

*Personal Politics* is a touring exhibition of prints produced at Martha Street Studio in Winnipeg by six prominent contemporary Manitoba artists; Scott Benesiinaabandan, Aganetha Dyck, Jeanette Johns, Sara Anne Johnson, Kristin Nelson and Darren Stebeleski. All of these artists explore their respective personal politics within the framework of their art practices. Produced under the curatorial direction of Sheila Spence, Executive Director of Martha Street Studio, the exhibition will travel until March 2012 following its debut at NORVA Centre in Flin Flon during Culture Days.

Aganetha Dyck, Sarah Anne Johnson, Jeanette Johns and Kristin Nelson investigate environmental issues in this exhibition. Each places these issues in a unique context. Aganetha Dyck uses her collaboration with bees to discuss environmental impact. Sarah Ann Johnson places fictitious architectural interventions in remote northern landscapes as a dramatic foreshadowing of human's predisposition to colonization. Using Lake Agassiz as a metaphor Jeanette Johns examines climate change, which began over 13,000 years ago. Winnipeg parking lots, the subject of Kristin Nelson's work, become the locus for discussion about community common space and the isolated individualism of the car.

Scott Benesiinaabandan and Darren Stebeleski's politics take a different turn. Darren Stebeleski explores a hopeful vision for a 21st century Utopia in his work. Scott Benesiinaabandan, a First Nations artist gives voice to the bifurcation of First Nations' identity in contemporary society, subverting the statement 'We are not beautiful' through the sacred tradition of Wendigo leaving us with the message "Beautiful are we not?"



Manitoba Arts Network is an association of arts and cultural organizations whose mission is connecting creativities and supporting the development of the arts in rural and northern communities.

Martha Street Studio is a production space with a studio gallery, operated by the Manitoba Printmakers Association. Martha Street Studio offers the artistic community equipment, facilities, and support in the production, exhibition, and dissemination of print-based works, at a local, provincial, national, and international level.

This exhibition is made possible through the generous support of Travel Manitoba.

# Personal Politics

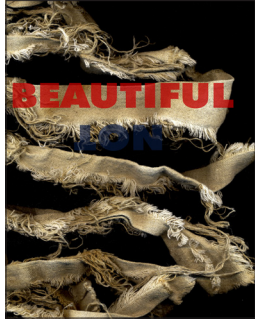
A Touring Exhibition — September 2011 — March 2012

Curated by Sheila Spence  
Organized by Manitoba Arts Network  
in collaboration with Martha Street Studio

Scott Benesiinaabandan  
Aganetha Dyck  
Jeanette Johns  
Sara Anne Johnson  
Kristin Nelson  
Darren Stebeleski



# Scott Benesiinaabandan



*Beautiful 1/5, 2011 (3 individually framed works)*

Scott Benesiinaabandan is an Anishinabe artist based in Winnipeg who works in photography, printmaking and video, among other media. Scott has recently completed an international residency at Context Gallery in Derry, North of Ireland (2010) and in Oklahoma with photographer Rita Leistner (2009). In the past four years, Benesiinaabandan has been awarded grants from the Manitoba Arts Council and the Winnipeg Arts Council for his artistic work.

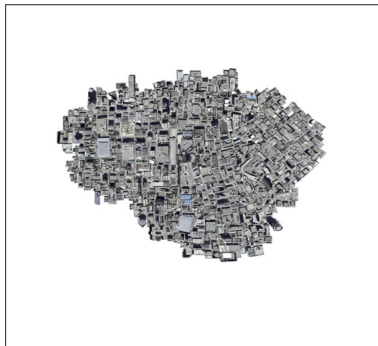
# Aganetha Dyck



*After Dr. Edward Assmuss 1865, 2009*

Aganetha Dyck was born in Winnipeg and raised in a rural Manitoba community. Her sculptural installation and mixed media work is rooted in her Mennonite background, her interest in everyday objects and the notion of women's work. She began her career working in a range of sculptural media that included wool, cigarettes and buttons; since 1991, she has been best known for her collaborative work with live honeybees, making honeycombs and beeswax an integral part of her artistic creations. Aganetha Dyck lives in Winnipeg.

# Kristin Nelson



*No Parking 3/9, 2010*

Born in Ajax, Ontario, Kristin Nelson received her BFA in Visual Arts from the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in 2003. She is an inter-media artist inspired by questions of community, gender, politics and place. Kristin looks to challenge stereotypes of community through her artistic practice, valourizing those often made invisible. Her recent work includes an ongoing photographic drag king trading card project; a life size knitted hay bale; and etchings of Winnipeg parking lots. Nelson is currently working on a MFA at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec.

# Jeanette Johns



*Retreating Agassiz, 9,900 B.P. 6/10 III*

Jeanette Johns is an artist living and working in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She completed her BFA (honours) majoring in printmaking in 2008 at the University of Manitoba. Johns works primarily in silkscreen and etching, often with the addition of a variety of other techniques such as paper marbling, gold leaf and digital printing. She explores the relationship between observation and aesthetic experience by constructing and layering imagery of maps, diagrams and graphs. She often deals with geometric patterns attempting to translate the beauty of order into her work.

# Sarah Anne Johnson



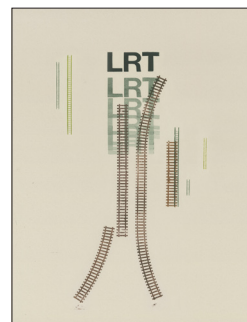
*Triangle, 2011*

Sarah Anne Johnson was born in 1976 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. She received her BFA from the University of Manitoba in 2002, and went on to complete her MFA at The Yale School of Art in 2004.

Johnson's work has been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions internationally including, 'Guggenheim Collection: 1940s to Now' at The National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, Australia (2007); The Montreal Biennial (2006); 'Imprints' at the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography and 'J'en Reve', Fondation Cartier, Paris, France (2005).

She is the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including 'The Grange Prize', granted by the Art Gallery of Ontario and Aeroplan, and a 'Major Grant' from the Manitoba Arts Council.

# Darren Stebelski



*LRT, 4/5, 2010*

Darren Stebelski is a Winnipeg-based graphic designer and printmaker. Graduating from the U of M graphic design program in 1996, he worked for a time in Calgary, Alberta before returning to Winnipeg to work at Clark Communications as a Junior Designer. Darren cofounded Neuhaus Design in April of 2000, later moving to Scotland in 2004 to attain a Master's Degree in Visual Communication from the University of Edinburgh. Upon returning to Winnipeg in 2006, he worked as a Senior Designer at Urban Ink and also began instructing in the U of M's graphic design program. In 2011, Darren left a position at Martha Street Studio as Education & Outreach Coordinator to take up a full-time teaching position in the Graphic Design department of Red River College.