

PRESS RELEASE



GROUP EXHIBITION FORECAST: RUMORS AND ACCOUNTS OF THE CORONACENE

FOGO ISLAND GALLERY

October 8, 2021 to November 28, 2021

Exhibition Opening

Friday, October 8, 6:00-8:00 pm

FOGO ISLAND GALLERY
Fogo Island Inn
210 Main Rd, Joe Batt's Arm
Fogo Island, NL

GALLERY HOURS
12:00-6:00 pm daily
By appointment only
info@fogoislandarts.ca

fogoislandarts.ca
fogoislandinn.ca
shorefast.ca

The Fogo Island Gallery presents a **group exhibition by Fogo Island and Change Islands community members**. *Forecast: Rumors and Accounts of the Coronacene*, is the first-ever group exhibition of work by Fogo Island and Change Islands community members. The works featured in this exhibition have been selected in response to an open call for submissions encouraging artists to consider the positive potential of the current moment to write new stories together. The works explore themes ranging from individual and collective futures on the island in a post-pandemic world; to local connections with global currents and perspective; to the relationships between economy, ecology, and community; and to more nuanced reflections on our present moment.

In March 2020, the global pandemic shuttered the doors of spaces across Fogo Island, including the Fogo Island Gallery, one of the many art galleries and institutions around the world that were closed for the foreseeable future. This interval of suspended activities was accompanied by a concentrated period of reflection to reimagine the program at Fogo Island Arts and to consider how it will bridge connections in a continually fractured world between the local and wider global communities.

Working with alumni as well as new artists, Fogo Island Arts has conceived a multitude of expanded projects in the form of exhibitions, programs, a new digital program entitled *Lost & Found Agency* accompanied by an online residency program and talk series, and a newly redesigned digital platform to provide access to these activities, as well as an archive of past events.

To inaugurate its newly expanded program, Fogo Island Arts wanted to commence with a focus on the breadth of creative practices on its doorstep, to consider optimistic outlooks for the future together as a community. Therefore, in March 2021, when re-opening seemed a more realistic prospect, Fogo Island Arts issued an open call to Fogo Island and Change Island creative practitioners, deliberately casting the net wide, to include artists, craftspeople, writers, musicians, performers. Fogo Island Arts received more than forty-five submissions from 28 artists and creative practitioners, which now feature in the first exhibition at Fogo Island Gallery following this period of much change and reflection.

This exhibition is curated by **Nicolaus Schafhausen**.

Artist Biographies

Susan Abma has a mission to create works that record Newfoundland traditions such as drying fish on the flakes, mending nets, building boats, Jigg's dinner memories, quilt-making, etc. Abma's paintings depict the unbelievable architecture of the wharfs that hold the stages on the water and show the rugged beauty of the landscape and shoreline. She creates works that record the present, acknowledging that there is a distinct possibility that change could mean much of this rich history could be forgotten. Susan lives and works on Change Islands for half of the year making paintings of Newfoundland people and scenes of Change Islands, from her Sea Salt Fine Art Studio. The remaining half of the year she lives near her children in Alberta, where she paints mainly portraits and still life paintings.

Paddy Barry is a Fogo Island-based photographer, filmmaker, and musician with a passion for storytelling, history and the performing arts. With a strong emphasis on Fogo Island landscape and architecture, its people and traditions, his photography aims to affirm the beauty, inherent value and future success of rural communities in Newfoundland & Labrador. Paddy's photos have been published in Science Writers, National Geographic Lodges, The Globe and Mail, CNN.com, Huffpost Canada, Black Tomato, enRoute.aircanada.com, La Presse and others.

Claudia Brahms is a textile designer who has been practicing for 45 years. Her work is imbued with a concentrated interest in the tactile and visual power of cloth. After her formal education in textiles, a strong interest in the value of traditional and foundational skills led her to grow a small factory. Brahms Mount continues to be a leading niche brand for home textiles. The company is in its 40th year of business. Returning to the studio full time, in a new country, on an island, far outside of the restrictions of designing for a market, Claudia's work reveals detail spoken broadly through cloth, pattern, and texture.

