



Onsite [at] OCAD U

2014

Flash Forward 10: Uncanny Worlds [Exhibition Catalogue]

Smith, Lisa Deanne

Suggested citation:

Smith, Lisa Deanne (2014) Flash Forward 10: Uncanny Worlds [Exhibition Catalogue].
Onsite Gallery at OCAD University. Available at
<http://openresearch.ocadu.ca/id/eprint/450/>

Open Research is a publicly accessible, curated repository for the preservation and dissemination of scholarly and creative output of the OCAD University community. Material in Open Research is open access and made available via the consent of the author and/or rights holder on a non-exclusive basis.

The OCAD University Library is committed to accessibility as outlined in the [Ontario Human Rights Code](#) and the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act \(AODA\)](#) and is working to improve accessibility of the Open Research Repository collection. If you require an accessible version of a repository item contact us at repository@ocadu.ca.

**FLASH
FORWARD
10:**



Danny Custodio, *Trees (Dufferin St.)*, 2013

UNCANNY WORLDS

October 24 to December 20, 2014

Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the international Flash Forward photography festival with an exhibition of works by past winners from OCAD University.

Sebastián Benitez, Kotama Bouabane, Danny Custodio, Nathan Cyprys, Adrian Fish, Jinyoung Kim, Alex Kisilevich, Sanaz Mazinani, Meryl McMaster, Geoffrey Pugen, Stacey Tyrell, Elise Victoria Louise Windsor

Curated by MaryAnn Camilleri and Lisa Deanne Smith



Danny Custodio, *Trees (Scott St.)*, 2013

It gives me great pleasure to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the international Flash Forward festival together with OCAD University and OCAD alumni.

When we started Flash Forward 10 years ago it was my hope to bring awareness to emerging artists at OCAD U and create a platform that would encourage and empower them. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think we would change the lives of 1,200 emerging artists during the tenure of this program, and never did I think that I would constantly be inspired and motivated to work harder on behalf of these young image makers. I am always surprised and delighted by the images that are submitted each year and the sheer talent the program has supported and shared with everyone.

The most lasting achievement of this program is all the talent that has been assembled in what we call The Flash Forward Family. These artists have built formidable careers — thanks to the nature of the program as a launching pad designed to help emerging artists at the dawning stages of their careers. Watching them grow and prosper over the past ten years has been a true honour.

With all great programs comes great support. We presented the TD Bank Group team with an idea a decade ago and asked them to take a chance on us. None of us knew at the start the magnitude of what this program would become, but each of us has been fearless in sheer commitment to these young art stars. It is with my deepest gratitude, on behalf of The Magenta Foundation and all the artists in the Flash Forward Family, that we thank TD Bank Group for its vision and for standing behind young talent.

I have had the pleasure of working with faculty members from OCAD U including Barbara Astman, Peter Sramek, April Hickox and Jennifer Long. They have been amazing supporters of this program and integral to the success of our emerging artists. Each year I lecture at OCAD U I tell the students how lucky they are to have the teachers they do. I'm thrilled to have worked with them for the past decade and can't wait to see what the next decade will bring.

Finally, to all the new artists out there, I look forward to meeting you.

MaryAnn Camilleri

Founder, Magenta Foundation and
Director, Flash Forward Festival



Kotama Bouabane, *Sexy Pisa*, 2011

Congratulations to the Magenta Foundation for 10 years of Flash Forward! Its annual competition, publications and exhibitions are important to young OCAD U photographers as they make their way into the professional world. Magenta, TD Bank Group, and particularly MaryAnn Camilleri, thank you for being a catalyst for our students! Onsite and OCAD U are happy to celebrate with you!

Curating within predetermined limitations can often produce fascinating results, as is the case with Flash Forward 10: Uncanny Worlds. Limited to OCAD U photography alumni who have been past winners of Flash Forward, a moment was created in which to search for conceptual links and common areas of interest from young OCAD U photographers. It was intriguing to find, more often than not, the images questioned the relationship humans have with the physical world.

Sebastián Benitez creates visually stunning, absurd images that challenge us to laugh at ourselves while questioning what is natural.

In lush settings of majestic foliage, **Kotama Bouabane** captures social and architectural moments that reveal uneasy human interventions in nature.

