

## Lynda Kuit 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 the 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. 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.