

art

SITE-SPECIFIC PROJECT

25 acres, 30 shows

Multi-layered Land/Slide is a trip **By FRAN SCHECHTER**

LAND/SLIDE: POSSIBLE FUTURES at the Markham Museum (9350 Markham Road, Markham), to October 14. 905-294-4576. landslide-possiblefutures.com. Rating: **NNNN**

For this ambitious project, curator **Janine Marchessault** moves from downtown (City Hall at 2012's Nuit Blanche) and the inner burbs (2009's Leona Drive Project) to Markham's heritage museum.

Thirty installations in and around the barns, homes and other rural structures on the 25-acre site explore the intersections of the colonial and agricultural past, the suburban present and our uncertain future. Collaborations with Gendai Gallery highlight the area's Asian presence.

Workshop buildings house multimedia meditations on their previous functions: knotholes in the closed slaughterhouse offer a peek at **Phil Hoffman's** historical videos and projections; in the print shop, **Aron Louis Cohen** documents his process of growing flax and making paper for his Almanac.

Allyson Mitchell's house is haunted by cobweb-crocheting lesbian

ghosts, while **Terrance Houle's** eerie barn holds artifacts of a bloody encounter. The aboriginal past confronts us in **Julie Nagam's** wigwam in a tool shed and **Jeff Thomas's** railroad photographs.

Architectural investigations include **Frank Havermans's** graceful wood and rope sculpture that riffs on a barn's hay-lifting pulleys and **Adrian Blackwell** and **Jane Hutton's** tented installation about the earth displaced by the site's buildings.

Jennie Suddick charmingly relives recent history by recreating her teenage Markham bedroom and screening friends' videotaped reminiscences about the town, while **Duke and Battersby** set a disturbing present-day scene of tween-age mannequins enacting a drunken sexual assault in a pioneer log house.

Choices for the future can be made in performance installations like the **Department of Unusual Certainties'** wacky presentation centre selling residences in world cities from Kabul to Malmo, Sweden, and **Angel Chen's** dim sum restaurant with a menu of urban improvements.

There are many more installations, some operating only during evening



Duke and Battersby's tween-age mannequins behave badly.

hours, plus panel discussions, performances and community events. Augmented-reality content is available via a phone app, and buses run on weekends from MOCCA.

A multi-layered concept in a beautiful outdoor setting makes Land/Slide a unique and fascinating art experience.

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THIS WEEK IN THE MUSEUMS

AGO Ai Weiwei, to Oct 27 (\$25, sr \$21.50, stu \$16.50). TFFF: With Love From Palestine, Sep 30-Oct 3 (free). **David Bowie** is, to Nov 27 (\$30, srs \$26.50, stu \$21.50). Aimia Photography Prize, to Jan 5. \$19.50, srs \$16, stu \$11, free Wed 6-8:30 pm (special exhibits excluded). 317 Dundas W. 416-979-6648.

ART GALLERY OF YORK U Wael Shawky, to Dec 1. 4700 Keele, Accolade E bldg. 416-736-5169.

DESIGN EXCHANGE Hermès Festival Des Métiers, Oct 2-6 (free). DX Unboxed, to Oct 31. \$10, stu/srs \$8. 234 Bay. 416-363-6121.

DORIS MCCARTHY GALLERY Wafaa Bilal, to Oct 19, reception 5-9 pm, bus from Hart House 6 pm, Sep 26. 1265 Military Trail. 416-287-7007.

GARDINER MUSEUM RBC Emerging Artist People's Choice Award, to Oct 15. An Te Liu, to Nov 11. \$12, stu \$6, srs \$8; Fri 4-9 pm half-price/free. 111 Queen's Park. 416-586-3080.

JUSTINA M. BARNICKE Bouchra Khalilil, to Oct

27. 7 Hart House. 416-978-8398.

MOCCA BMO 1st ArtI, Oct 1-27. David Cronenberg: Transformations, to Dec 29. 952 Queen W. 416-395-0067.

POWER PLANT More Than Two; Micah Lexier, to Jan 5, artist's talk 7:30 pm Sep 26 (\$15). 231 Queens Quay W. 416-973-4949.

ROM Mesopotamia, to Jan 5, 2014 (\$27, stu/srs \$24.50). Raja Deen Dayal, to Jan 12. \$15, stu/srs \$13.50. 100 Queen's Park. 416-586-8000.

RYERSON IMAGE CENTRE Alfredo Jaar, Kodak Lecture Series talk 7 pm Oct 2. Ghost Dance: Activism. Resistance. Art., to Dec 15. 33 Gould. 416-979-5164.

TEXTILE MUSEUM Maya Textiles, to Oct 13. Farandole: Western Canadian Métis Culture, to Nov 14. \$15, srs \$10, stu \$6; pwc Wed 5-8 pm. 55 Centre. 416-599-5321.



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