



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Briar Craig

For Font's Sake

April 5 - May 15, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

Briar Craig

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Artist Catalog, 'Briar Craig - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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Director: Richard Fogarty
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Briar Craig

Julie Oakes

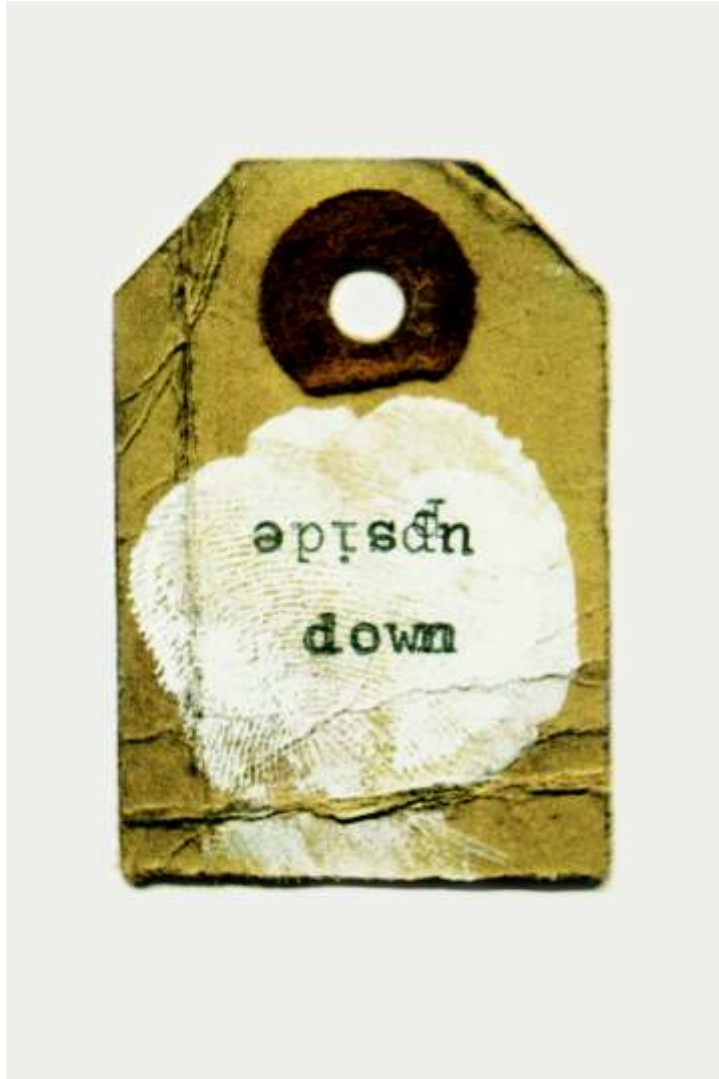
Going back and forth between extreme focus and a sense that there is something more to be seen than we have access to; both the message and the visual support the disconcertion. There is an inconvenience imposed that creates a discommodate as if the information is intermittent. To be able to grasp the entire significance we are in a position that requires a step back in order to see the whole picture and yet we have been given a magnified version of the message instead.

Combining the shape of the letters with a convoluted messaging system, Briar Craig tests our response to his letters. The viewer is seldom allowed a passive stance, for he offers just enough clues in his formatting to suggest that if the mind stretches, the reason why the letters have been set up in such a way will come clear. It may be an association with the ground and the placement of the letters, *Upside Down* for instance, where the very phrase has a curious ring, and when suspended in the context of an art piece, it becomes even "curiouser", as the white rabbit coined. The faded, creased, rusted, shot or frayed material lends an immediate historicity to the object, yet as an art piece the object is far more present than it was in reality. Craig coalesces his mind games in an aesthetic realm that is partially endemic to the medium, silk screen. The technical layering of the colors contributes to a poignancy of image, and Briar Craig has perfected the method of creating a sensuous depth of field to the extent that a crumpled piece of card becomes a varied and rewarding color experience.

