



PAVED Arts' Fall 2006 exhibition season begins with Vancouver artist Kevin Schmidt's installation *Fog*.

Exhibition: Kevin Schmidt *Fog*

September 29 – October 28, 2006

Opening Reception: Friday, September 29, 7 pm. Artist Kevin Schmidt in attendance.

Conversation with Kevin Schmidt: Saturday, September 30, 3 pm.

All events are free and open to the public, and take place at PAVED Arts, 424 20th St. West, Saskatoon

PAVED Arts is pleased to present an exhibition by Vancouver contemporary artist Kevin Schmidt in our Main Gallery. The exhibition, entitled *Fog*, is an installation environment of projected photographic images that explore ideas of illusion and artifice in the depiction of the natural world.

Fog is an example of contemporary installation art that employs the entire gallery setting as a kind of perceptual environment for the viewer's experience. Rather than being framed and hung on a wall, Kevin Schmidt's transparencies are presented as large-scale projections in a darkened, black-walled space. Referring obliquely to the traditional *camera obscura*, this darkened space has the effect of distancing the viewer from the everyday, and encouraging a suspension of disbelief.

The large projected images depict dry ice fog photographed at night on forest floors. The images are vivid, seemingly larger than life, yet, as photographs, are obviously staged and 'artificial,' as if they depicted a movie set. This play with illusion and artifice invites us to think about the ways that Western culture has understood and represented the natural world, particularly in nineteenth-century Romantic painterly traditions of the sublime in nature. As a form of photography that uses the camera as a filter for ideas of 'nature,' *Fog* connects these traditions with contemporary issues of simulation and perceptual manipulation. *Fog* is a theatrical work, simultaneously revealing its construction and extending an invitation to participate in an experience of wonder.

An informal conversation with artist Kevin Schmidt on Saturday September 30 at 3 pm will explore the evolution of his art practice, and the use of projected images in contemporary installation art.

Artist Kevin Schmidt received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in Vancouver, and has been exhibiting his work across Canada and internationally since 1999. He is represented by the Catriona Jeffries Gallery.

PAVED Arts is a non-profit, artist-run center for contemporary photographic, audio, video, electronic and digital art. We acknowledge the support of our members and volunteers, and our principal funders: The Canada Council for the Arts, The Saskatchewan Arts Board, SaskCulture, SaskLotteries, Saskatchewan Motion Picture Association and The Saskatoon Community Foundation.

For more information, please contact Timothy Dallett, Artistic Director, PAVED Arts, tel. (306) 652-5502 ext. 1 or tim@pavedarts.ca.