

Land of Living Skies

Do you know that landscape painting used to be used to bring people together by creating a shared identity tied to a place?

SpekWork Studio is making a joke about Saskatchewan's provincial slogan "Land of Living Skies" by titling their machine that creates fake sunsets using solar power *GAN of Living Skies*. GAN means generative adversarial network; it is an artificial intelligence. SpekWork Studio are also questioning what our identity is in the digital age: what is real and fake.

photos permitted. Tag us:



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Art Gallery of Regina



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Farms?

Can you think of a stereotypical Saskatchewan landscape?

Some old ideas about the place called Saskatchewan are that it's just flat fields of wheat. Artists Sue Bland and Vera Saltzman talk about what was here before farms, something called wildland, in their art installation called *Where Will the Frogs Sing?* Wildland is important habitat for lots of animals, but it continues to disappear as people try to make all of the land productive for farming.

QR code

view the QR code through your smartphone camera to access the exhibition audio tour.

audio tour sponsored by SaskTel



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Self-guided tour

plain English



Foreground: *Unsettling Settlers*, Golboo Amani;
Background: *Shore Triptych*, Gladys Wozny Siemens,
Where will the frogs sing? Sue Bland & Vera Saltzman

View from the Edge of the World

Catherine Joa, Gladys Wozny Siemens, Golboo Amani, Mike Keepness, SpekWork Studio and Vera Saltzman & Sue Bland

curated by Sandee Moore

August 18 – October 21

AGR

Engaging.
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Art.

Art made *with* the land

When you think about landscape art, what comes to mind?

Maybe you think of paintings or pictures on a computer. But did you know that sometimes artists don't make pictures?

One artist named Gladys Wozny-Siemens places wet plaster directly on dry soil from a riverbed to make sculptures showing us precisely what the land looks like. She doesn't just make the sculptures by herself, though. She lets animals and the weather also leave their marks on the soil. The sculptures are not just her art but also a collaboration with nature.



image: Gladys Wozny Siemens, *Desiccation II*, 2015.

Are humans part of the landscape?

Do artists only show nature when they paint landscapes, or do they include things people make, like buildings, roads, and graffiti?

Some artists, like Catherine Joa and Mike Keepness, have these things in their paintings. This helps us understand what people do in these places and what is important to them.

Keepness paints pictures of places where water flows, and he is thankful for these special and important places; he also paints prayer cloths which are a way for people to speak directly to nature.

Joa thinks we can't separate people and their actions from the landscape.

image: Catherine Joa, *Don't forget to smile, Ya Jackfish*, 2023.



Land/Sky

How does positioning the land under the sky change how we view and understand the land?

When artists make images of the landscape where the ground is under the sky, it looks small and like something we can control and buy. But in some paintings, like Mike Keepness', show that we are a part of the land too.

Do you know the board game called *Settlers of Catan*? The artist Golboo Amani made a new version called *Unsettling Settlers: Intervention*. This new game is all about talking and working together instead of owning things and competing.

Keepness and Amani agree that land is not something one person should try to hoard and control but that we need to work with other people and the land to survive.