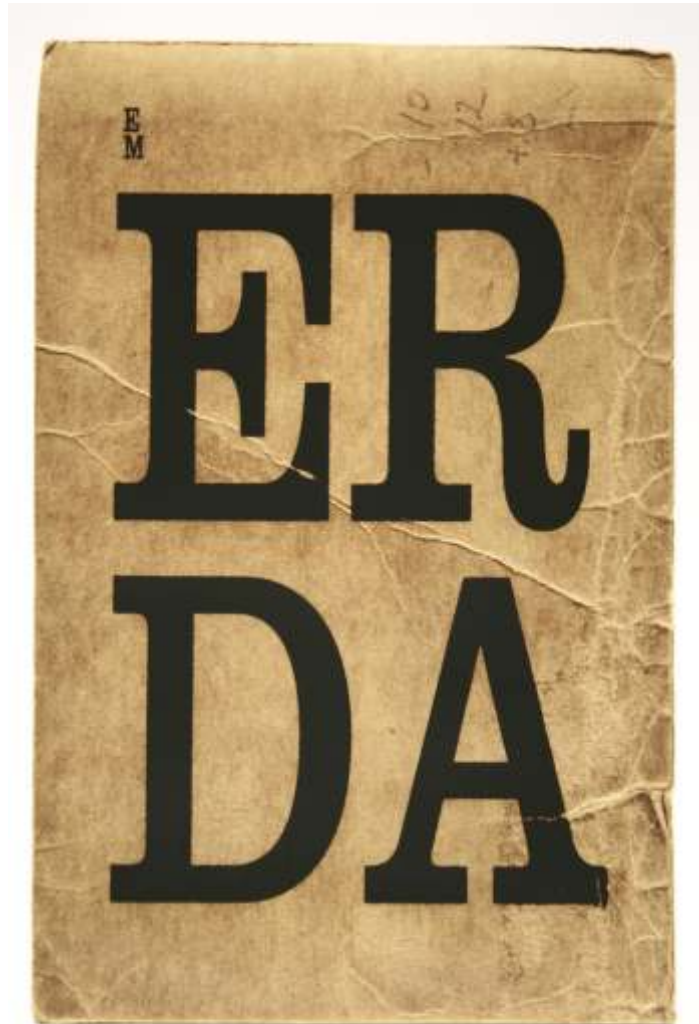
The challenge of the discussion he is provoking is almost overshadowed by the poignancy of the visuals and the temptation creeps in to forget about meaning and rest, instead, in a simpler visual appreciation. As the cardboard changes under his hand into gold, K and O by existing on such a ground become important characters. The words "Utopian Vacuum" with a glow radiating from the relief letters on the intensely evocative background provoke a Gollum-like desire to possess this found object, now transformed into a precious object. The personal rewards from having found significance in the discarded are however suspect as if there is more trickery at play than is realised. The objects seem too incredible, too wonderful, to have been *real* scraps. Or perhaps it is our lack and we have not been sufficiently alert to discover the treasures that blow through the windy streets.