Jennifer Brett, originally from Toronto, moved to Fogo Island with her husband, to his family home in Joe Batt's Arm. Jennifer attended George Brown College (1983), where she studied graphic design before beginning a 33-year career in the graphic arts industry. Jennifer began, as a typesetter/paste-up artist, working in the "traditional" manner, to most recently working as a Prespress person at Artisan Complete, colour correcting, retouching and working closely with the Creative department. As well as a volunteer for over seven years at 856 Pickering Kingsmen Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron. Being creative has always been a big part of who she is, from taking part in art classes, to ballet lessons, pottery, sewing and knitting. More recently Jennifer has learned the art of tatting with needle and quilting with instruction from talented local quilters. Jennifer started sewing with a group of amazing, talented women from Fogo Island; they turned a switch on. This new practice quickly evolved into a passion, it was a medium that brought her previous experience and interests together - making use of fabric remnants, working with colour, taking these colours and applying them to her love for things in nature. Coming to Fogo Island has opened new possibilities, Jennifer has discovered something about herself that she may not have ever known.

Ron Broders is a resident of Tilting and a jack of all trades. Born and raised in Tilting, Ron is a maker, a woodworker, and a part-time actor. In 2012, Ron appeared in the Director's Fortnight premiere of the Cannes Film Festival selected film, *Fogo*, written and directed by FIA alumna Yulene Olaizola. Since then, Ron has worked at the Fogo Island Woodshop and has produced a range of stools, chairs, and tables from locally sourced materials.

Fraser Carpenter has spent her lifetime either living beside or on the sea. She began her sailing career by delivering private yachts from one location to another. Fraser's interest in the marine world led to work as a field guide on a charter vessel that explored the natural history along the East Coast of the US, leading trips from Massachusetts to the Bahamas. In 1988, she and her partner came to Newfoundland to build a successful marine educational program for Terra Nova National Park aboard their own vessel. In 1994, she and her partner finished building a 40' steel ocean going sailing vessel and set about sailing the seven seas including years in subantarctic and the arctic. Covering over 100,000 miles at sea, Fraser has documented the world about her through journals and photographs and more lately video. Fraser believes that knowing more about our environment can help us to form rational and informed policies that can ease the changes happening in our oceans.

Lee Danisch moved to Fogo Island from New Brunswick in 2017. In New Brunswick he made his living as a full-time production potter for ten years. Pottery-making was followed by 40 years of engineering work culminating in the creation of Measurand Inc., a major player in the geotechnical sensing field. The pottery work included monthly firings in a large oil-fired salt-glaze kiln and sales through a gallery, local fairs, and exhibitions. His technical career built on a master's degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Post-graduate studies at Reed College provided a starting point for the pottery career. The move to Fogo Island, following the sale of Measurand, coincided with the pandemic crisis. The crisis was a tipping point for a return to making pottery, again in an oil-fired salt-glaze kiln in Barr'd Islands. His work carries the SaltFire Pottery logo.

Clem Dwyer, of the Irish community of Tilting, Fogo Island. Clem worked alongside his father and uncle as a fisherman throughout his youth. At the age of seventeen he left Tilting to attend St. Mike's Regional High School in Grand Falls. Following his education there, he went to trade school in Lewisporte and in 1970 began studies at Memorial University in St. John's. The same year he met his wife of almost fifty years, Lillian. In 1973 Clem returned home to Fogo Island and worked at the local Fogo Island Central High School. Since then, he has retired from teaching and for the past ten years, Clem has been a woodturner and Community Host with The Fogo Island Inn. His interests include photography, woodturning, storytelling, hobby farming, hiking, and reading about his home.

