

DIAZ CONTEMPORARY

Robert Youds

handmade ultramarine mantra

17 January to 16 February 2013

Opening Thursday 17 January from 6 to 8

Time is long. Time is short. Things begin. Things recede. Some things repeat, over and over again. And as nearness becomes more difficult to perceive and everything once distant is brought closer through technologies – the self may be the only remaining site by which to measure ourselves.

I think of these artworks as pictorial constructs, a rustic modernism, encoded with an urban patina of longing for a self once imagined and enabled within nature. They are also synthetically versicoloured abstractions that task us with their intimate and perceptual imbeddedness.

Malcolm Lowry's shack

Emily Carr's retreat

Lauren Harris' shelter

Erickson's Smith house

Pollock's studio

Tom's cabin

Your constant waterfall, Bowen

Your constant waterfall, Hornby

Your constant waterfall, Denman

Your constant waterfall, Galiano

– Robert Youds, 2012

Diaz Contemporary is pleased to present an exhibition by Victoria-based artist, Robert Youds. *handmade ultramarine mantra* is a body of new paintings that continue to explore Youds' interest in light, colour and existential concerns of the urban condition.

Youds' paintings suggest empirical paradoxes of how time passes and repeats. His mark-making, humanistic and instantaneous, becomes meditative through repetition and gradual transformation. Tenuous relationships between the natural and urban environment are reflected in Youds' use of 2x4 lumber as a stamping tool. Further, these new works also contrast monochromatic imprints (which recall ancient cave paintings) and their almost-neon coloured glowing auras.

Robert Youds holds an MFA from York University and a BFA from the University of Victoria. He is currently the University of Victoria's Faculty of Fine Arts Lansdowne Chair. Previous solo exhibitions include: Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Victoria, BC, Sable-Castelli Gallery in Toronto, ON, Post Gallery in Los Angeles, CA, Southern Alberta Art Gallery in Lethbridge, AB and Charles H. Scott Gallery in Vancouver, BC. Youds' work can be found in private and public collections, including the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON, Vancouver Art Gallery, BC, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, BC, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS, Museum London, ON, Art Gallery of Hamilton, ON, Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa, ON, Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, Guelph, ON, and the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, ON, as well as the collections of Toronto Dominion Bank and Bank of Montreal.