Cookie II
screen print on paper, 27.7 x 40 inches
2005



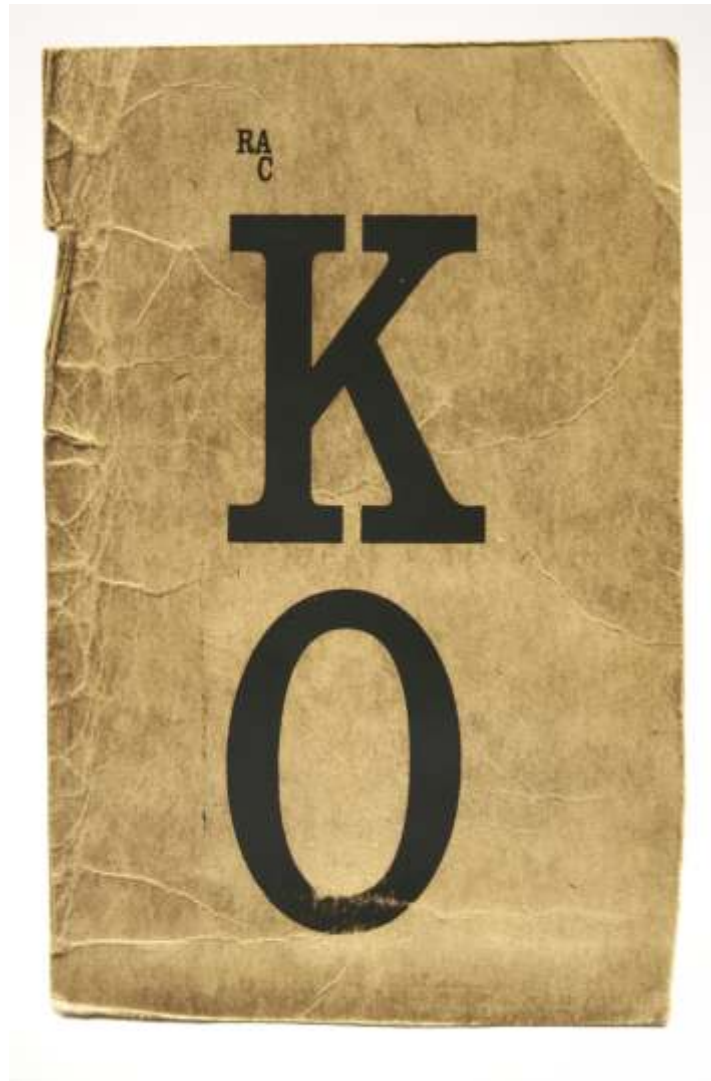
Downside Up
ultra-violet screen print on paper, 13.5 x 19 inches
2004



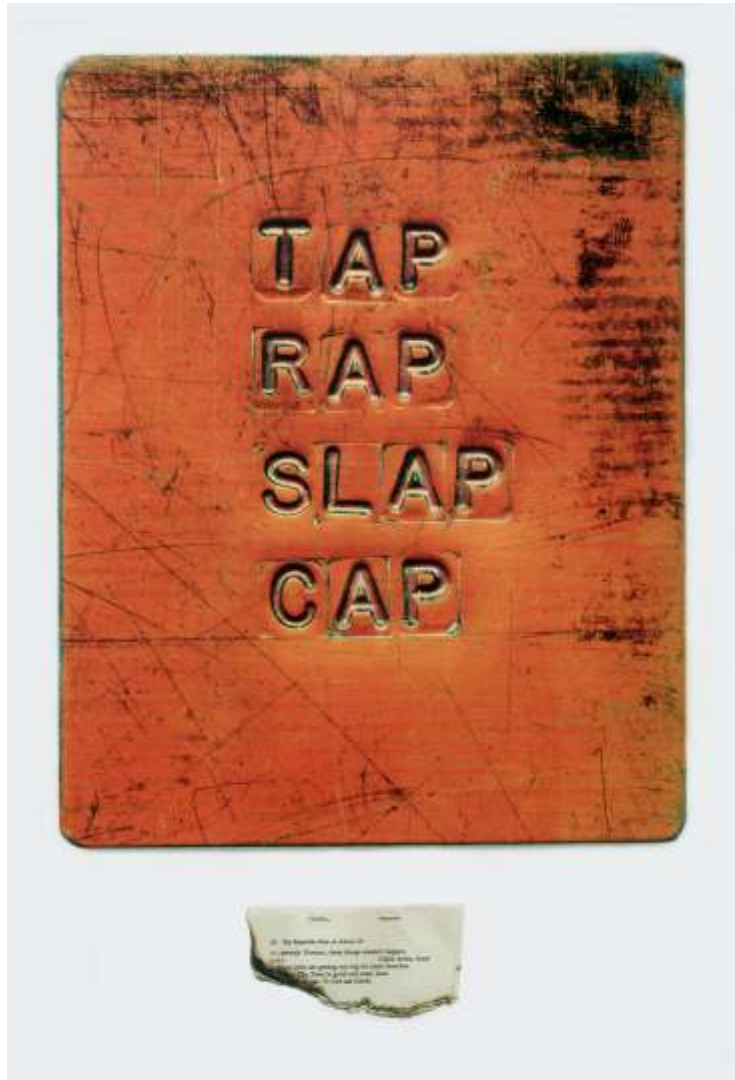
EMERDA
screen print on paper, 27 x 40 inches
2003



