbols of culture and identity and markers of place. Currently, very few of these historic poles exist. This presentation outlines a project taken on by members of the K'ómoks nation, including Karver Everson, to reclaim traditional territory through the development of new totem poles in strategic locations -- as markers of K'ómoks traditional territory. The presentation showcases the poles created to date, and discusses the significance of the poles and their respective locations.

GEORGE LITTLECHILD, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Faculty of Visual Art and Material Practice

TOBY LAWRENCE