Lillian Dwyer was born and raised at St. Patrick's, NL, one of a family of five. A meticulous carpenter father and two strong female role models, her mother and grandmother, shaped her early years. A forty-five-year long nursing career, fifty years of marriage, and two wonderful sons later, she is now devoting her time to her art/craft. Home life and work life introduced her to the world of quilts and mats and the many amazing women who created fabulous works for home and family throughout their lives. Lillian started rug hooking more than 20 years ago. Lillian was strongly influenced by the great works of the Island women and during her time as mayor of Tilting she started a group where women met in a skill-sharing environment to teach each other skills that were under threat of being lost forever. That group and like-minded individuals formed the Winds and Waves Artisans Guild. Lillian is a certified teacher with the Rug Hooking Guild of Newfoundland and Labrador. She was leading designer and a quilter on the Town's Quilted Panels, which were shown at Quilt Canada 2019 in Ottawa. During the past year, as a result of COVID-19, her husband introduced her to the amazing place, she now calls home, from a whole new angle. The many trails and natural beauty found throughout Fogo Island were not well known to her but are now a major feature in her hooked rugs. Photographer, storyteller, and life partner Clem has been her personal guide and comic relief in all winds and weathers as they enjoy the natural beauty of this place they call home.

Roy Dwyer is from Tilting, Fogo Island. Roy attended Memorial University where he received a Bachelor of Education. Returning to the island to teach and engage with the community. Roy is a storyteller, performer, a writer, publisher, and commercial fisherman. Author of the "*Old Harbours*" Trilogy and "*Of Earth and Sea*" Series and a community host for the Fogo Island Inn. Roy was major contributor to 'Spirit of Place: St. John's, The Avalon and The English Shore' by John McQuarrie.

Marc Fiset retired from the Canadian Forces in 2011, following which Marc and his wife, along with their two children moved to Shoal Bay, Fogo Island indefinitely. Shortly thereafter, he began working with the medium of metal by welding, forging, and shaping it. Experimenting with these metals led to the creation of Fogo Island Metalworks. For the past six years, Marc has been creating art fixtures for people around the world, has had work on display at the Fogo Island Inn Gallery, been the Featured Artist at the Partridgeberry Festival, and has also hosted three Art Events at Fogo Island Metalworks Studio - the latest of which was the inaugural "Burning Rock" Live Art event.

Norm Foley is a resident of Tilting. He comes from the first generation of Fogo Islanders to benefit from the modern convenience of electricity, television, and paved roads, Norm has always been more aligned with the old ways the island has to offer; preferring the woods, the gardens, raising animals, and life on the water to the ways of modern life. At the age of eleven, Norm received his first chainsaw, after he was given the responsibility of keeping the three family wood stoves operating. This was Norm's ticket to the wild woods of Fogo Island where he learned to fish for trout, snare rabbits, pick berries, and cut and haul wood for the family. By fourteen, he had his own horse, which he broke in and trained himself, to help with the task of hauling wood to Tilting Harbour. These experiences shaped Norm's outlook on the world into adulthood. A gardener and avid hiker, Norm was the perfect candidate to become the go-to guide for visiting artists to Fogo Island after the creation of Fogo Island Arts, and later to become an in-demand community host for the Fogo Island Inn. Norm's first film appearance was at the age of two, riding a tricycle in the acclaimed NFB film, *The Children of Fogo Island*, by Colin Low in 1967. Norm has also appeared in the Fogo Island Arts sponsored film, *Fogo*, by Yulene Olaizola in 2011. He has been the subject of many web & magazine articles, interviews and a BBC video documentary about life on Fogo Island. Now he has turned his mind to the exploration of art, specifically acting, filmmaking, and performance art, as it relates to his Fogo Island life. Look out!

Sonya Foley was born and raised in Tilting. Sonya left home at 18 to study English and Sociology at Memorial University. She received a BA and a Criminology certificate. After her studies, Sonya moved out West but returned home to live out her dream. Sonya is a writer, a mother, and an employee of the Fogo Island Inn since 2012. In 2001, Sonya published *Women of Fogo Island: Hear Them Speak*, a book graciously funded by the Fogo Island Literacy Association. During this period Sonya was the director of the Literacy Association and the Fun Learning center. This past year, Sonya was the topic of a documentary called *Dropstones*. Directed by Caitlin Durlak, the film follows Sonya throughout a year in her life as she raises her two sons, Luke, and Sean. Her passions include: her community, her workspace, the outdoors and her love of writing! In 2022, Sonya has plans to republish her book *The Women of Fogo Island*.