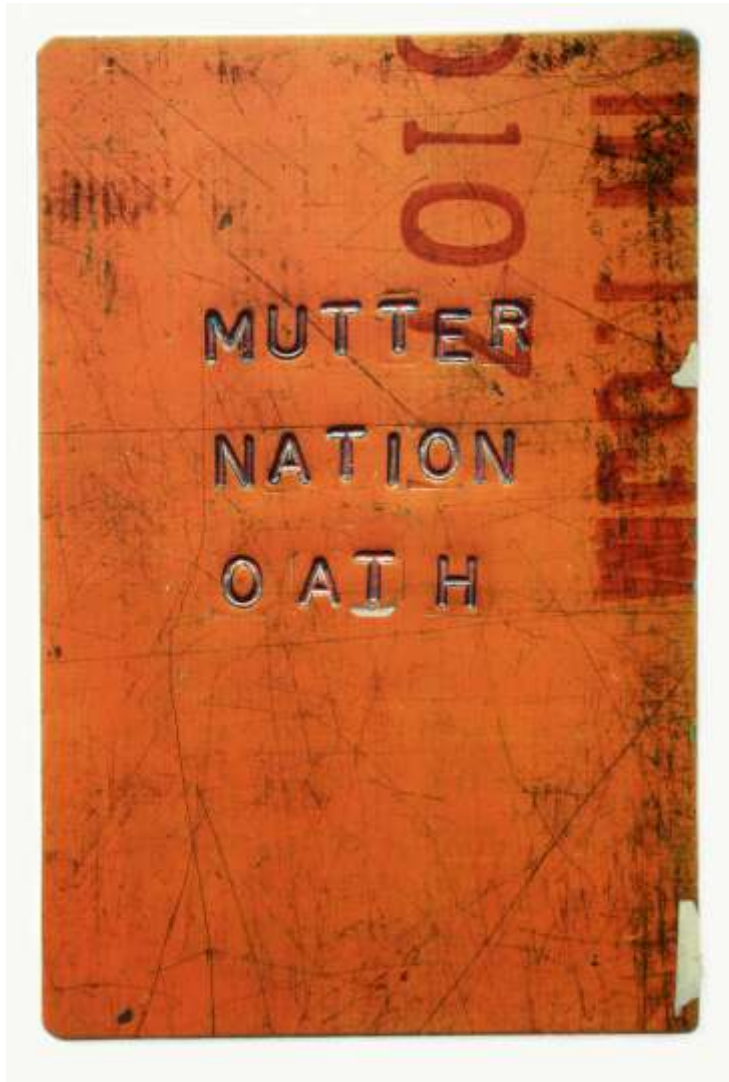
ENTET
screen print on paper, 27 x 40 inches
2003



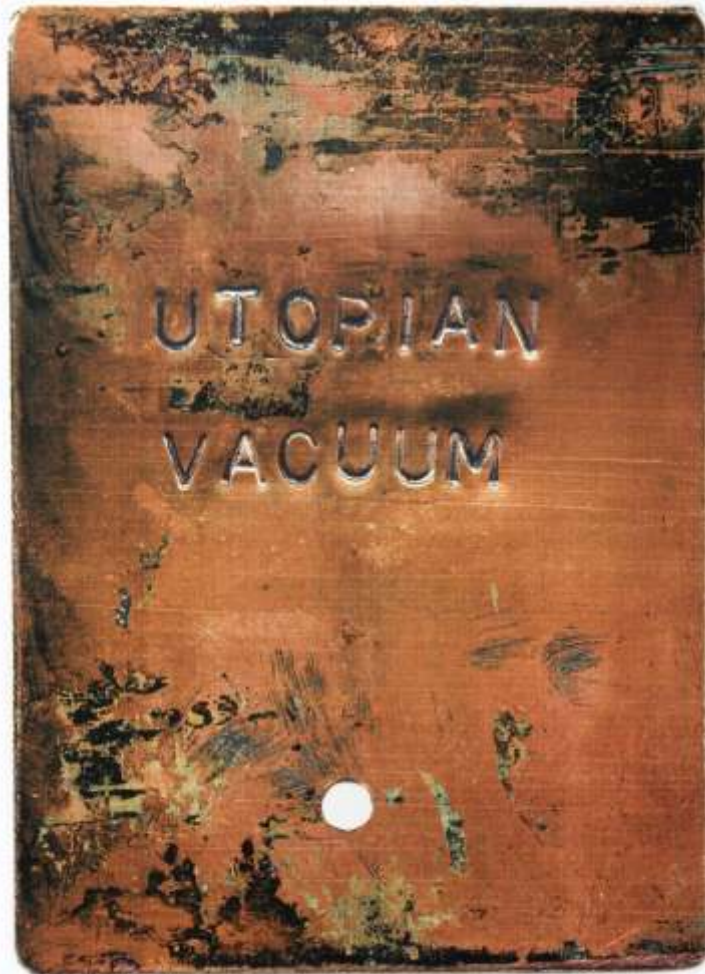
RACKO
screen print on paper, 27 x 40 inches
2003



