

Derek Liddington innovates the landscape genre in solo exhibition at Richmond Art Gallery

The trees weep, the mountain still, the bodies rust features a site-specific work and offers an immersive perspective inspired by BC forests and other experiences

OCTOBER 12, 2022 (RICHMOND, BC) – From November 19, 2022 to January 15, 2023, Richmond Art Gallery presents Derek Liddington’s exhibition *The trees weep, the mountain still, the bodies rust*, curated by Anne-Marie St-Jean Aubre from Musée d’art de Joliette. The exhibition features a recent body of work that invites the audience to experience the sensorial state of being immersed within a forest. Viewers are compelled to re-examine their perception of and relationship with this natural landscape, and perhaps even better understand their place in an all-encompassing and interconnected world.

“This set of works from Derek Liddington challenges how landscape paintings historically tend to capture nature: as a spectacle that unfolds in front of us and apart from us,” says Anne-Marie St-Jean Aubre. “However, Liddington’s canvases are as dense as the forest. He omits the visual cues that would typically help us situate ourselves relative to the image, such as the horizon line. The end result is an experience that is simultaneously disorienting and fascinating, as the viewer tries to locate themselves spatially and temporally – similar to what happens when one takes a walk in the forest.”

Although based in Toronto, Liddington found inspiration for the works on view while at a residency at Grey Church in Vancouver during the summer of 2019. He began to experiment with landscape painting at this time, confronting the challenge of translating vast expanses of space and distance onto the limits of a canvas. An earlier work by Liddington similarly aimed to capture the physical immediacy of live movement within time and space: the artist would draw on unstretched canvas that covered the body of a performer as they moved underneath it. Liddington continues this exploration with *The trees weep*, capturing the fluidity of a forest’s continuous transformation and movement with lush strokes of paint.

This exhibition was originally organized and presented by the Musée d’art de Joliette in Québec, earlier this year. For the iteration at the RAG, Liddington will produce brand new works including a site-specific mural that utilizes Gallery’s unique space and its high ceilings. As visitors move through the gallery to view the mural, they will alternately see the curves of a giant body and the horizon of low-lying hills.

For more information, visit www.richmondartgallery.org/treesweep.

This exhibition was produced and circulated by the Musée d’art de Joliette, and made possible thanks to the Fondation du Musée d’art de Joliette.

About the Artist

Liddington obtained his BFA from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design where he focused on video and performance, and completed an MFA at Western University in 2007. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including performances in Athens, Greece and Onagawa, Japan, and select presentations in Madrid (ARCO), Berlin (Art Berlin Contemporary), and New York (Frieze Art Fair, NADA). Liddington has had solo exhibitions at Cambridge Galleries (Ontario, Canada), KA Artist Run Center (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan), and the AGYU (Ontario, Canada). He is the recipient of numerous public and foundation grants, including support from the Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts as well as being a finalist for the Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts. The artist is represented by [Daniel Faria Gallery](#) (Toronto).

The artist would like to acknowledge the support of:



Canada Council
for the Arts

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du Canada

Ancillary Programming

Exhibition Tour with Derek Liddington and Anne-Marie St-Jean Aubre, Curator of Contemporary Art, Musée d'art de Joliette

Saturday, November 19, 1–2 pm

Join featured artist Derek Liddington and Musée d'art de Joliette's Contemporary Art Curator Anne-Marie St-Jean Aubre for an informal tour of *The trees weep, the mountain still, the body rust*. Free drop in, no registration required. Talk will be followed by the Opening Reception from 2–5 pm with the artist and guest curator in attendance.

Collage Party: Cut-and-Paste Landscapes

Saturday, January 14, 1–4 pm

Inspired by Derek Liddington's solo exhibition, cut and paste old magazines, papers and posters to create new landscapes while you decompress, chat and listen to music at our collage social for ages 16+. Limited seating, registration required. Visit website for details.

Media Inquiries

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About Richmond Art Gallery

Richmond Art Gallery (RAG) is a non-profit municipal art gallery established in 1980. The Gallery produces an array of exhibitions and programs that connect, empower, and provoke conversation with our diverse Richmond, B.C. communities. RAG actively contributes to Richmond's cultural communities through our commitment to supporting artists via its exhibitions, educational programs, publications, and permanent collection.

CONTACT

richmondartgallery.org
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604-247-8300

LOCATION

Richmond Cultural Centre
7700 Minoru Gate
Richmond, BC V6Y 1R9

GALLERY HOURS

Monday-Friday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Saturday/Sunday: 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Admission is free or by donation

SOCIAL MEDIA

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