

FALL 2014

CAITLIN MULLAN: AN INDEX OF SASKATCHEWAN
FAUNA AND OTHER CURIOSITIES



NON-FICTION

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IN SITU

Caitlin Mullan: An Index of Saskatchewan Fauna and Other Curiosities

An artist-curated project coordinated by Jennifer Matotek, Director/Curator, Dunlop Art Gallery and John Snell, Manager, Public Programs, Royal Saskatchewan Museum
Presented by Dunlop Art Gallery and Royal Saskatchewan Museum

OCTOBER 18, 2014 TO JANUARY 15, 2015
CENTRAL LIBRARY AND ROYAL SASKATCHEWAN MUSEUM,
2445 ALBERT STREET

Exhibition Launch: Saturday, October 18
Central Library and Royal Saskatchewan Museum

A Conversation with Caitlin Mullan

by Jennifer Matotek, Director/Curator, Dunlop Art Gallery

Tell me a bit about your practice as a printmaker. How does your interest in oddities and curiosities manifest in your work?

Caitlin Mullan: My work starts with found objects, things that I find in secondhand stores, things that are unique and anonymous and have somehow managed to survive and be discovered by me. Drawing attention to the unknowable histories of these objects is what catches me. I typically scan imagery from several sources and then incorporate elements into one print. I allow the print process to inform the final image as well.



You may notice some new inhabitants at the library...

Local artist Caitlin Mullan has curated a new show called *An Index of Saskatchewan Fauna and Other Curiosities*, jointly organized by the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and Dunlop Art Gallery.

Be sure to look for creatures from the Royal Saskatchewan Museum peeking out from our stacks! They form one half of the installation of this show. The second installation is located at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and is also currently on display to the public.

Further information about the show and its accompanying materials is available on the write-ups next to the displays.

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RSM
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SASKATCHEWAN
MUSEUM

RSM
ROYAL
SASKATCHEWAN
MUSEUM



You've worked at several museums and research institutions in Regina. How will your work experience impact your approach to this project?

Working behind the scenes at collecting institutions, be they archival, museological, or arts-based, I've had the opportunity to work with some incredible people. Wandering around in the basements and warehouses of these places is fun, but it's the people who work there that bring the collections to life. Finding out how things arrived there, what they were used for, how they were made, where they were found – that's what I find the most interesting. So my initial approach was to draw from the knowledge of the staff of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM) and the Dunlop Art Gallery, first and foremost.

What are some of the most interesting things you've found in the RSM collection, and Dunlop collection, in your research to date?

I've always had an interest in taxidermy, so that area of the RSM collection has stolen my heart. Particularly the really old mounts of creatures that are either very rare or extinct, or have been arranged in more unusual poses. Unfortunately, many pieces were made before 1930 when arsenic was used, so there are a few pieces that I had to let go. There are also some fascinating tools and materials that are part of the process for creating displays and dioramas. They show the human element and skill that goes into creating the seamless illusion of the final dioramas.



The Dunlop has such a diverse collection as well. As a printmaker I was drawn to the silk screens that were used by Edward Poitras for his exhibition *Marginal Recession*, in 1991. But more generally, I saw a strong connection between the Dunlop's mandate to collect Saskatchewan folk art (amongst other things), and the materials that have been donated to the RSM by Saskatchewan residents. Each institution values and relies on the contributions of everyday people who live in Saskatchewan to inform their collections, in addition to the expertise of the professional staff.

What can viewers expect from the artist-curated installations you will mount at both RSM and Central Library?

I want the viewers to experience what I've experienced in putting this project together, a kind of unusual treasure hunt. I plan to create an environment where there is just enough context to deepen the mystery of each object, tempered by a healthy dose of humour. The exhibition will be accompanied by a hand-printed guidebook that will assist viewers in exploring the art works and other curiosities, almost like a field guide for a nature hike.

Artist Biography

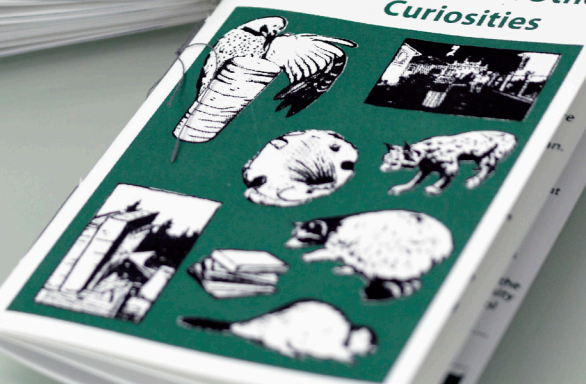
Caitlin Mullan is visual artist, arts administrator, and a founding member and director of Articulate Ink, an artist run printmaking centre in Regina.



**An Index of
Saskatchewan
Fauna & Other
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CREDITS

CAITLIN MULLAN, *An Index of Saskatchewan Fauna and Other Curiosities*, Installation View, 2014,

Photo: University of Regina Photography Department

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CAITLIN MULLAN, *An Index of Saskatchewan Fauna and Other Curiosities*, 2014, hand-printed guide booklet

Photo: University of Regina Photography Department



DUNLOP
ART
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Central Gallery & Mediatheque

2311 - 12th Avenue

HOURS

Monday through Thursday

9:30 am - 9:00 pm

Friday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Closed statutory holidays

Sherwood Gallery

6121 Rochdale Boulevard

HOURS

Monday 9:30 am to 6:00 pm

Tuesday 9:30am to 9:00 pm

Wednesday 9:30am to 9:00 pm

Thursday 9:30 am to 6:00 pm

Friday 9:30 am to 6:00 pm

Saturday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Closed Statutory Holidays

Office

2311-12th Avenue

HOURS

Monday through Friday

Dunlop Art Gallery researches and presents a diverse range of contemporary artworks, and promotes visual literacy through activities that include exhibitions, programs, publishing and collecting. For more information, please visit our website, www.dunlopartgallery.org.

FREE ADMISSION

The Dunlop Art Gallery is wheelchair accessible.



Want to know more about Dunlop exhibitions and events? Subscribe to our E-blast service and receive information on upcoming programming 4-5 times annually.

Email dunlop@reginalibrary.ca to be added to our E-blast list.



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