Spricht Wie Brecht
ultra-violet screen print on paper, 27 x 40 inches
2007



Mutter Nation Oath
ultra-violet screen print on paper, 27 x 41 inches
2007



Utopian Vacuum
ultra-violet screen print on paper, 28 x 40 inches
2006



Nyah Nyah!
ultra-violet screen print on paper, 27 x 39 inches
2004



Cookie I
screen print on paper, 27.7 x 40 inches
2004

Briar Craig

Education: M.V.A. (Printmaking) University of Alberta, 1987
B.F.A. (Printmaking) Queen's University, 1984

Professional Experience:

2005 present, Head, Department of Creative Studies, Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies, University of British Columbia Okanagan, Kelowna, British Columbia
2005 present, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia Okanagan, Kelowna, British Columbia
2004 2005, Chair, Department of Fine Art, Okanagan University College, Kelowna, British Columbia
1991 - 2005, Associate Professor, Okanagan University College, Kelowna, British Columbia (printmaking, drawing, photography)

Selected Exhibitions:

2007
That Way and This, (solo exhibition), Vernon Art Gallery, Vernon, British Columbia, Canada
For Font's Sake, Headbones, the Drawers, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2006
14th Space International Print Biennial 2006, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea 08/06/2006
09/08/2006
Americas 2000: Paper Works, Northwest Art Center, Minot State University, Minot, North Dakota, U.S.A. (award winner)
5th Lessedra World Art Print Annual, the National Palace of Culture and the Lessedra Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria
Inklandia: An International Print Exhibition, Yue-Kong Pao Hall of Visual and Performing Arts, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA (invited artist)
2005
'Eclectica', (solo exhibition), The Cecelia Coker Bell Gallery, Coker College, Hartsville, South Carolina, U.S.A.
'Fragments', (solo exhibition), Maple Ridge Art Gallery, Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada
4th Biennale Internationale D'Estampe Contemporaine de Trois-Rivieres, Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, Canada
Cultural Foundation International Graphic Biennial Cluj, Cluj-Napoca Art Museum, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

The "Iosif Iser" International Contemporary Engraving Biennial Exhibition, The Art Museum of Prahova County, Ploiesti, Romania

4th Lessedra World Art Print Annual (Mini Print), The National Palace of Culture and the Lessedra Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria

MTG Krakow Pays a Visit to Hungary, Polish Culture Institute Gallery, Vigado Gallery, Duna Gallery, and Millenium Park, Budapest, Hungary (January to May, 2005)

Florida Printmakers 14th Competition: International Print and Drawing Exhibition, College of Arts and Sciences Gallery, University of Miami, Florida, U.S.A.

Hand Pulled Prints XII, Stone Metal Press Gallery, San Antonio, Texas, U.S.A.

2004

'Replay', (solo exhibition), Latitude 53 Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

'Sixty Square Inches 14th Biennial Small Print Exhibition', Robert L. Ringel Gallery and the Stewart Centre Gallery at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A.