Erin Hunt is a Canadian artist currently living and working on Fogo Island. After receiving her BFA in Ottawa, Erin studied architecture and worked in London and New York before moving to Newfoundland with her family in 2012 where she now maintains a painting practice in the former courthouse in Fogo. Recent exhibitions include *Hindsight 2020* at the Ottawa City Hall and Karsh-Masson Gallery, and *Cloud Memories*, a curated online exhibition at White Columns, New York. Hunt's work has been exhibited in the United States, Canada, and France, and was recently acquired by the City of Ottawa Art Collection. She is currently working on a painting project funded by the Canada Council for the Arts which explores nature in relation to the layers of the subtle body. Her paintings will focus on the forms and folklore of Fogo Island's unique natural phenomena, aspects of healing and the psyche, and wisdom traditions around the idea of the 'mundus imaginalis'.

M'Liz Keefe was born in New Jersey. She received her BFA from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in NYC. Keefe has lived and painted in numerous places throughout the United States, spending years in the Rocky Mountains of Taos, New Mexico; Nebraska; Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and Boston. In 2013, Keefe received an artist residency in Tilting and decided to stay on Fogo Island for good. She has since built a home in Barr'd Islands with her husband. She paints in her studio, which is located across the harbour from her home.

Living Water Indoor Farm is co-owned and operated by father and son team, Hayward and Dwight Budden of Stag Harbour, Newfoundland. Both Dwight and his father Hayward are the creative spirits behind Living Water Farm, an indoor, controlled-environment hydroponic farm the two men built with their own hands. It all started when Dwight was given a countertop-style, hydroponic garden for Christmas one year. He then moved back to Fogo, where he was working at the world-renowned Fogo Island Inn. From there, it all just snowballed. The tender greens represent an incredible move towards food security and sustainability for Fogo Island and all of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Isabel McIlroy is currently living and working on Fogo Island. McIlroy graduated from Grenfell campus of Memorial University with a Visual Arts degree in 2016. During her degree she had the opportunity to learn a wide array of different art mediums, including printmaking and sculpture. McIlroy has exhibited in local galleries and has co-curated a show of fellow students' prints at the Eastern Edge Gallery in St. John's. Her works often take everyday scenes as their starting point, distorting them to encourage the viewer to see them in a different light. Such as her fourth-year student work where McIlroy made a three-dimensional cartoon style version of a domestic living space. Primarily using a mixture of drawing and digital media to realise her current artistic goals.

Phillip McIlroy graduated from Grenfell campus of Memorial University with a Visual Arts degree in 2016. During his degree Phillip got a broad overview of varied media and ways of thinking about art while focusing on stone sculpture. While in art school, he exhibited and sold his work in local galleries and coffee shops as well as exhibiting some of his stone sculptures at the Art Mur gallery in Montreal. After graduating from University, Phillip went to work in the residential construction industry, primarily doing interior finish work. Working in people's homes he was confronted by the disposability, and lack of beauty present in our home furnishings. This inspired him to learn how to craft beautiful furniture that withstands the test of time both formally and functionally. Phillip attended a six-week craftsman's course at Rosewood Studios in Perth, Ontario, during which time, he learnt to use traditional techniques to make solid wood furniture. Since then, he spent a year in his own shop designing and fabricating furniture before having the opportunity to come and work in the Fogo Island Woodshop. Phillip moved to Fogo Island in December of 2020 and has been working in the woodshop since then. This has allowed him to further hone his skills and given him time to continue designing his own furniture.