Danny Custodio elegantly documents trees found in St. Catharines suburbs built in the 1950s. Trees that have grown or been pruned to accommodate needed hydro wires.

4

FLASH FORWARD 10:

5

UNCANNY WORLDS

The regal landscapes **Nathan Cyprys** focuses on highlight the courageous and fallible qualities of humankind.

In **Adrian Fish's** *Aquaphilia Part III*, the engineering and architecture needed to process, contain and shape the water in the world's second largest aquarium becomes as sexy as the water itself.

In a silent video **Jinyoung Kim** humbly and poetically evokes the evitable passage and loss of time as wind becomes visual in lifting and removing a pile of fine powder off the artist's hand.

Riffing off fashion and hipster trends **Alex Kislevich** reveals how detached and isolated humans often are, and questions whether the natural physical environment is a solution.

Sanaz Mazinani's photographic collages of Islamic geometric patterns constructed from images found in news media examine war, struggles to control natural resources and the media's representation of these conflicts.

Against a cement wall, inside a spiral shaped sculpture of paper starlings, **Meryl McMaster** creates a magical utopic moment through the captured movement of her body.

Geoffrey Pugen's images seduce with beauty, simultaneously critical, joyous and a little sinister, calling into question desire and its ramifications.

Stacey Tyrell's photographs of West Indian slave houses or chattels overrun with foliage and vines raise hope for healing from colonialism and document rural landscapes in the process of rapid development.

Elise Victoria Louise Windsor's works address contemporary concerns while remaining rooted in the idea of the still life, one of the first art styles depicting human's impulse to control nature.

In its state of rapid change I find our world extremely exciting and often quite scary. Every day an article or conversation voices concern for our environment and the effect of humans on the earth. Every day there is someone, something or a moment that inspires and, I feel, makes our world a better place. The artists in Flash Forward 10: Uncanny Worlds do just that. They are diverse, with strong ties to different locations of influence including Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, Iran, South Korea, Laos, Portugal and Venezuela. It's lovely to observe the differences in their work—and how those differences strengthen the exhibition overall—building a complex conversation addressing the relationship of humans and the physical world.

Lisa Deanne Smith

Curator, Onsite [at] OCAD U



Sebastián Benítez, *Not This Way Either*, 2012

Sebastián Benítez is a Toronto-based artist born in Caracas, Venezuela. He explores issues of memory and identity through photography and installation. His recent works explore the role of objects and images in the construction and maintenance of notions of identity. He has participated in exhibitions in the United States, South Korea, Finland and Canada.

Kotama Bouabane is a Laotian born Canadian artist. He has an MFA in Studio Arts, Photography from Concordia University, Montreal. His work has been exhibited in many galleries including Centre A (Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art), Parisian Laundry and Gallery TPW. His work has been published in Magenta Foundation's *Flash Forward* in 2010 and 2012 and *Prefix Photo*. He currently holds a position in the photography departments at both OCAD U and York University. He is represented by Erin Stump Projects (ESP) and will have a solo show in the fall of 2014.

6

7

FLASH FORWARD 10:

UNCANNY WORLDS



Nathan Cyprys, *High Bridge Road*, Wilmore, Kentucky, 2013

Danny Custodio is a contemporary photo-based artist who studied photography at OCAD U. His work has been presented in solo and group exhibitions throughout Canada and the United States and is held in many private and public collections including the City of Toronto, the Canadian Pension Plan, and the City of St. Catharines. Recently his work was the subject of a photo essay in *Maclean's* magazine. He has received numerous awards and grants including visual artist grants from the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts. Born in Toronto, Custodio is now based in St. Catharines, Ontario. He is represented by Galley Kayafas, Boston, Massachusetts.

Nathan Cyprys is an emerging artist and photographer based in Toronto. He holds a BFA in Photography from the OCAD U. His work is often personal as it explores the ephemeral, alienation and transitory states. Whether shooting in a sterile studio or documenting the North American landscape, his imagery always roots itself to his own understanding of the human condition. Cyprys was the recipient of the McCain Post Graduate Residency through OCAD U. He was also named *BlackFlash Magazine's* 2012 Optic Nerve Winner and was a selected photographer in the 2012 Flash Forward Festival. Most recently, his solo exhibition *The Keeper's Veil* was on display at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre.



