

FALL 2015

BARBARA MENELEY: KEEPING THE TOWER AND
PRAIRIE HISTORY REDUX



EXHIBITIONS | CENTRAL MEDIATHEQUE

Barbara Meneley: Keeping the Tower

Curated by Jennifer Matotek, Director/Curator

SEPTEMBER 5 TO NOVEMBER 14, 2015

IN SITU

Barbara Meneley: Prairie History Redux

Curated by Blair Fornwald, Assistant Curator

OCTOBER 17, 2015 TO JANUARY 16, 2016

Prairie History Room, Central Library

Drawing Performances: Saturdays, October 17, November 7, and December 5, 1:00 pm

A Conversation with Barbara Meneley

by Jennifer Matotek

How did you develop the concept for the performance and video piece, *Keeping the Tower*?

It was my first semester doing my PhD. I was sitting in a classroom at Queen's University, in a building with thick stone walls. We were talking about cultural theory and I started thinking: "Oh no, what have I done? I'm here in this place!" The thick walls started feeling really confining and I couldn't stand it. So I started to think about a piece that would respond to that. I filmed myself building the wall of books in the doorway of the classroom that I was in.

What can people expect if they engage with you and your project, *Prairie History Redux*?



They can expect to get a sense of how the Prairie History Room reflects where we are, in terms of the information that is in there. They have a 250 year old Hudson Bay's catalogue, high school yearbooks from the beginning of the collection and a 2015 report on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I've used the Prairie History Room since I came to Regina in 2006. I'm interested in the people who go in there for their research. The Prairie History Room expresses a lot about where we are.

***Prairie History Redux* will involve the act of tracing. Could you please talk a little bit about the act of tracing, what you think about it and in the context of your practice?**

I feel like when you trace something, say that it's a map that's 30 years old that would have been done by hand... it's like following footsteps... I feel like we're embodying the hand of the original maker because there are ways that the line will shift, or be narrow, or cut off at the end. In order to trace, you have to somehow approximate the original movement, but every time it's inevitably a translation. By tracing, I'm embodying information – information that is embodied in the lives of everybody who is here, and the histories of everybody who is here, and who have been here, and who will be here. It all connects.

Artist Biography

Barbara Meneley is a Canadian visual artist whose interdisciplinary, site responsive work engages with the landscapes and foundations of contemporary society and culture. Her work evolves through theoretical inquiry and contemporary intermedia art - installation, media, performance and engaged practice.



CREDITS

BARBARA MENELEY, *Keeping the Tower* (detail), 2011-15, performance and video. Image by Mansoor Behnam
BARBARA MENELEY, *Prairie History Redux*, 2015, performance, drawing media, and site-specific installation. Photos: Don Hall



DUNLOP
ART
GALLERY

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 & Wednesday 9:30am to 9:00 pm

Thursday & 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

2511-12th Avenue

Regina, Saskatchewan

Canada S4P 3Z5

HOURS

Monday through Friday

9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Closed statutory holidays



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

Sask



Writing provided by
Saskatchewan Library



creative
SASKATCHEWAN



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. Central Gallery is attended by knowledgeable staff who are able to answer questions or guide you through the gallery. For more information, please visit our website, www.dunlopartgallery.org.

FREE ADMISSION

The Dunlop Art Gallery is wheelchair accessible.



Want to keep up to date with what's happening at Dunlop Art Gallery?

Subscribe to our e-newsletter to receive information and reminders for upcoming Dunlop Art Gallery exhibitions and events. Our e-newsletter is published four times a year and delivered from dunlop@reginalibrary.ca. Sign up at www.dunlopartgallery.org.