Bonnie McCay Merritt lives and works between Stockton, New Jersey and Tilting, NL. She is an environmental anthropologist, now retired from her professorship at Rutgers University, NJ. McCay Merritt first encountered Fogo Island as a graduate student, living here between October 1972 and August 1974. That was a time of crucial change for rural Newfoundland. The inshore cod fishery was a near total failure, and the Fogo Island co-op struggled to develop a more resilient fishery, as it continues to do today in the context of other crises. In her writing, McCay Merritt frames these issues in terms of the "tragedy of the commons" and "tragedy of the commoners" perspectives on fisheries problems. Since 1974, she has returned to her home on Fogo Island every year except one, drawn by friendship and the beauty of the place and the intrigue of lifeways so dependent on the giving and unforgiving sea.

Noel J. Mount's earliest work as a Chartered Textile Technologist can be found at the ground floor, in the machinery, and through the procedures of the three textile mills he designed. With his concentration in yarn and fabric, the third was his own textile factory for niche manufacturing. By restoring rescued equipment, training staff, and creating process, the brand he built over 38 years is the product of the factory. Noel's personal signature is evident in his lifetime discipline in photography, and in his carving of wood and bone. A naturally curious, technical, and playful mind constantly influences his work. As wandering is instinct, Noel applies his technical and creative hand, unbound.

Bruce Pashak is an active artist, with working studios in Gander and on Fogo Island, Newfoundland. The artist uses imagery, text, and technology to create abstracted anti-narratives that both affirm culturally encoded associations while breaking free of these limitations. In Pashak's work, the images become an experience, a slippery personal tour through existentialism where the meaningful is unhinged and the meaningless finds its private value. He creates art forms as playgrounds for the imagination. Pashak completed his MFA at the University of Calgary. He lives and works in Deep Bay, Fogo Island.

Christopher Payne is a multi-media artist who grew up in Fogo on Fogo Island. He is also the Special Projects Lead at the Fogo Island Inn and is currently completing his final year of the Business Management program at the College of the North Atlantic, specializing in Marketing. His artistic journey began in his late teens through tapestries of traditional Newfoundland scenes. He turned to nature photography as his artistic outlet, specializing in landscapes and animal portraiture. Nature brings him solace and through his many hikes and adventures, he is able to capture Newfoundland's stunning views, natural life and so much more in its' purest form.

Carol Penton has long carried a substantial influence on the island's cultural and artistic sectors. Carol is passionate about Fogo Island and its people, her dedication to her fellow community members is unwavering. Her passions range from creative writing, colourful works of painting, to rug hooking, and musical compositions. From a very young age, Carol loved to sing and play instruments like the organ, harp, and guitar. She spent more than forty years as Choir Director. Carol has attained many achievements throughout her life as an artist, but the one of which she is most proud is the musical talent she passed down to her children. Carol's youngest son, Mikey, who suddenly passed in February, got the family award for most talented. His vivacious love for life and people; and his expectational musical talents, is the ultimate inspiration for this project.

Deb Reynolds is a long-time teacher, creator, instigator, and collaborator who lives on Change Islands, Newfoundland. Her more than two decades teaching elementary school paved the way for her passion in community arts. With nearly forty years in arts leadership and collaboration, she is constantly on the lookout for new ways to blend her many passions; grass-roots social change; art in every day and unexpected places, helping others to explore their creative path, and sparking connections to build a strong, more resilient community.

Brad Ruelens, is a photographer who began his career in the commercial photography industry in Toronto, Canada. There, Ruelens freelanced with top commercial photographers and developed an eye for camera work, lighting, propping, styling, and set building. Yet, Ruelens was most interested in lighting. Under the tutelage of Tim Saunders, Ruelens learned the ropes of the advertising world. Upon moving to Newfoundland, Ruelens purchased his first digital camera and creative workstation. This together with the global pandemic, have led to this body of work affording him an opportunity to experiment with manually manipulating his images. For Ruelens, these works are about light, composition, and most of all creating pleasure for the viewer.

