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The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery knocks down its walls to welcome the first solo exhibition in Toronto by the renowned British artist Mike Nelson
Opening with a FREE party on Friday, 31 January, 2014

The Power Plant is pleased to present the first solo exhibition in Toronto by the renowned British artist Mike Nelson. Nelson is best known for his large-scale installations, in which visitors move through immersive spaces of his invention. The artist is creating new, site-specific work that is dramatically transforming the gallery's space to explore the ideas of travel, the road trip and the journey, themes that are at the heart of *Mike Nelson: Amnesiac Hide*.

The Power Plant opens the exhibition with a FREE Opening Party for all on Friday, 31 January, 2014 from 8- 11 PM. A cash bar will be available all evening.

The exhibition curated by Julia Paoli features three new works, two of which are part of the gallery's Commissioning Program, which fosters, develops and premieres major new works by Canadian and international artists. The Power Plant boasts an impressive history of support for artists and the production of new work through this program. Nelson's projects are no exception, reflecting international, national and local dialogues that reference Toronto in global conversations of contemporary art.

This exhibition would not have been possible without the very generous donations of key individuals who continue to support the gallery. "The Power Plant is indebted to a number of its loyal patrons who not only admire Nelson's work but who also enabled the creation and the presentation of brand new works here in Toronto," says Director of The Power Plant Gaëtane Verna. The gallery acknowledges Lead Donors Nancy McCain & Bill Morneau and Jay Smith & Laura Rapp, and the many Support Donors of this project: Sue Kidd & Susie Kololian, Michelle Koerner & Kevin Doyle, Liza Mauer & Andrew Sheiner, Margaret C. McNee, Nadir & Shabin Mohamed, Elisa Nuyten & David Dime, Michael Prokopow & Eric Collins, and Eleanor & Francis Shen. "Thank you all for your outstanding contributions to this important exhibition that enables us, once again, to engage Toronto's diverse

**The Power Plant
Contemporary Art Gallery**

© Harbourfront centre

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audiences and communities with the global context of today's most thought provoking art practices," exclaims Verna.

Amnesiac Hide comprises installations that appear as seemingly abandoned environments, yet imagining the unseen occupants of these spaces is central and specific to each viewer's experience. Nelson is constructing a strange, yet not entirely unfamiliar atmosphere of desolation, abandonment and loss, connecting all gallery spaces by referencing the memory of his friend and collaborator Erlend Williamson, who fell to his death in 1996 whilst hiking in the Scottish Highlands.

Included in this epic exhibition are commissioned works such as *Gang of Seven* (2013), a site-specific sculptural installation produced in partnership with the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver. Referencing a fictional motorcycle gang, the installation is an extension of a serial project the artist is revisiting entitled *The Amnesiacs*.

The exhibition also includes the new photographic work *Eighty circles through Canada (the last possessions of an Orcadian mountain man)* (2013), and *Double negative (the Genie)* (2014), another new, site-specific installation produced specifically for The Power Plant. Here, Nelson is constructing an environment to resemble a rudimentary office setting, where photocopied pages from an unpublished travelogue recalling Williamson are enlarged and pasted to the walls, offering a deeper look into the artist's practice.

Lastly, we are proud to be able to present Nelson's large-scale installation *Quiver of Arrows* (2010), constructed from four travel trailers, cut and joined together to form an enclosed, customized space that viewers may enter and explore. Given the work's size and scope, The Power Plant had to modify one of its structural walls in order to accommodate the piece, distinguishing the gallery as only the second organization to ever be able to exhibit it.

The Power Plant celebrates the work of Mike Nelson and the commissioning program, bringing new work by outstanding international artists to Toronto. *Mike Nelson: Amnesiac Hide* continues through May 19, 2014.

Mike Nelson (born Loughborough, UK, 1967) lives and works in London. He was shortlisted for the Turner Prize (2007, 2001) and received a Paul Hamlyn Award (2001). He represented Britain at the 54th Venice Biennale and has recently received commissions from organizations including the National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen (2009), the Istanbul Biennial (2009) and Creative Time, New York (2007). Nelson has exhibited extensively across the globe and his work is included in numerous public and private collections. Mike Nelson is represented by 303 Gallery, New York; Galleria Franco Noero, Turin; Matt's Gallery, London; and neugerriemschneider, Berlin.

Mike Nelson: Amnesiac Hide is accompanied by an illustrated exhibition catalogue published by Black Dog Publishing in collaboration with The Power Plant and the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver. It includes essays by Dick Hebdige, Julia Paoli and Jenifer Pappararo.

LEAD DONORS: NANCY MCCAIN & BILL MORNEAU AND JAY SMITH & LAURA RAPP

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Please send all requests for images and interviews to
rboyko@thepowerplant.org.

Upcoming Programs and Events

PRIMARY EDUCATION SPONSOR: CIBC

OPENING PARTY

Friday, 31 January, 8 - 11 PM

The Power Plant

FREE

Be one of the first in the city to see the new exhibition and meet artist Mike Nelson. A cash bar will be available all evening.

PANEL DISCUSSION: Behind the Scenes at The Power Plant

Wednesday, 5 February, 7:30 PM

Brigantine Room, Harbourfront Centre

FREE Members, \$15 Non-Members

Members of The Power Plant curatorial and installation team offer a behind-the-scenes look at all aspects of the exhibition-making process, from conception through demolition and installation to opening party.

SUNDAY SCENE: Robert Enright

Sunday, 9 February, 2 PM

The Power Plant

FREE

Robert Enright is the senior contributing editor and film critic for *Border Crossings* magazine and the University Research Professor in Art Theory and Criticism, University of Guelph. In *Border Crossings*, Enright published "Space Stories: an Interview with Mike Nelson." He will lead a tour of the exhibition.

IN CONVERSATION: Jennifer Fisher & Jim Drobnick
Affect, Patina, Atmosphere: Prowling Through the Work of Mike Nelson
Thursday, 27 February, 7:30 PM
Studio Theatre, Harbourfront Centre
FREE Members, \$15 Non-Members

Jennifer Fisher and Jim Drobnick are the editors of the *Journal of Curatorial Studies*, and founding members of the curatorial collaborative DisplayCult, which aims to rethink exhibition prototypes. They will discuss the affective turn in art and theory in relation to Nelson's work, and how compelling presences are generated through the shaping of mood, feeling and atmosphere.

**The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery at Harbourfront Centre
231 Queens Quay West, Toronto, ON, M5J 2G8, Canada**

The Power Plant is Canada's leading public gallery devoted exclusively to contemporary visual art. It is a vital forum for the advanced artistic culture of our time that offers an exceptional facility and professional support to diverse living artists while engaging equally diverse audiences in their work. The Power Plant pursues its activities through exhibitions, publications and public programming that incorporates other areas of culture when they intersect with visual art.

Admission

ALL YEAR, ALL FREE

PRESENTED BY BMO FINANCIAL GROUP

Providing as many people as possible with access to these programs and events remains the gallery's top priority. The initiative leading these efforts is a renewed partnership with BMO Financial Group, whose support of the ALL YEAR, ALL FREE initiative is vital to expanding and diversifying audiences by eliminating the cost of admission to its exhibition program.

Winter Gallery Hours

Tuesday - Sunday, 10 AM - 5 PM

Thursday, 10 AM - 8 PM and open holiday Mondays

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Media Contact

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