

M E D I A R E L E A S E



Citadelle, 2003, digital colour photograph on Duraflex, 84 x 787 cm

Inhabiting

the works of Isabelle Hayeur

Habiter

les œuvres d'Isabelle Hayeur

21 October – 26 November 2006

Reception: Friday 20 October, 8:00 pm

Artist's talk: Saturday 21 October, 1:00 pm

Large, lush photographs of suburban landscapes, at once familiar and yet eerily disjointed, dominate the Main Gallery of Saint Mary's University Art Gallery this autumn.

Inhabiting : the works of Isabelle Hayeur (Habiter : les oeuvres d'Isabelle Hayeur) is a major exhibition of digitally manipulated photographic works by celebrated Montreal artist Isabelle Hayeur.

Organised and circulated by Oakville Galleries and the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, the exhibition consists of photographs selected from three series. In *Destinations* (2003-04), long horizontal photographs each incorporate several juxtaposed landscape views, digitally integrated to form a single image. *Model Homes* (begun 2004 and still in progress) depicts single model homes, subtly transformed, and *Excavations* (2005 to the present), vertical in format, shows suburban homes with what could be called x-rays of the geological substrata beneath them.

Each of Hayeur's works is a collection of images, mostly photographed by the artist but some of them collected from image banks on the Web and woven together with Adobe Photoshop to produce what appears, at first glance, a seamless, real landscape. Closer examination reveals startling shifts in perspective and scale and it becomes clear that the images are, in fact, impossible.

"Through her choice of images and themes," writes the exhibition's curator, Serge Bérard, "Hayeur expresses an

anxiety about the way humanity has come to occupy the natural territory. The representation not only of a site but of what has happened to it turns her work into something akin to history painting." A handsome hard-cover catalogue, with a text by Bérard, accompanies the exhibition.

Inhabiting : the works of Isabelle Hayeur is on exhibit from 21 October through 26 November 2006 in the Main Gallery of Saint Mary's University Art Gallery. On display in the Side Gallery during the same period is the mixed-media installation *Manoeuvres* by Halifax artist Laura Calvi. Alluding to forms and signs from the street and its adjacent outdoor spaces, Calvi's work complements Hayeur's consideration of the disturbed and unresolved terrains of suburban construction sites.

Both exhibitions open with a public reception on Friday evening, 20 October at 8:00 pm, during which visitors are invited to drop in on an ongoing performance by Laura Calvi with Guang Zhu, *Voices on a Hot Tin Roof*. Isabelle Hayeur will make a public presentation in the gallery on her work on Saturday afternoon, 21 October at 1:00 pm. All events are free of charge and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Saint Mary's University Art Gallery is in the Loyola Building, 5865 Gorsebrook Avenue. This exhibition and associated activities are generously supported by programme funding from The Canada Council for the Arts.

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Contact: Robin Metcalfe, 902 420-5445

Email: gallery@smu.ca

Website: www.smuartgallery.ca

Digital images/slides/photos available



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