



WINTER 2017

**Meet in the Middle: Stations of Migration
and Memory Between Art and Film
(Regina, 2014-2017)**



Amalie Atkins, *Listening to the Past/Listening to the Future*, 2013, video. Image courtesy of the artist.

MEET IN THE MIDDLE: STATIONS OF MIGRATION AND MEMORY BETWEEN ART AND FILM (REGINA, 2014-2017)

DECEMBER 10, 2016 TO FEBRUARY 5, 2017

CURATED BY CHRISTINE RAMSAY AND STRANDLINE CURATORIAL COLLECTIVE

Station 7: *Mkrtich Tonoyan: Forays in Military Art*

Station 4: *Saskatchewan Gothic*

Station 5: *Prairie (Magic) Realism(s)*

BY CHRISTINE RAMSAY AND STRANDLINE CURATORIAL COLLECTIVE

Meet in the Middle: Stations of Migration and Memory Between Art and Film is a series of exhibitions, screenings, events, and exchanges linked by the theme of trauma underlying contemporary experiences of migration and its memorialization. The project is designed to connect the work of artists, filmmakers, curators, and researchers variously dealing with this theme at the intersection of the white cube of the art gallery and the black box of the film theatre. Its special focus is to create a dialogue between Saskatchewan and Armenia—two relatively isolated geographical areas with common histories of genocidal trauma. In Regina, the legacy of art and film are powerful forms for the continuing exploration of belonging, particularly as Indigenous people's concerns become increasingly

visible through the work of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and new immigration patterns further diversify the cultural dynamics of the city.

The curators of *Meet in the Middle* have partnered with Dunlop Art Gallery to present multiple projects, including three curated film programs at Central Gallery in 2017.

Contested Borderlands: Armenia is the third in a suite of three exhibitions for *Meet in the Middle* by Armenia-based conceptual, performance, and installation artist Mkrtich Tonoyan. *Contested Borderlands: Armenia* is a durational project taking place on the contested borderlands between Armenia and Azerbaijan to document



David Garneau, *Wash Day*, 2014, video. Image courtesy of the artist.





Trudy Stewart and Janinie Windolph, *RIIS from Amnesia*, 2015, video. Image courtesy of the artists.

the ongoing violence and human rights violations in this region, the Nagorno-Karabakh. *A Little War, A Little Peace*, was filmed in situ in the summer of 2016, and records the experiences of Armenian victims of random sniper attacks exposing the attacks traumatic effects on villagers, their children, and their everyday life.

The *Saskatchewan Gothic* film program situates itself through the concept of the “Prairie Gothic”—an aesthetic that has captured the unique sense of being-in-place on the Canadian Prairie. Filmmakers who have experimented with such forms include Amalie Atkins, Ian Campbell, Mike Rollo, and Gerald Saul. However, in recent years, the insights of Indigenous artists, such as Dana Claxton and David Garneau, have come to remind us that the “Prairie Gothic” is a decidedly white settler perspective, and they further challenge the darkness underlying “Saskatchewan Prairie identity” by exposing the genocidal aspects of colonial Prairie history and white racism.

Prairie (Magic) Realism(s) juxtaposes the works in the *Saskatchewan Gothic* screening against an equally strong impulse in contemporary Prairie art filmmaking: realism. With this impulse, an interesting tension is expressed in the works in this program which embrace the possibility of magic in the rational world. This program presents powerful documentaries by Trudy Stewart and Janine Windolph on colonial themes of the residential school legacy, alongside works by Brett Bell, Deco Dawson, Chrystene Ells, Danishka Esterhazy, Lacy Morin-Desjarlais, Michelle Sereda, and

Amanda Strong, who use techniques including animation and dance film to represent contemporary issues of race, gender, and family dynamics through the magical effects of heightened realism.

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2311-12th Avenue

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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, reginalibrary.ca/dunlop-art-gallery.

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COVER IMAGE

Aleesa Cohene and Benny Nemerofsky
Ramsay, *The Same Problem 5* (detail), 2016,
video. Image courtesy of the artists.



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