

M E D I A R E L E A S E



Susan Dobson, *Harveys*, 2008, inkjet print, 42"x 55"

SUSAN DOBSON - *Temporary Architectures*

Allan Chawner & Andrew Chubb - *Bar Beach (Beyond the Sea)*

18 October – 23 November 2008

Opening reception: Friday, 17 October, 8:00 pm

Artist talks: Susan Dobson: Saturday, 18 October, 2:00 pm

Allan Chawner: Sunday, 19 October, 2:00 pm

Piano recitals: Andrew Chubb, Saturday, 18 October, 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 pm

Andrew Chubb, Tuesday, 21 October, 7:00 pm

NOCTURNE:

François Gaudet, *Nuit Blanche* projection: Saturday, 18 October, dusk to midnight

Three exhibitions of contemporary photo-based art light up the Saint Mary's University Art Gallery in October and November. **Susan Dobson, *Temporary Architectures***, presents two bodies of work by this Toronto-based artist in the Main Gallery. *Retail* presents large mural images of big-box stores, marooned in parking-lot wastelands, with the façade of each store greyed out. The resulting void reflects the spiritual emptiness of our built environment, furnished with a transient architecture that is both dull and monolithic. *Paint Palettes* repeats an image of the same garage door; each identical except for colour and presented together as giant paint samples. *The Heritage Collection, The Romance Collection, The Gothic Collection, etc.* present ordinary household colours with their exotic paint names.

In the Side Gallery, two Australians have teamed up to produce the installation, ***Bar Beach (Beyond the Sea)***. Photo-based artist Allan Chawner collaborates with composer Andrew Chubb on this 3-channel video projection with original music. A sequence of still views, looking out over Bar Beach in the artists' hometown of Newcastle, Australia, fades from one image to another in a 20-minute meditation on time, change and memory.

The exhibition will open with a public reception on Friday evening, 17 October at 8:00 pm. Susan Dobson will speak on her work on Saturday, 18 October at 2:00 pm and Allan Chawner will give a public talk on Sunday, 19 October at 2:00 pm. All events are free of charge and open to the public, at Saint Mary's University Art Gallery in the Loyola Building, 5865 Gorsebrook Avenue. Refreshments will be served.

Both exhibitions feature prominently in the first-ever **Nocturne**, a city-wide visual arts event running at galleries throughout Halifax from dusk until midnight on Saturday, 18 October. City buses will ferry viewers for free from site to site. Visitors to Saint Mary's University Art Gallery will hear Andrew Chubb perform his own composition, *Meditation at Bar Beach*, live on the Gallery's 9-foot Yamaha. Chubb – a noted interpreter of the work of Philip Glass – will also present a programme of Glass's work in the Gallery on Tuesday, 21 October at 7:00 pm. Please contact the Gallery for details. As well, as a one-night-only special presentation, Nova Scotian artist François Gaudet will project his 1-minute film *Nuit Blanche* continuously onto the Gallery's exterior window for viewing from outside.

Susan Dobson, *Temporary Architectures* and ***Bar Beach (Beyond the Sea)*** appear at Saint Mary's University Art Gallery from 18 October through 23 November. Both exhibitions originate with Saint Mary's University Art Gallery and are curated by Director/Curator, Robin Metcalfe. Each is accompanied by a catalogue. The publication for *Bar Beach* includes a guest essay by Meryl Ryan, Curator of the Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery in Booragul, Australia. All exhibitions and associated programmes at Saint Mary's University Art Gallery receive significant support from the Canada Council for the Arts. *Bar Beach* also benefits from a special grant to the Gallery through the Canada Council for the Arts Supplementary Operating Funds Initiative, which allowed Director/Curator Robin Metcalfe to travel to Australia to conduct studio visits with the artists. The University of Newcastle supported Allan Chawner's travel to be present for the exhibition.

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Digital images available

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