Harry Sheppard has been woodcarving since about 1972. He lives and works in Stag Harbour, on Fogo Island. He has been commissioned to do a few pieces, but it is still only a hobby and that is the way he likes it. Sheppard was commissioned for the town crest of Labrador city, 24 inches in diameter, and it is still hanging in the council chambers in Labrador city. His biggest commission came from Parks Canada. He carved three social scenes of life in NL before the First World War. The Carvings are now installed in the new Visitors Centre at Beaumont-Hamel France, which opened July 1, 2001.

Caitlyn Terry currently has a studio in Fogo, on Fogo Island. As a mixed-media artist, her work often incorporates found elements, and is a celebration of happy accidents, chance effects, and spontaneity. It is through improvisation, and experimentation that Caitlyn accomplishes her artistic goals. By exploring new and novel ways of creating she engages in art-marking as an act of play, which helps her to avoid overthinking or over-working her pieces. Preferring to work quickly, Caitlyn is often engaged with more than ten pieces at any one time. Her work regularly features gestural elements, typography, and bold, bright colour, lending to its graphic feel. Caitlyn holds a BFA in Drawing and Painting from The Ontario College of Art and Design and has exhibited both nationally and internationally.

Katrina Tompkins is a furniture designer and maker, advocate for craft, and educator. Katrina's formal education in furniture began at the School of Craft and Design at Sheridan College (2009) and in 2019 Katrina completed a Master of Design degree at OCAD University. She has spent time apprenticing in the studios of makers Michael Fortune (Ontario) and Mike Paterson (Newfoundland) and studied at craft institutions Anderson Ranch (Colorado) and Haystack Mountain School of Craft (Maine). Before joining the Woodshop on Fogo Island team, Katrina operated her own furniture studio Finefolk which was in Prince Edward County, Ontario. In addition to making work for residential and commercial clients Katrina exhibits design work regularly, including the exhibition *Making a Seat at the Table: Women Transform Woodworking* at The Center for Art in Wood in Philadelphia (2019). Katrina has been the recipient of awards including a Herman Miller Award, Lady Flavelle Award, Sam Maloof Scholarship, and a PEC Arts Council Professional Development Award which helped to facilitate a trip to Zanzibar, Tanzania where Katrina volunteered at a skills training centre for women. Katrina has taught furniture design and fabrication at both OCAD University and Sheridan College. She has lived on Fogo Island since July 2020.

About Fogo Island Arts

Since 2008, FIA has brought exciting emerging and renowned artists of today to Fogo Island, Newfoundland, Canada to take part in residencies and to present solo exhibitions at the Fogo Island Gallery. FIA also produces publications and presents programs on the island and in cities across Canada and abroad, including the Fogo Island Dialogues interdisciplinary conversation series, as part of its international outreach. Combining contemporary art, iconic architecture, and social innovation in a singular setting, FIA is a world-class organization that is uniquely rooted in community.

FIA builds on the resourcefulness and creativity of Fogo Islanders, whose lived experiences provide a vital framework for the organization's activities. By facilitating collaborations and connections between a local and international network of practitioners and thinkers, FIA aims to provide relevant insights on questions of human relationships with place, nature, financial capital, and one another. Crucial to FIA's mission is the conviction that art and artists have the capacity to instigate social change and offer new perspectives on issues of contemporary concern.

About Lost & Found Agency

Lost & Found Agency is an online public conversation and lecture series as well as a digital residency program featuring artists, professionals, and researchers from a variety of disciplines. Events will range from formal lectures to informal participatory conversations that encourage exchange in a peer-to-peer learning environment.

Lost & Found Agency is a response to the unprecedented social and economic impacts the global pandemic has had on artists and arts professionals. It is also a mode of dealing with Fogo Island Arts' remoteness in an era of re-evaluating the impact of travel. This platform for discussion and engagement will be an opportunity to support participants practicing in a range of locations, by offering fees, strengthening capacity to build networks, and intended to increase the exposure of their work and ideas.

Image courtesy of the artist. Artur Zmijewski, *Fogo Island Workers*, 2019.

