

Shuswap Lake Tales

Lynda Kuit



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The Shuswap Lake in the province of British Columbia, Canada, has a shoreline circumference of over 1,000 kilometres with various small communities are scattered around it. The population ranges from 87 in the smallest community to 17,706 in the largest. The landscape surrounding the lake mainly consists of dense forests and is largely untamed. I am interested in this space and the latent history of the immigrant settlers and homesteaders who chose to live in this beautiful yet harsh terrain.

By using archival images from the settlers' and homesteaders' descendants juxtaposed with my own landscape images I create a dialogue between the settlers, descendants, and myself as relative newcomer to this area, inviting the viewer to encounter the gaze of the past looking back at us. This notion of collaborating and injecting my work with other voices, forms an ongoing conversation between the descendants, ourselves, and future generations. Individual memories are shaped and perpetuated through stories, rituals and images that are passed down generationally.



Artist Bio

Lynda Kuit was born in South Africa and lived briefly in The Netherlands as a child. She emigrated to Canada in 1996 with her husband and two sons, a few suitcases and four apple boxes containing her precious memories. Working in the post-secondary education sector, Lynda met many international students and became interested in their own culture shock experiences. Her work is informed by issues surrounding immigration, identity, memory and language. She uses archival images, photomontages and landscape images to explore forgotten histories in the area where she now resides. She is currently completing her BA (Hons) Photography degree with the Open College of the Arts in the UK.

Artist Statement

I am interested in identity, immigration, memory and language. This interest began while working at an American university, based in Canada catering mainly for international students. Observing how individuals' identities and language change as they overcome culture shock and integrate more into the host culture fascinates me. Even for me as an immigrant from an English-speaking country acclimatising to a new culture has its challenges as word usages and meanings differ between the countries. My own experiences and observations have confirmed that the more we tend to absorb into another culture, the more important our memories become. Often, they are the only connection we have left with our home country.

After living in a Canadian city for twenty-two years, I once again find myself having to adjust to a new culture after relocating to a rural village. My current project, *Shuswap Lake Tales* builds on previous work by exploring some of the latent histories of original homesteaders around Shuswap Lake in British Columbia, Canada. The project is influenced by memory and heteroglossia (different voices expressing different points of view) through anecdotes and family photographs shared with me by descendants of these homesteaders. Archival images are layered in photomontages to reflect a ghost-like past that doesn't feature in history books. These different voices, along with my own, create an ongoing conversation that spans the past and present, extending into the future urging us to look beyond the surface.

















THE CHASE TRIBUNE

KEEP SWEET AND KEEP MOVING

IT TELLS

THEY'RE COMING TO CHASE

Vol. 1. No. 20.

Chase, B. C., Friday, September 6, 1912

\$2.00 Per Year

Charles Edward Doebert
1881-1959
Edith 1892-



Blind Bay.

The marriage of Mr. Chas. Doebert and Miss Edith Burrell, two of our popular young people, was solemnized in the hall at Blind Bay on Wednesday afternoon. Rev. Mr. Reed of Salmon Arm tied the knot.

There was a public dance given in the evening in honor of the contracting parties. They only took a look in at it and then the happy couple left on the evening train for the coast. The assembly did not break up, however, and doubtless during the merry hours of the night progress was made towards other similar events.





Lynda Kuit (born South African, lives and works in Blind Bay, Canada)

lyndakuit@gmail.com

Tel. No. 1-779-490-5235



Education

In progress Open College of the Arts, BA (Hons) Photography, Barnsley, United Kingdom

2010-2012 Focal Point Photography School, various courses

2002 University of British Columbia, Certificate in Internet Publishing

Bibliography

2022 Featured on Open College of the Arts Twitter Feed at: <https://twitter.com/opencollegearts/status/1491743867762266113>

2019 Edgezine Issue No 8 Autumn edition pp 11 – In one photograph we have the passing of time over one year

https://issuu.com/edge-zine/docs/edge-zine_no8_time

2019 Featured on #OCAOnShow (Open College of the Arts) social media Instagram page

2019 Edgezine Issue No 7 Summer edition pp 46-51 – Shuswap Floods https://issuu.com/edge-zine/docs/singles_edge-zine_no7_water

2015 Image of students in The Conversation (2015) To reduce debt, give students more information to make wise college choice decisions.

At: <https://theconversation.com/to-reduce-debt-give-students-more-information-to-make-wise-college-choice-decisions-46064>

2014 Sunrise over Vancouver, 2014 VancityBuzz www.vancitybuzz.com/2014/02/flickr-buzz-february-7-2015/

- 2013 Image of student featured in FDU Notables - Diana Bukatova (2013) In: FDU Magazine - Winter/Spring 2013 by Fairleigh Dickinson University
2013 (p 10) At: https://issuu.com/fdumagazine/docs/fdu_magazine_-_spring_2013
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- 2012 Maxon, R. (2012) 'Thriving at Five (Photos featured page 25-27)' In: FDU Magazine - Summer/Fall 2012 by Fairleigh Dickinson University
Summer/Fall 2012 pp.24–27. Headshot – Ira Saini, Dr Cecil Abrahams, Hyowoon Jang, Denice Uy, Laura Sisiniega, Beat Ryf (page 25-27)
At: https://issuu.com/fdumagazine/docs/fdu_magazine_-_spring_2013
- 2012 Photographs (headshots, interiors and exteriors) for Fairleigh Dickinson University-Vancouver Marketing Brochure 2012
- 2011 Vancouver Nightscape - Featured on Global TV's Wayne's Weather Window on January 21, 2011

Texts

Kuit, L. (2022) Between Memory and the Archive: the Dynamics of Photographic Heteroglossia. [Dissertation] Open College of the Arts.

Collections

Private collection: Austin, Texas, USA

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[Link](#) to all images

