

MEDIA RELEASE: 6/28/2010

## **Transformation and Memory - Endangered Spaces** **Doris Hutton Auxier, Suzanne Northcott, Jeff R. Warren** **July 16 - September 18, 2010**

Coquitlam, BC – Biodiversity, referring to the vast entirety of organisms inhabiting our planet, and its preservation have begun to dominate a variety of discourses including urban development and environmentalism. In fact, the United Nations declared 2010 the **International Year of Biodiversity** and, in that, they have also declared the protection of biodiversity as essential to human survival and prosperity.

Ideas surrounding preservation and biodiversity are the themes of the summer exhibition at the Evergreen Art Gallery opening July 16 and on view until September 18. Extensively called, **Transformation and Memory - Endangered Spaces**, the show is a collaborative exhibit by Fraser Valley based artists Doris Hutton Auxier, Suzanne Northcott and Jeff R. Warren.

Expanding on their previous exhibit *Bog: Transformation and Memory* (Fort Gallery, August 2009), the three artists continue to delve into the history of human and natural elements, more specifically, the relationship between Langley bog and the history of peat moss mining and between Colony Farm and the Riverview Mental Health Facility. Each of these human histories plays a role in the development of the natural landscape and infringes upon natural biodiversity.

**Doris Hutton Auxier's** two groups of work include a series of paintings of small pieces of sphagnum and other organic material isolated and expanded to fill entire canvases, and a mixed media series called *Insertions and Intrusions* that address the uneasy sociopolitical issues that surround the protected area of the Langley Bog.

The photography and paintings of **Suzanne Northcott** investigate how things are reflected in each other to expose or transform memory and nature. For example, she photographs original furnishings from Riverview (hospital gurney, stool) in select areas at Colony Farm. By doing so, Northcott links these histories and allows the viewer to contemplate their relationship and the often "inarticulable" space in between.

Addressing concerns surrounding acoustic ecology, **Jeff R. Warren's** site-specific sound installation examines the effects of music and sound on ecosystems. A live interactive soundscape created using drops of water allows viewers to alter the sounds by interacting with the piece.

Several underlining questions surround the works of the three artists. How do we interact with and preserve these spaces? Why preserve them at all? What is stored in the memories of these spaces? No doubt there will be more questions as visitors to the Gallery join this ongoing conversation.

This engaging exhibition, **Transformation and Memory - Endangered Spaces** will be up all summer, July 16 to September 18 in the Art Gallery at the Evergreen Cultural Centre. A public opening reception takes place on Sunday, July 18 from 4 to 6pm. All three artists will be in attendance.

Be further inspired! Evergreen presents an art excursion to Colony Farm with artist and naturalist Gay Mitchell. Using a variety of materials, pastels and watercolours, participants will document the natural wonders and historical sites that define this Metro Vancouver Regional Park. Two Saturdays - July 24 and July 31, 10am to 2pm. Cost is \$40 per session plus HST. For more info call 604.927.6552.

Free tours are available throughout the summer! To book a tour please contact Scott Owens, Curatorial Assistant, 604.927.6557 or [scott@evergreenculturalcentre.ca](mailto:scott@evergreenculturalcentre.ca). The Art Gallery at Evergreen is located at 1205 Pinetree Way in Coquitlam City Centre. Gallery hours are 12noon to 5pm, Monday to Saturday. Info: 604.927.6550 or [www.myevergreen.org](http://www.myevergreen.org)