Adrian Fish, *Aquaphilia Part III*, 2013/2014

Adrian Fish's photographic practice documents the physical and psychic spaces integral to the habituation to 21st century life. Employing the visual vocabulary of anthropology, Fish's images are the product of casting a decidedly unscientific gaze on the spheres of education, recreation and entertainment through architecture and portraiture. Fish is a Toronto born photo-based artist and educator currently living in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He holds an MFA from York University, as well as undergraduate accreditation from OCAD U and the Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning. His work has been shown internationally. Adrian is currently Assistant Professor in the Division of Media Art at NSCAD University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and is represented by Tatar Art Projects and Loop Gallery in Toronto.

Jinyoung Kim renders personal narratives into poetic visions forming symbolic and metaphoric visual summaries. Her images and video resonate with everyday experiences, imbuing them with meaning through appropriation into different contexts and the staging of gestures in front of the camera. Her work examines conditions of liminal self identity and displacement and she frequently appears as a performer in her own work. She holds a BFA from OCAD U and received her MFA from Concordia University in 2014. Recent exhibitions include Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Lilian Rodriguez and Espace Cercle Carré. Kim was shortlisted for the 2014 Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Award in Contemporary Art and has received the Roloff Benny Foundation Fellowship in Photography. Kim lives and works in Montreal.

8

FLASH FORWARD 10:

9

UNCANNY WORLDS



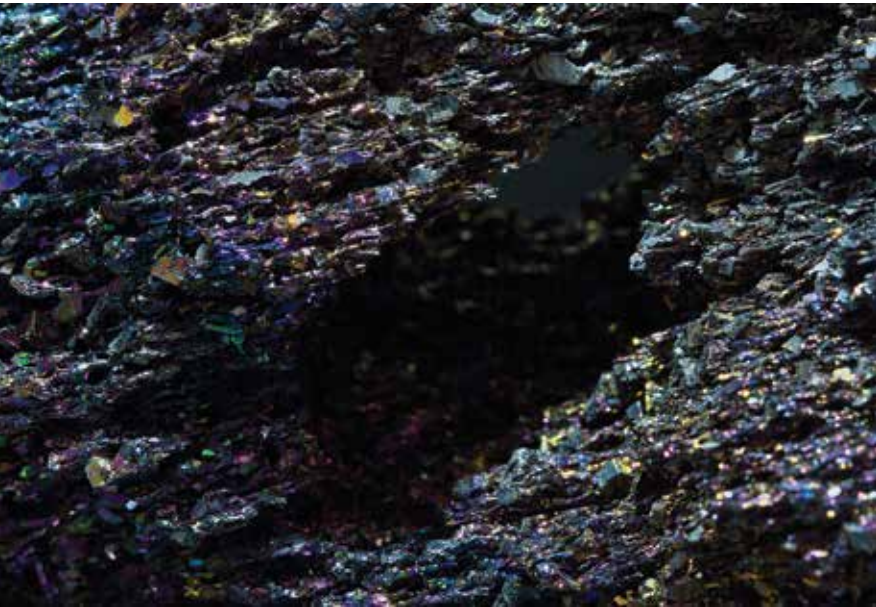
Sanaz Mazinani, *Blue Angels* (detail), 2013



Alex Kisilevich, *Wood Paneling*, 2011

Alex Kisilevich was the 2009 national winner of the BMO 1st Art! Invitational Student Art Competition, and his work has been featured in publications such as Magenta Foundation's *Flash Forward*, *BlackFlash Magazine* and *Canadian Art*. He has exhibited internationally with solo exhibitions at Harbourfront Centre, Angell Gallery and in Lianzhou, China.

Sanaz Mazinani is a San Francisco-based visual artist whose work explores the relationship between perception and representation. Her practice intersects conceptual and formal boundaries of the photographic image in response to site, sight and insight, especially in relation to digital culture. Mazinani has exhibited internationally. Her catalogue, *Unfolding Images* was released in 2012 by Bulger Gallery Press. She has received grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, San Francisco Arts Commission and was shortlisted for the 2013 Magic of Persia Contemporary Art Prize, granted the Kala Art Institute Fellowship. In 2013, Mazinani was awarded the SFAC Art on Market Street public art installation. Her artwork has been written about in *Border Crossings*, *Canadian Art*, *Modern Painters*, *Nuva Luz*, *NOW Magazine*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *SF Weekly*. Mazinani studied at OCAD U (2003), and received her MFA at Stanford University (2011).



