

For Immediate Release

January 6, 2016

AGG Presents: *Out of the Strong, Something Sweet, Distant Grounds, Artists at Riverside Studio, and Berlin 2013/1983*

WINTER 2016

GUELPH - Join us on Thursday, January 21 at 7 pm for the opening reception of the Winter exhibition program.

Cole Swanson: *Out of the Strong, Something Sweet*

January 21 to April 10, 2016

Toronto artist Cole Swanson examines profoundly complex trans-species relations, specifically the intersections between human, bee, and bovine biologies. *Out of the Strong, Something Sweet* features large scale installations of animal bodies, pre-modern art forms, sculptural media, and emergent technologies. In contrast to the symbols and metaphors that demonstrate the social construction of the animal-other, Swanson incorporates audio recordings of cattle and bees, which claim space in the exhibition for the distinctly non-human. Swanson's practice is informed by his research on miniature painting, the preparation of organic and mineral-based pigments, and materiality and modernity in contemporary culture, conducted through two fellowships at the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute in Jaipur, Rajasthan (2007, 2014).

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 21 at 7 pm

Artist Talk and Book Launch: Wednesday, March 30 at 7 pm

Stu Oxley: *Distant Grounds* and *Artists at Riverside Studio*

January 21 to March 27, 2016

Long known for his exquisite intaglio monoprints, master printmaker Stu Oxley (Elora, ON) has shifted his practice to include large-scale painting. The survey exhibition *Distant Grounds* reveals Oxley's innovations in colour and form in both mediums. His paintings and prints contain atmospheric washes of rich colour, with drips and marks emphasizing the artist's hand and interrupting the works' subtle tonal shifts. Presented by AGG in partnership with the MacLaren Art Centre (Barrie), *Distant Grounds* is the first solo exhibition of Oxley's paintings to be shown in Guelph.

On display in conjunction with *Distant Ground*, the exhibition *Artists at Riverside Studio* represents the spectrum of artists Oxley has worked with over the course of his print practice. Featuring works produced between 1980 and 2015 by these nineteen artists: Walter Bachinski, Carl Beam, Brian Boigon, Joe Fafard, Ted Fullerton, Richard Gorenko, John Hartman, Stephen Hutchings, John Kissick, Marie Lannoo, Margaret Priest, Cheryl Ruddock, Tony Scherman, Neil Shawcross, Ron Shuebrook, Doug Stone, Frances Thomas, Tony Urquhart, and Tim Zuck. *Artists at Riverside Studio* is co-curated by Stu Oxley and Emily McKibbon (MacLaren Arts Centre).

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 21 at 7 pm

Walkabout Tour with artist Stu Oxley and curator Emily McKibbon: Tuesday, February 23 at 4 pm

Daniel Young & Christian Giroux: *Berlin 2012/1983*

January 21 to April 3, 2016

This exhibition features an ambitious new work by Sobey Art Award Winners (2011) Daniel Young (Berlin, DE) and Christian Giroux (Guelph) that continues their collaborative program of conceptual installations and represents the artists' preoccupation with the built environment. Documenting architectural construction in Berlin, Young and Giroux pair images of new buildings with those erected during the era of the divided city. Described by the artists as a "rigorous *dérive*," the installation situates itself firmly in a spatio-temporal realm, straddling significant geopolitical events but offering no overt commentary on them. Rather, Young and Giroux take a formal approach that foregrounds the rhythmic, serial presentation of images as a metaphor, perhaps, for the medium itself. *Berlin 2012/1983* is presented by AGG in collaboration with Ed Video Media Arts Centre (Guelph).

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 21 at 7 pm

Daniel Young & Christian Giroux in Conversation with Robert Enright: Tuesday, January 26 at 7 pm

About AGG

The Art Gallery of Guelph (AGG) is one of Canada's premier public art galleries. AGG features art by Guelph's leading visual artists and brings national and international art to Guelph. Through an innovative program that makes contemporary visual culture accessible, AGG engages the public, challenges the artistic and academic communities, and positions art in an ever-changing cultural landscape.

AGG (formerly Macdonald Stewart Art Centre) was established in 1978 through a provincial act as a not-for-profit charitable organization. AGG operates today with three sponsors: University of Guelph, City of Guelph, and the Upper Grand District School Board. The art collections at AGG have grown from 150 works in 1978 to more than 9,000 today. The Sculpture Park at AGG is the largest sculpture park at



a public gallery in Canada, which features 38 permanently sited sculptures by prominent Guelph, Canadian, and international artists.

AGG's Volunteer Association operates The Gallery Shop at AGG, featuring unique pottery, glass, and metalwork by regional artists, and soapstone sculpture by Inuit artists. The Art Rental & Sales program offers over 150 original works by Guelph artists.