3rd Lessedra World Art Print Annual (Mini Print), The National Palace of Culture, Sofia, Bulgaria
BIMPE III, the Third Biennial International Miniature Print Exhibition, Dundarave Print Workshop and New Leaf Editions, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; and, a second venue for the exhibition at Gallery San Chun, Calgary, Alberta

La Petite XII a small format exhibition, Alder Art Gallery, Coburg, Oregon, U.S.A.

Recent Acquisitions, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, British Columbia

Re-exposition The International Print Triennial Krakow 2003, Horst Janssen Museum, Oldenburg, Germany

MTG Krakow Pays a Visit to Hungary, Varosi Muvezseti Muzeum, Gyor, Hungary; Polish Culture Institute Gallery, Budapest, Hungary; Vigado Gallery, Budapest, Hungary; Duna Gallery, Budapest, Hungary; Millenium Park, Budapest, Hungary

Triennial 100 Cities Prints from the Four Quarters of the Globe, Cultural Center, Gallery Ostroleka, Ostroleka, Poland and Cultural Center "Castle", Contemporary Art Gallery "Profile", Poznan, Poland

"My Hero", DV8, Vancouver, British Columbia

2003

4th International Triennale "Colour in Graphic Art", (invited artist), Wozownia Art Gallery, Torun, Poland

International Print Triennial Cracow 2003, Bunkier Sztuki Contemporary Art Gallery, Palace of Art, Cracow, Poland

4th International Mini-Print Biennial 2003, Cluj Art Museum, International Festival of Graphic Art, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

'Now and Then', (with Elizabeth Forrest, Leah Oates, Rochelle Rubinstein, and Elena Roginsky),

Open Studio, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

'1 to 25', (curated by Manon Staiger and Richard Calver), an exhibition of Six Western Canadian Printmakers, Campbell River and District Public Art Gallery, Campbell River, British Columbia
Print Arts Northwest, (curated by Karen Dugas and the Society of Northern Alberta Print Artists),
North West Print Council Gallery, Portland, Oregon, USA

2002

'EMERDA', (solo exhibition), The Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada

'Mediate', a group exhibition curated by Susan Edelstein, (with Byron Johnston, Jeffery Norgren,
Renée Burgess), Centre D'Exposition Circa, Montréal, Québec, Canada

'Bottom Feeder: Serigraphs by Briar Craig', (solo exhibition), SAGA Public Art Gallery, Salmon
Arm, British Columbia, Canada

'Standing Room Only', Keyano Art Gallery, Keyano College, Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada

'Snap, Crackle, Pop', a group exhibition organized by the Edmonton Art Gallery and the Society
of Northern Alberta Print Artists, curated by Christal Pshyk, (with Carl Skelton, Angus Wyatt,
Nancy Fox, Cindy Baker, Allan Ball, Blair Brennan, Taiga Chiba, Lisa Murray), touring Alberta
galleries

2001

'That Way and This', (solo exhibition), (SNAP) Society of Northern Alberta Print Artists Gallery,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

'Play/Pause/Rewind/Play/Pause/Rewind...', (solo exhibition), The White Water Gallery, North Bay,
Ontario, Canada

International Print Triennial in Kanagawa 2001, Kanagawa Prefectural Gallery, Kanagawa
(Yokohama), Japan

Triennial 100 Cities Rybnik 2001, District and Municipal Culture Center, Rybnik, Poland

Triennial 100 Cities Kartuzy 2001, Refektarz Gallery, Kartuzy, Poland

'Standing Room Only', a juried members exhibition, (SNAP) Society of Northern Alberta Print
Artists Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

'Heat', a group exhibition curated by Renita Kraubner, Art Ark Gallery, Kelowna, BC, Canada

'Prints From Canada's Pacific Province', Graphic Studio Gallery, Temple Bar, Dublin, Ireland

2000

International Print Triennial Cracow 2000 "Bridge to the Future", Galeria Sztuki
Wspolczesnej, Cracow, Poland

'Bottom Feeding', (curated by Pamela Speight) (with Gregory Ball, Bob Brown and Brent
Bukowski), Nanaimo Art Gallery, Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada

