

For Immediate Release

EMILY CARR ANNOUNCES SSHRC GRANT AWARDS TO FACULTY

Projects Fuse Aboriginal Grease Trails + Oil Pipelines; Ceramics + 3D Printing

Vancouver, CAN, May 3, 2013 | Emily Carr University of Art + Design faculty members Ruth Beer, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean of Resources and Collaborations; Glen Lowry, Associate Professor, Faculty of Culture and Community; and, Paul Mathieu, Associate Professor, Faculty of Visual Art + Material Practice, are all three recipients of coveted Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) grants. “The funds represent continued support and recognition of the value of practice-led research which joins scholarly and creative activity in the production of knowledge and artifacts. We look forward to the exciting new activity this will generate in our community.” says Dr. Maria Lantin, Director of Research, Emily Carr University of Art + Design.

Emily Carr University Professors **Ruth Beer**, principal investigator, and **Glen Lowry**, co-applicant, were awarded \$310,803 in the form of a four-year insight grant for their submission of a project entitled “Trading Routes: Grease Trails, Oil Pipelines”. It focuses on the intersecting geographies of aboriginal trade routes, the Coast Salish “grease trails” and the proposed Alberta-British Columbia oil pipeline. A partnership between four institutions, the project draws on complementary expertise from five additional contributors including fellow co-applicant Kit Grauer, Associate Professor with UBC’s Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy and four collaborators:

- Sadira Rodrigues, Dean, Continuing Studies, Emily Carr University;
- Jonathan Dewar, Director, Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre and Special Advisor to the President for the Residential School Legacy;
- Jill Baird, Curator of Education and Public Programmes, UBC Museum of Anthropology; and
- Imre Szeman, Canada Research Chair in Cultural Studies and Professor of English, Film Studies and Sociology at the University of Alberta.

Local, regional and international participants will be engaged to contribute as the research team and collaborators travel the proposed pipeline/grease trail route across Alberta and BC, generating images, dialogue, artwork, exhibitions, publications, a web platform, and a symposium. For artists, academics and communities along the proposed pipeline/grease trail, it is a timely dialogue around aboriginality, nationalism, and sustainability – both environmental and cultural – in relation to economic dependence on petro-chemicals.

The SSHRC also granted \$136,400 over three years to **Paul Mathieu**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Visual Art + Material Practice at Emily Carr University. Funding continues a significant previous international collaboration with the Australian National University in Canberra, the Nanjing Art Institute, and industrial partner Huaguang Zibo Factory in China. Together with academic co-applicants, and the technical/in-kind support of Huaguang Zibo Factory in Zibo, the team will work with graduate and undergraduate students of Emily Carr University over a three-year period.

Future work will build on foundations developed from 2007 to 2010, which investigated the interface of ceramics and computer technologies as archives, and resulted in the identification of rapid prototyping potential for 2D and 3D.

The current funds will be used to apply previous research results to the physical creation of singular objects in an experimental studio, as well as the factory environment. Creative, scholarly, and technical expertise will combine to develop new models of preservation, bringing two diverse forms of archival together – ceramics (archeological, material, tactile) and computer technologies (digital, virtual). Central to the research will be the objects themselves, created in the Emily Carr University IDS Intersections Digital Studios. A 2D digital printer for ceramic decals will be used to produce computer-generated surface imagery, while a 3D printer will be adapted to create material, ceramic “prints”. A comprehensive, interactive website, now online at www.ceramicsresearch.ca, chronicles their research and development activity, and shares relevant content, from conference and exhibition presentations, to publications in magazines and books.

Previous SSHRC grant recipients include Harry Killas, Rita Wong, Glen Lowry, Cameron Cartiere, Maria Lantin, Carol Gigliotti, Henry Tsang, and Julie Andreyev.

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About Emily Carr University of Art + Design

Emily Carr University of Art + Design, established in 1925, is a world leader in education and research. Encouraging experimentation at the intersection of art, design, media and technology, our learning community merges research, critical theory and studio practice in an interdisciplinary environment. Alumni and faculty are internationally recognized as award-winning creators and thought leaders who have enormous impact on both the cultural sector and economy. We engage students, industry, and society to continuously explore and think differently about creativity and how it shapes our world. Find out more at ecuad.ca.

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