

## THE STANSTEAD PROJECT OR HOW TO CROSS THE BORDER

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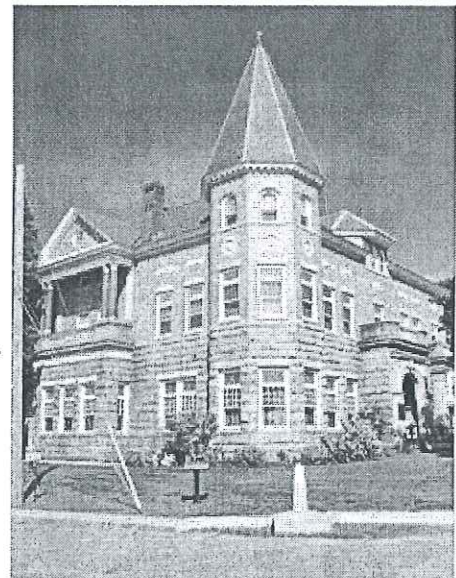
"The Stanstead Project or How to cross the Border" will be presented at the Foreman Gallery at Bishop's University, in Lennoxville, until July 30, 2011. The opening reception will take place on Wednesday, May 11 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Foreman Gallery at Bishop's University in Lennoxville. A special panel discussion will be held at 6:30p.m. This reception is being co-presented by the Foreman Art Gallery and Crossing Borders Research Cluster, <http://www.ubishops.ca/borders/>. On

Thursday, May 12 at 6p.m., special reception will be hosted by the Crossing Borders Research Cluster – once again everyone is welcome!

This exhibition of art, with a little different twist, refers to the Canada-US border that exists in the town of Stanstead where recent events have transformed the ordinary lives of citizens who, for generations, have crossed the border on a daily basis, with very few restrictions. Seen as a reflection around the notion of borders, but also on migration, this project will bring together artists whose work defines an interest in the world in which we are evolving.

The first part of the project, a prelude to the particular case of Stanstead and Derby Line, approaches the general question of the world's boundaries and the nature of the territories they encompass. Selected works deal with notions of space, territory, border lines, history, culture, and geography: Andreas Rutkauskas (Montreal) drew from the surroundings of Stanstead to produce photographs, video, and travel logs; 'Green Border', which Christian Philipp Müller (Switzerland and New York) presented at the Biennial of Venice in 1993, deals in part with Austria's historical boundaries, and his more recent 'Burning Love' explores the cloth-weaving traditions of a mountain community; Ursula Biemann's 'Performing the Border' and 'Europlex' examine the legitimacy of the borders that neo-capitalism creates between rich nations and poor ones, between men and women (artist from Zurich, Switzerland).

In recent years—some would say since the paradigm shift of September 11, 2001—, the "curiosity" and "close-knit community" that had defined the border area formed by Stanstead and Derby Line has become a blind spot in Canada-US relations. Events in the last few years seem to be pointing in one direction: this enclave will not be the exception to the



rule. The demands of national defence and security are disrupting the habits and lifestyles of a community and partially eradicating its history.

Since the 19th century, several emblematic sites in Stanstead share a close relationship with its neighbor Derby Line, Vermont such as the Haskell Opera House and the Haskell Free Library, which quite literally are located on both sides of the border. Through this off-site exhibition project, local sites will be invested by artists. For example, Raphaëlle de Groot (Montreal and Italy) and Althea Thauberger (Vancouver) will work directly with groups of citizens in their intervention work. Christian Philipp Müller will present a site-specific installation that will forge links between the history of this Town and recent events.

The second part of the exhibition, to be presented in the summer 2012 will take place in the heart of the Stanstead community with works by Raphaëlle de Groot, Christian Philipp Müller, and Althea Thauberger.

The intention of the guest curator, Geneviève Chevalier, in inviting these three artists to work on site in Stanstead is for them to develop relationships with members of the community through their art projects and to enable them to work from this framework to provide the context for Stanstead citizens to assess and find a way to express the impact of these repressive policies. Müller, de Groot and Thauberger all work in a site specific manner and each is interested in architectural artifacts.

The exhibition is being produced by the Foreman Art Gallery with financial contributions from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. For more information: 819.822.9600 poste 2687 ou | or [vicky.chaineygagnon@ubishops.ca](mailto:vicky.chaineygagnon@ubishops.ca)