Geoffrey Pugen, *Rock*, 2011

Meryl McMaster is a Canadian-based artist and a graduate in photography from OCAD U. Her work explores questions of identity, representation, perception, myth, memory and the environment. Her recent exhibitions include *In-Between Worlds* at the Art Gallery of Hamilton Design Annex, the 2014 CONTACT Photography Festival at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art (MOCCA) in Toronto and RED: Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellowship at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in Indianapolis.

Geoffrey Pugen is a Toronto based video artist. Working with video, film, performance and photography, Pugen explores alternate realities through simulating and re-contextualizing media histories. Pugen has made several works that have been shown internationally including *Utopics*, *Sahara Sahara*, and *Bridge Kids*. Pugen has exhibited his art, films and videos at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art (MOCCA), the CFC Worldwide Short Film Festival, Berlin Transmediale International Media Arts Festival, European Media Art Festival, and the Poland 12th International Media Art Biennale WRO 07. His publications include *Adbusters*, *Descant* magazine and *Future Species*. He is a recipient of the K.M. Hunter Award for Interdisciplinary Art.

10

FLASH FORWARD 10:

11

UNCANNY WORLDS



Stacey Tyrell, *Kitchen on Pond Hill*, 2009

Stacey Tyrell was born and raised in Toronto. She attended OCAD U, where she majored in Photography. Her work predominantly deals with themes of identity, race and heritage as it pertains to post-colonial societies and the Caribbean Diaspora. Her work has appeared in such shows as Flash Forward 2012 at the Magenta Foundation, *Position As Desired: Contemporary African Canadian Photography* at the Royal Ontario Museum and the Canadian Museum for Immigration at Pier 21, MLK50 at the Place des Arts in Montreal and Photography NOW 2009 at the Center for Photography at Woodstock, NY. Her images are part of Heritage Canada and the Montreal Arts Interculturels Collections permanent collections and have appeared in such publications as *European Photography*, *Marie Claire* South Africa, *Pictures From Paradise: A survey of Contemporary Caribbean Photographers*, *Canadian Art*, *ARC Magazine*, *Prefix Photo* and *Applied Arts*. She currently is based in Brooklyn.



Elise Victoria Louise Windsor, *Fleur Blue*, 2014

Elise Victoria Louise Windsor is a visual artist working and living in Montreal, Quebec. She is currently an MFA Candidate at Concordia University in the Studios Arts Program, concentrating in Photography. She graduated from OCAD U's BFA program, focusing in photography, printmaking and sculpture. Layering photography with sculpture, she creates analog-based photographic illusions addressing the phantasmagoric qualities specific to the medium of photography. Elise recently participated in an XPACE/ SPARK Contemporary Art Space Residency in Syracuse, New York and The State Hermitage Museum Foundation of Canada Young Artist Program, in St. Petersburg, Russia. She has been the recipient of various awards and participated in art exhibitions across Canada, the U.S. and Russia.

12

FLASH FORWARD 10:

13

UNCANNY WORLDS

MaryAnn Camilleri is the Founder of the Magenta Foundation and Director of the Flash Forward Festival. The Magenta Foundation is a charitable arts organization and publishing house. Through its diversity with book publishing, online content and a recent expansion of the Flash Forward Festival into Boston, the foundation is embracing the ever-changing technology era. Forging alliances with international galleries, curators and artists, Magenta mounts exhibitions in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. Notable titles published by Magenta include *Phantom Shanghai* and *Hanoi Calling* by Greg Girard, *The Station Point* by Robert Bourdeau, *The Dead* by Jack Burman, *Carte Blanche Volumes 1 & 2* and the Flash Forward festival catalogues, 2004 to the present *Flash Forward 10th Anniversary Edition*.