International Print Triennial "Bridge to the Future" Krakow - Nurnberg, ,Germany

'The Fact of the Matter is...', (a curated exhibition from the collection including works by Betty

Goodwin, Irene Whittome, Robert Houle, Al Neil, William Ronald, Bob Steele, Marianna Schmidt, Doug Biden, Robert Youds, Claudia Cuesta, Tim King, Todd Tedinshini, and Susan Shantz), The Burnaby Art Gallery, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada
International Print Exhibition: 'Seeking the new Space', 'Graphic Constellation' Szczecin 2000, Pomerian Duke's Castle, Szczecin, ul.

Korsarzy 1
1999

International Triennial '97 - Rio De Janeiro, Museu de Arté Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
'Play/Pause/Rewind', (solo exhibition), The Union Gallery, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario
'Shots at the Self', (with Bryan Ryley), Alternator Gallery, Kelowna, British Columbia
International Triennial 100 Cities, Gliwice, Centre of Culture and Education
"Perelka"; and, Zdunska Wola, Center of Culture and Promotion
1998

International Triennial '97 - Cracow - Nurnberg, Fair Centre, Nurnberg, Germany
International Triennial 100 Cities, Zywiec, Park and Castle Complex "Stary Zamek", Poland
'Light', a group exhibition, Alternator Gallery, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada
1997

International Print Triennial '97 Cracow, B W A Gallery and Arts Palace, Cracow, Poland
The 8th International Biennial Print and Drawing Exhibition, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Mini Triennial - Continents, Art Gallery BWA, Jelenia Gora, Poland
'Master Class', Celebrating 25 years of the University of Alberta's Graduate Printmaking program, FAB Gallery, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (curated by Lyndal Osborne)
artWORK, the Provincial Visual Art Exhibition for the B.C. Festival of the Arts, Powell River, British Columbia, Canada

1996

'New Artists/New Works 1996', Muttart Public Art Gallery, Calgary, Alberta, Canada (curated by Franklyn Heisler and Leslie Reinhold Pinter)
'Land Biography: Pa(y)ssages of the Okanagan', Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada (curated by Ann Rosenberg and Keith Wallace)

1995

'Briar Craig: Recent Work', (solo exhibition), The Prairie Art Gallery, Grande Prairie, Alberta
'Graphic Constellation '95', Cultural City Network, Graz, Austria
'Print Triennial '94 Consumenta '95 in Nurnberg', Nurnberg, Germany
'Canadian Connections', (solo exhibition, concurrent with exhibition of work by Marlene MacCallum), Humanities and Fine Arts Gallery, University of Minnesota, Morris, U.S.A.

1994

International Print Triennial '94 Cracow, B W A Gallery and Arts Palace, Cracow, Poland
'Drawing Plus', a National Juried Exhibition of Drawings, Open Space, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada (curated by Gwen Curry, Brigitte Potter-Mal, and Pamela Speight)

1993

'Press Release', a three-person exhibition (with Steve Van Mossel and Gregory Ball), Open Space, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Okanagan University College Traveling Faculty Exhibition, Kelowna Art

Gallery, Vernon Art Gallery, Grand Forks Art Gallery, Prince George Art Gallery, Capilano

College, Central Island Arts Alliance, Nanaimo Art Gallery and Exhibition Centre, Maltwood Art Museum and Art Gallery (University of Victoria)

'First Night Invitational', Alternator Gallery, Kelowna, British Columbia (curated by Barbara Leidl)

1992

'Looking Peripherally: Recent Prints and Drawings', (solo exhibition), Okanagan Artist's Alternative Gallery, Kelowna, British Columbia

1991

'Briar Craig: Recent Work', (solo exhibition), Humanities and Fine Arts Gallery, University of Minnesota, Morris, Minnesota, U.S.A.

The Okanagan Open Biennial, (a juried exhibition), Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, B.C.

'The Drawers of Water', (a juried exhibition), Okanagan Artist's Alternative Gallery, Kelowna, B.C.

1990

49th Annual Juried Art Competition at the Sioux City Art Center, Sioux City, Iowa, U.S.A.

