



Lynda Kuit

Shuswap Lake Tales

Photography Portfolio

Introduction

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. It is a landscape that has experienced three short-lived gold rushes, meriting scant mention in history books and tracings of miners' log cabins can be found deep in the forests. Paddleboat ferries used to transport people and goods across the lake; today automobiles make the journey along the Trans-Canada Highway on the southern side or on dirt roads on the north shore. Even so, some areas are impossible to reach during the winter as the roads are unnavigable due to snowpacks. The Canadian Pacific trains no longer stop to pick up passengers at the stations along the southern side of the lake. Instead, they pass right by with their 80+ cars in length carrying goods to and from Asia.

It's a space that has hidden conscription dodgers since World War I to the Vietnam War, necessitating those men to learn to live off the land in hostile terrain. As the gold rush dwindled, settlers turned to farming. These communities settled with many hopes and dreams, some envisioning their community as becoming the greatest summer resort along the Canadian Pacific line. 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.

















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 solemnised 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.





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.

Artist Bio

Lynda Kuit was born in South Africa and emigrated to Canada in 1996 with her husband and two sons, a few suitcases and four boxes containing her precious memories. Working in the post-secondary education sector in Vancouver, 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.

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

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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

Group Exhibitions

2022 Séwllkwe (Secwepemctsin for water). Salmon Arm Arts Centre.
Salmon Arm, BC, Canada.
Curated by Tracey Kutschker
2022 End of Year International Exhibition. The Glasgow Gallery of
Photography. Glasgow, Scotland

Publications

2019 [Edgezine Issue No 8 Autumn edition](#) pp 11 – Passing of time
over one year
2019 [Edgezine Issue No 7 Summer edition](#) pp 46-51 – Shuswap
Floods
2015 [Image of students in The Conversation](#) (2015)
2013 Image of student featured in FDU Notables - Diana Bukatova
(2013) In: [FDU Magazine - Winter/Spring 2013](#) (p 10)
2012 Maxon, R. (2012) 'Thriving at Five'
In: [FDU Magazine - Summer/Fall 2012](#) pp.24-27.

Texts

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

Private collection: Austin, Texas, USA

Shuswap Lake Tales

[Link](#) to all images



Shuswap Lake, BC, Canada