

EQUINOX GALLERY
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GESTURE

March 6 – April 3, 2021
Equinox Gallery, Vancouver

Equinox Gallery is pleased to present *Gesture*, an exhibition of work by Diane Arbus, Shuvinai Ashoona, Maxwell Bates, Kim Dorland, Rodney Graham, Adad Hannah, Fred Herzog, David Hockney, Al McWilliams, Eadweard Muybridge, Cindy Sherman, Michael Snow and Neil Wedman.

Movements of a body can signal a mood, express meaning, or even reveal things that are impossible to put into words. Gestures - anything from the simple nod to an emphatic stance - are significant narrative devices that artists skillfully utilize, whether to configure social interactions in a painting, immortalize them for posterity in a photograph, or transmit their emotional resonance in a sculpture. Gestures are significant clues in our endless pursuit to unravel and make meaning of the complexities and contradictions of a world that is always unfolding.

Diane Arbus (1923 – 1971)

Born in New York, Diane Arbus was an American photographer who revolutionized portraiture through her range of subjects and style. Arbus selected her subjects – couples, children, nudists, suburban families, circus performers and celebrities, among others - for their singularity. She is largely known for her hand-held black and white images of marginalized people and provocative imagery, and much of her photographic work explored ideas of personal identity as a social construct.

Shuvinai Ashoona

Celebrated for her highly detailed drawings and fantastical subject matter, Shuvinai Ashoona is best known for the imaginative way that she incorporates these and other cultural references to develop her own sophisticated and highly personal iconography. Ashoona lives and works in Kinngait, Nunavut.

Maxwell Bates (1906 – 1980)

Born in Calgary, Alberta, Maxwell Bates was one of Canada's early modernists and one of the most powerful artists of his generation. A painter, his work utilized altered perspectives, quirky unusual plays of colour in depicting images of Canadian landscapes, working class and farm people, family scenes, social scenes and still life. His work has been exhibited worldwide and in 1980 he was made a Member of the Order of Canada.

Kim Dorland

Born in Wainwright, Alberta, Kim Dorland's practice reflects a fascination with the enigmatic Canadian landscape as it comes into contact with contemporary urban experience. Using a dense matrix of intense colours, delirious textures and passionate painterly touch, Dorland brings a paradoxical sense of displacement in which the artists relationship with nature is simultaneously one of awe and fear.

Rodney Graham

Emerging out of Vancouver's 1970s photo-conceptual tradition, Rodney Graham's work is often informed by historical literary, musical, philosophical and popular references. This piece - *Dance!!!!* – refers to Graham's long-standing artistic fascination with the myth of the American west. Integrating wit and humour with in-depth philosophical studies of his subjects, he creates visual puns, frequently placing himself at the center of the action playing the roles he investigates.

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Adad Hannah

Adad Hannah explores historically trenchant themes through elaborate bodies of work that include video, installation and photography. Inspired by the historical practice of tableaux vivants ("living pictures"), his practice often invokes the durational form of early cinema and investigates the complex relationships between photography and painting. Hannah lives and works in Vancouver, BC.

Fred Herzog (1930 – 2019)

Throughout his career, Fred Herzog worked almost exclusively with Kodachrome slide film, and only in the past decade did technology allow him to make archival pigment prints that match the exceptional colour and intensity of the Kodachrome slide. Herzog's use of colour was unusual in the 1950s and 60s, and has been celebrated around the world as one of the earliest pioneers of colour street photography.

David Hockney

A pioneer of the British Pop Art movement of the early 1960s, David Hockney is widely accepted as the most influential British artist of the 20th century. He has produced work in almost every medium, from painting to iPad drawings. In 1969, Hockney created 39 hand-drawn etching plates depicting stories from the Brothers Grimm, which had delighted him since childhood. About this series Hockney noted, "They're fascinating little stories, told in a very very simple, direct, straightforward language and style, it was this simplicity that attracted me."

Al McWilliams

Al McWilliams' sculptural forms are developed through observation and drawing, with associations that drift between figuration and abstraction. His sculptures offer a narrative that is relational and open with no clear beginning or end, but rather an abundance of meeting points between form and material. Al McWilliams lives and works in Vancouver, BC.

Eadweard Muybridge

Originally a landscape and architectural photographer, Eadweard Muybridge is known for his groundbreaking images of animals and people in motion. To create these early photographic works in the 1880s, Muybridge would rig a series of large cameras in a line to shoot images automatically as subjects passed by. Viewed in a zoopraxiscope machine, his images laid the foundation for motion pictures and contemporary cinematography.

Cindy Sherman

Born in New Jersey, USA, Cindy Sherman is widely recognized as one of the most important artists in contemporary art. Her work has been consumed with probing the construction of identity through playing with visual and cultural codes of art, celebrity, gender and photography. Her *Untitled Film Stills* (1977-1980), in which she put on guises and photographed herself in various settings began when she was 23, and rely on classic female caricatures of cinema.

Michael Snow

Michael Snow produces work that investigates innovative ways of representing time and space. His most famous *Walking Woman* series from 1961 to 1967 explores the visual representation of a walking woman in profile in various media, including three-dimensional sculpture, photographs and performances. Snow also produced an eleven-part sculpture on the *Walking Woman* for the Ontario pavilion at Expo '67 in Montreal.

Neil Wedman

Neil Wedman utilizes traditional artistic techniques to explore eccentric subjects such as exploding fireworks factories, desert rainbows and flying saucers with humour and meticulous detail. Making paintings stands at the core of his thirty years of studio practice, but he has devoted almost equal attention to producing drawings and works on paper including print editions, book-works and photographs. Neil Wedman lives and works in Vancouver, BC.