

PHOTO, MEDIA AND DIGITAL ART

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art
Suite 124, Box 124
401 Richmond Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 3A8
T 416.591.0357 F 416.591.0358
info@prefix.ca www.prefix.ca
Photo Magazine. Visual, Audio and Surround Art Galleries.
Reference Library. Small Press. Travelling Shows.

PREFIX.

For Immediate Release (August 24, 2005)

This fall, the Atlantic flows to Toronto

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art is pleased to present *Exhibit A: Photography from Atlantic Canada*. Curated by **Scott McLeod** and circulated by Saint Mary's University Art Gallery, this touring exhibition features the work of nine artists whose lives and artistic practices originated in Atlantic Canada. Often eschewing romantic notions of the sea and rejecting the traditional genre of seascape photography, these artists shift their gazes from the sea to the land. They examine constructions in the landscape—for habitation, worship, industry or leisure—that offer evidence of life in the region, past and present. The participating artists include **Scott Conarroe, Marlene Creates, Lorraine Field, John Haney, Thaddeus Holownia, Steve Payne, Paulette Phillips, Ned Pratt, and Scott Walden**. *Exhibit A: Photography from Atlantic Canada* will be on view from **September 29 to November 26, 2005**.

Exhibit A: Photography from Atlantic Canada features distinct and often idiosyncratic photographic practices that nevertheless index a set of experiences particular to the geography of the East Coast. Reflecting on the selection of artists in the exhibition, **Scott McLeod** has stated: "As if in response to the eternal and monumental force of the sea, these artists focus on traces of human presence that, by contrast, appear fleeting and inconsequential." Recalling the high degree of mobility of coastal populations through immigration, relocation, re-settlement and return, these forms of transience may be seen as guiding influences on the relationship of the inhabitants to the land. The artists in *Exhibit A: Photography from Atlantic Canada* exhibit a navigational ease symbolically linked to the figure of the seafarer who is most in place in being lost.

A strong photographic tradition in Atlantic Canada has been enriched by the presence of art education centres such as the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, one of the first art schools to be established in North America. During the 1970s the Atlantic region was host to an influx of key conceptual artists of the period and the region is still home to noted photographers Robert Frank and Alvin Comiter. *Exhibit A: Photography from Atlantic Canada* assembles the work of both senior practitioners of international note as well as by emergent artists. Their work, notes **Scott McLeod**, "is as diversified and varied as the land and the sea, and is subtly distinct from the work produced in the rest of Canada."

Prefix is pleased to celebrate the opening of *Exhibit A: Photography from Atlantic Canada* on **Thursday, September 29 from 7-10 PM** at Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art, located at 401 Richmond Street West, Suite 124, Toronto. Admission is free.

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art is a non-profit organization based in Toronto. Prefix is dedicated to the appreciation and understanding of contemporary photographic, media and digital arts through exhibitions, publications and related activities.

For more information, please contact Sarah Robayo Sheridan, Communications Manager. T: 416.591.0357 E: info@prefix.ca