

Back Gallery Krista Belle Stewart Seraphine, Seraphine

13 March – 25 April 2015

Echoing the excavation of the past in her work, Krista Belle Stewart in *Seraphine: Her Own Story* (2014) juxtaposes two images: a docu-drama shown on CBC in 1967 portraying the first Aboriginal public health nurse in British Columbia, with excerpts from a personal testimony for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission held in Vancouver in 2013. This two-part video installation weaves between past and present but the subject is the same, the artist's mother Seraphine Stewart. The disjuncture between the scripted façade of the docu-drama and emotional tales of daily rituals and childhood family trauma in her mother's testimony, creates a space to explore the gaps between image, subject, voice, the personal and the political.

Seraphine: Her Own Story, 2014 Digital two channel video, 38 min 57 s.

Krista Belle Stewart's work engages the complexities of intention and interpretaion made possible by archive work. Her approaches mediation and storytelling to unfold the interplay between personal and institutional history. Stewart's recent exhibition *Motion and Moment Always* at the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver (2015) marked the first solo exhibition of her work and the culmination of fall 2014 residencies at the Nisga'a Museum and Western Front comprising new works developed in Nisga'a and at her ancestral home in Douglas Lake, BC. She has exhibited in group shows including *Where Does it Hurt?*, Artspeak, Vancouver (2014), *Music from the New Wilderness*, Western Front, Vancouver (2014), and *Fiction/Non-fiction*, Esker Foundation, Calgary (2013). Stewart holds a BFA from Emily Carr University and is currently an MFA candidate at Bard College in New York. She is a member of the Upper Nicola Band of the Okanagan Nation, and lives and works in Vancouver and Brooklyn.

This exhibition is presented in collaboration with Images Festival, 9 April – 18 April 2015 For more information visit imagesfestival.com



## Mercer Union

Front Gallery

Challenge for Change/Société Nouvelle: Documents in Participatory Democracy a project by Jacqueline Hoang Nguyen

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Between 1967 and 1980 the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) spearheaded a social activist documentary initiative placing film skills into the hands of the people to tackle poverty, environmental, first nations and women's issues. Government bureaucrats, documentary filmmakers, community activists and citizens defined a participatory model of filmmaking by putting the media into the 'hands of the people.' Positing the potential of a new public voice, film was asserted as the medium of social transformation. Artist Jacqueline Hoang Nguyen conducted fieldwork in the archives of the NFB, and re-presents the seminal *Challenge for Change / Société nouvelle* (CFC/SN) program in five selected programs within the gallery. Nguyen re-inserts this utopian project into the present, employing the archive as a toolbox for the future.

Jacqueline Hoang Nguyen (b. Montréal, CA) is a research-based artist currently based in Stockholm (SE). In 2011 she completed the Whitney's Independent Study Program, having obtained her MFA and a post-graduate diploma in Critical Studies from the Malmö Art Academy, Sweden, in 2005, and a BFA from Concordia University, Montreal, in 2003. She has been awarded grants and fellowships from the Canada Council; The Banff Centre; The Swedish Arts Grants Committee's International Program for Visual Arts and the Swedish Research and Development Fellowship in the Arts. Recent solo exhibitions include: The New Gallery, Calgary (2015), MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels), Montreal (2014), Momenta Art, Brooklyn (2014); Kunstverein Braunschweig, Braunschweig, Germany (2013); VOX: Centre de l'image contemporaine, Montreal (2012) and group exhibitions such as MTL BNL, Montreal; A Space, Toronto (both 2014), Apexart, New York; PAVED arts, Saskatoon; Or Gallery, Vancouver (all 2013), and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia (2011). In 2011 she was commissioned by CC Seven to produce a site-specific sound piece for The Woodland Cemetery, a Unesco World Heritage site in Stockholm.

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