Screens and Thresholds

PRESENTATION HOUSE GALLERY, NORTH VANCOUVER BC – Oct 7-Dec 4, 2016

Exhibitions curated by artists are generally met with excitement in Vancouver. Until the late 1990s, exhibitions at the city’s artist-run centres were more often than not curated by them. More recently, artists Jeff Wall and Myfanwy MacLeod have curated exhibitions at the Vancouver Art Gallery, while Stephen Waddell’s Dream Pictures at Presentation House was a curatorial highlight of the 2014 season. Now it is Raymond Boisjoly’s turn.

For Screens and Thresholds, Boisjoly has gathered photographic, video and installation works by Scott Benesiinaabandan, Tricia Livingston, Mike McDonald, Karihik Pandian, Krista Belle Stewart and the collective Postcommodity to “consider the possibilities and anxieties of visualizing (cultural) knowledges.” While each uses picture-making technologies towards a variety of outcomes, all share similar questions pertinent to the impossibility of representation.

A particularly compelling series is Benesiinaabandan’s little resistances (2015). Here, the Anishinabe artist gathered personal photos, arranged them in pairs, scanned them, crumpled up the print, scanned it, printed it onto vinyl and attached it to a 59” x 59” box form for wall display. The transformation of the work is carried in its description as it moves from the plural “them” (original photos) to the singular “it” (scanned versions). Most resonant is that which is present in the work’s title: an anthology of resistances authored by each of its transformations. Michael Turner