'Road Kill', (a four-person exhibition), The Open Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta

1988

'Briar Craig: Prints and Drawings', (solo exhibition), Humanities and Fine Arts Gallery, University of Minnesota, Morris, Minnesota, U.S.A.

'International Silkscreen', The University Art Gallery, New Mexico State University, New Studio of Design

1987

The Hanga Annual '87, The Japan Print Association, Kanagawa (Yokohama), Japan (Excellent Work Prize Winner)

17th International Biennial of Graphic Art, The Gallery of Modern Art, Ljubljana, Yugoslavia

'Recent Graduates', The FAB Gallery, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

M.V.A. Graduating Exhibition: Final Presentation of Prints, FAB Gallery, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

1986

The Burnaby Print Show 1986, The Burnaby Art Gallery, Burnaby, British Columbia (Purchase Prize Winner)

The International Print Exhibition 'Intergrafia '86', The Gallery of Modern Art, Katowice, Poland

11th International Print Biennial '86 Cracow, B W A Gallery and Arts Palace, Cracow, Poland

From Edmonton To Tokyo and Back, Beaver House Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta

The 113th Annual Ontario Society of Artists Art Exhibition, John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto, Ontario

1985

11th International Independent Exhibition of Prints in Kanagawa '85, Kanagawa Prefectural Gallery, Kanagawa (Yokohama), Japan

Exhibition of Canadian Student Prints, Edinburgh Youth Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland

The Graphic Gallery 2nd Annual Print Competition, The Graphic Gallery, Calgary, Alberta

112th Annual Ontario Society of Artists Art Exhibition, The Pauline

McGibbon Centre for the Arts, Toronto, Ontario

1984

B.F.A. Graduating Exhibition: Lithographs and Screenprints, Ontario Hall, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

1983

B.F.A. on View, a juried exhibition, Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Kingston, Ontario

Honors,
Awards,

Grants, etc:

Juror's Award, Americas 2000: Paper Works, Northwest Art Center, Minot, North Dakota
UBC Okanagan Internal Grant (Interactive video-based Installation work), University of British Columbia Okanagan, 2005

Grant-in-Aid, (research large format screenprints), Okanagan University College, 2005

Grant-in-Aid, (travel solo exhibition, Maple Ridge Art Gallery, Maple Ridge, British Columbia), Okanagan University College, 2005

Visiting Artist, Coker College Art Department, Coker College, Hartsville, South Carolina

Grant-in-Aid, (research large format screenprints), Okanagan University College, 2004

Grant-in-Aid, (research digital prints), Okanagan University College, 2004

Grant-in-Aid, (travel - solo exhibition, Latitude 53 Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta), Okanagan University College, 2003

Grant-in-Aid, (research - digital media installation), Okanagan University College, 2003

Grant-in-Aid, (research - large scale screenprints), Okanagan University College, 2002

Grant-in-Aid, (travel - solo exhibition, White Water Gallery, Ontario), OUC, 2001
'Teaching Excellence', Okanagan University College, 2000
Grant-in Aid, (research - development of video-delay technology), OUC, 2000
Grant-in-Aid, (research - large scale photographic positives), OUC, 2000
Grant-in-Aid, (research - production of catalogue for the Second Okanagan Print Invitational), OUC, 1994
The Excellent Work Prize, The Hanga Annual '87
Purchase Prize, The Burnaby Print Show, 1986
The Loomis and Toles Paper Award, 1984

Selected

Collections:

The Japan Print Association
The International Print Triennial Association, Cracow, Poland
Purdue University Galleries Permanent Collection
The Alberta Foundation for the Arts
The Edmonton Art Gallery
The Kelowna Art Gallery
The Burnaby Art Gallery
Queen's University
The University of Alberta Museums and Collections
The University of Minnesota, Morris
The Wawanesa Insurance Company
M.T. Associates Investment Counsel Inc.
Royal Bank of Canada
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Citibank Canada
Celanese Canada Ltd.
William E. Coutts Company Ltd.
Sherk Realty Ltd.
Financial Trusted Ltd.
Realty Ltd.

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