

For Immediate Release:

MIKE NELSON

January 17 - February 21, 2015

Opening reception Thursday January 17, 6 - 8 pm



303 Gallery is pleased to present our second solo exhibition with Mike Nelson.

On this occasion, Nelson will present *Gang of Seven*, a collection of sculptural assemblages made of materials collected from the North West Pacific Coast. The work revisits and expands upon themes and forms Nelson introduced in *The Amnesiacs* in 1997, in which a group of imaginary outsiders gather and wantonly sift through natural and cultural detritus, rearranging it and approaching dark phenomenological truths along the way. In *Gang of Seven*, Nelson's mythical beachcomber imagines the ocean as an intelligent entity of seemingly infinite sprawl, uncovering alien clues in the flotsam and jetsam, akin to the cosmonauts' relationship to the hallucination-inducing ocean in Stanislaw Lem's epic *Solaris*. These evidences of apocryphal events exist in a disjointed space between remnant and invention, and when brought together, effect the possibility for new systems of understanding.

In *Being-No-One*, the German post-transcendentalist philosopher Thomas Metzinger refers to a 'virtual window of presence' through which we experience time and imagine ourselves as autonomous beings. Nelson's assemblages point to what we might see if we were able to look not through this window, but behind it; an envisioning of material and psychic forces that are determinate structures in human interpretation of our own cultivated landscapes. To this end, a bracingly human element of *Gang of Seven* is the influence of personal history; that of Nelson's relationship to longtime friend and collaborator Erlend Williamson, who fell to his death in 1996 while climbing in the Scottish Highlands, just as Nelson was developing the ideas that would become *The Amnesiacs*. This is also mirrored in the title's reference to the 'Group of Seven', the loose collective of landscape painters whose formation came after the death of Tom Thomson in a canoeing accident in Ontario, 1917. By introducing these elements into a space in which they exchange charges with other societies, real and imagined, absent and present, Nelson as author is simultaneously in front of and behind the window - negotiating the blindness of consciousness to envision its constitution.

Lorna said to me, 'You know Riddley theres some thing in us it dont have no name.' I said, 'What thing is that?' She said, 'Its some kind of thing aint us but yet its in us. its lookin out through our eye hoals... It aint you nor it don't even know your name. Its in us lorn and loan and sheltering how it can... Tremmering it is and feart. It puts us on like we put on our cloes. Some times we dont fit. Some times it cant find the arm hoals and it tears us a part.'

Russell Hoban, *Riddley Walker*, Jonathan Cape, 1980

Gang of Seven was originally co-commissioned by The Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver and The Power Plant, Toronto, where Nelson produced solo exhibitions in 2013 and 2014. A catalogue is forthcoming from Black Dog Publishing. Other recent solo exhibitions include *M6*, Eastside Projects, Birmingham (2013); *408 tons of imperfect geometry*, Malmö Konsthall (2012); *I, IMPOSTOR*, British Pavilion, 54th Biennale di Venezia (2011); *A Psychic Vacuum*, Creative Time, New York (2007); *AMNESIAC SHRINE or Double coop displacement*, Matt's Gallery, London (2006); *Triple Bluff Canyon*, Modern Art Oxford (2004); *Nothing is True. Everything is Permitted*, ICA, London (2001). His work has been included in a number of group exhibitions including *September 11*, MoMA PS1, New York (2011); Singapore Biennale (2011); *Altermodern*, Tate Britain, London (2009); *Psycho Buildings*, Hayward Gallery, London (2008); *Eclipse: Art in a Dark Age*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2008); *Reality Check*, Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen (2008); and Turner Prize, Tate Liverpool (2007). Mike Nelson lives and works in London.

303 Gallery represents the work of Doug Aitken, Valentin Carron, Hans-Peter Feldmann, Ceal Floyer, Karel Funk, Maureen Gallace, Tim Gardner, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Kim Gordon, Rodney Graham, Mary Heilmann, Jeppe Hein, Larry Johnson, Matt Johnson, Jacob Kassay, Karen Kilimnik, Alicja Kwade, Elad Lassry, Florian Maier-Aichen, Nick Mauss, Mike Nelson, Kristin Oppenheim, Eva Rothschild, Collier Schorr, Stephen Shore, Sue Williams, and Jane and Louise Wilson.

303 Gallery is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 am - 6 pm. For further information please visit us at www.303gallery.com or contact Cristian Alexa, Kathryn Erdman, Thomas Arsac, or Erika Weiss.