Known and respected for her commitment to providing a platform for emerging talent, and to increasing the profile of under-documented established artists, Camilleri is sought out to provide advice and guidance to individuals, corporations and non-profit organizations. She is always looking for engaging projects that can translate well into an exhibition or a publication.

magentafoundation.org

flashforwardfestival.com

Lisa Deanne Smith is the Curator of Onsite [at] OCAD U and is engaged in a cultural practice that moves between mediums — curating, writing, art making and community events — exploring issues of voice, experience and power. Recent curatorial projects include *Generations of Queer: Robert Flack, John Greyson, Elisha Lim and Kiley May*; *No Dull Affairs: Karen Lofgren, Vanessa Maltese, Jillian McDonald*; *Ads for People: Selling Ethics in the Digital Age*; and *I Wonder: Marian Bantjes*.

Onsite's mission is to draw from regional, national and international sources to create and host exhibitions, events and educational programs that inspire research as well as fresh ways of seeing and contextualizing contemporary critical design and art.

Saturday, October 25, 2014, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

OPENING RECEPTION



Meryl McMaster, *Murmur #3*, 2013

14

FLASH FORWARD 10:

15

UNCANNY WORLDS

Tuesday, October 28, 6:30 p.m.

Developing Focus with Stacey Tyrell

Tyrell will speak about developing her career, exploring her practice, current projects and the challenges a contemporary artist can face in the career market. Tyrell was one of the Magenta Foundation's 2012 top emerging Canadian photographers as well as *Toronto Life* and *NOW Magazine's* "must see" pick for the 2014 Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival.

Friday, October 31, 12:30 p.m.

Artist's Talk with Meryl McMaster

McMaster will discuss her career since graduating from OCAD U. Her work explores questions of identity, representation, perception, myth, memory and the environment. Her recent exhibitions include *In-Between Worlds* at the Art Gallery of Hamilton Design Annex, the 2014 CONTACT Photography Festival at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art (MOCCA) in Toronto, and RED: Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellowship at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in Indianapolis.

Saturday, November 1, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Portfolio Reviews with Patrick Macaulay, Director, Visual Arts, Harbourfront Centre; Nicholas Pye, artist; Meera Margaret Singh, artist; and a Sharing Table facilitated by Keesic Douglas, April Hickox and Jennifer Long.

Open to emerging and mid-career photographers with a cohesive body of work. Space is limited. Please email onsite@ocadu.ca for details.

Wednesday, November 12, 7 p.m.

Pecha Kucha: Inspiration and New Directions with Sebastián Benítez, Danny Custodio, Nathan Cyprys, Geoffrey Pugen and more.

Pecha Kucha is Japanese for "chit chat." It is the speed dating of the academic lecture.

Wednesday, November 19, 6:30 p.m.

Insite Exhibition Tour with Peter Sramek, Professor, OCAD U

Sramek studied photography at MIT and has taught at OCAD U since 1976. He is Chair of Cross-Disciplinary Art Practices. Represented by the Stephen Bulger Gallery in Toronto, his works are in many collections, notably the Musée Carnavalet (Paris), Toronto Archives, Art Gallery of Hamilton, National Library of Canada, the Allan Chasanoff Collection (NY) and MOMA (NY).

Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 p.m.

Insite Exhibition Tour with MaryAnn Camilleri, Founder of the Magenta Foundation and Director of the Flash Forward Festival.



Jinyoung Kim, *The Passing*, 2012

Presented by Onsite [at] OCAD U and OCAD U Alumni Relations in partnership with TD Bank Group and The Magenta Foundation.

Thanks to: Onsite Advisory Board; Stephen Bulger Gallery; MKG 127; Erin Stump Projects (ESP); OCAD U Photography Faculty Barbara Astman, April Hickox, Jennifer Long and Peter Sramek; OCAD U staff Morgan Mavis, Ju-Hye Ahn, Adria Miller, Suzanne Alyssa Andrews, Shannon Robertson, Julie Thompson, and Laura Zarnke; OCAD U student staff Rouzbeh Akhbari, Sabrina De Bellefeuille, Spencer Hatch and Maya Wilson.

Design by: OCAD University, Marketing and Communications, 2014.

Location

Onsite Gallery
230 Richmond St. W.
Toronto, ON
416-977-6000 Ext. 2208
onsite@ocadu.ca
ocadu.ca/exhibitions/onsite

Gallery Hours

Tuesdays to Fridays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m.



PRESENTED IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH:

