

Global Cities, 2009 - 2013

Artist: Catherine Beaudette, Toronto

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The society that these paintings depict is less a society of spectacle, and more a world of superimposition, the result of intensified speed and motion.

I have visited and photographed all the buildings of these composite cities. Their coincidence in my paintings defies conventional political or geographic boundaries that are often constructed between the developed world and emergent economies. These are global cities, still unique urban ecologies (not yet universalized), interlinked in survival.

Everywhere, suburbs meld together, historic or indigenous buildings are redeveloped, and ubiquitous construction techniques make one location look like another. International flights that routinely permit us to cross borders with ease now link countries and cultures in a nomadic network. My paintings attempt to visualize this contemporary amalgam of places, cultures and histories through an examination of travel, and issues of globalization, urban development, homogeneity and difference.

The more connected and integrated a global system grows, the more its networks replicate and lengthen, the less resilient it becomes. As in any ecosystem, change in one part affects other parts of the environment. We coexist in these intertwined environmental economies within subjective frames of personal potential, and life still transpires, though interstitially in the intervals or segments available to it. These cities are collections of such exterior and interior spaces, of fractured private and public spaces, of empty architectures that echo with poignancy and invisible purpose.

- Catherine Beaudette, 2016

Bio...Catherine Beaudette is a Canadian artist based in Toronto, Ontario and Duntara, Newfoundland. Her art practice stems from both places where she collects objects, artifacts and specimens to form the basis of her drawings, paintings, photographs and installations. Through the depiction of objects big and small, tools to buildings, Beaudette presents material culture as a record of the world we inhabit. In an activity parallel to that of the museum she creates and displays collections, seeking relationships between natural creation and human production, between what is lost and what is found.

As an artist, art educator, and community organizer, Beaudette has long been involved in art initiatives that foster collaboration and position art in the public realm. She is founder of Loop Gallery in Toronto, 2 Rooms Contemporary Art Projects, Duntara NL, and Howard Park Institute, a window gallery in Toronto. Beaudette is Associate Professor at OCAD University where she instigated MFA Graduate Residencies in Florence, Italy and Fogo Island NL. Beaudette has travelled extensively, attending artist residencies in Spain, Serbia/Montenegro, Germany, Banff, Fogo Island, Mexico, and Dawson City. She received her MFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 1998. She won The RBC Canadian Painting Prize in 2000, and twice has been awarded an Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant, in 1982 and 1986.