

M E D I A R E L E A S E



*You Are Here*, 2005, encaustic on collaged used envelopes, 49 panels each 40.5 x 40.5cm  
(Photo: Robert Zingone)

**Peter Dykhuis: *You Are Here***

13 January – 18 March 2007

Opening reception: Friday, 12 January, 8:00 pm

Artist talk and catalogue launch: Thursday, 1 March, 8:00 pm

Storms are brewing in Saint Mary's University Art Gallery's opening exhibition of 2007. *Peter Dykhuis: You Are Here* includes satellite views of hurricane systems approaching the province. The artist's first solo exhibition in Halifax since 1997 features paintings, drawings and installations from the past decade. *Radar Paintings* (1999-2003) show patterns of rain and cloud (derived from the Internet) moving across the middle of Nova Scotia, in a radial grid centred on the weather station at Halifax International Airport.

Dykhuis's map paintings are deeply implicated in the surveillance and mapping technologies of air travel, military defence, weather forecasting and outer space. They reflect our contemporary global anxieties, post 9-11, and local anxieties of Halifax, post-Hurricane Juan, in a world that is getting hotter both politically and environmentally.

Peter Dykhuis works in the ancient and demanding medium of encaustic, in which pigments are applied in dabs of hot wax. Moving beyond the Modernist rejection of the painting as illusory window, Dykhuis brings the painted surface into the two-dimensional Flatland of cartography, while investing the encaustic surface with translucent depth.

Born in London, Ontario, Dykhuis graduated in 1978 with a BFA from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He moved in 1991 from Toronto to Halifax, where he is Director of the Anna Leonowens Gallery at NSCAD University. Exhibiting across Canada and in the United States and Japan, he placed first in the Eastern region (Atlantic Canada and Québec) of the prestigious 2003 New Canadian Painting Competition. *Peter Dykhuis: You Are Here* presents a generous cross-section of the artist's recent works, few of which have been previously exhibited in Nova Scotia. The exhibition will be accompanied by a full-colour, illustrated catalogue with an essay by Director/Curator Robin Metcalfe.

In his more recent projects, Dykhuis assembles collaged, overpainted and overprinted materials, often on paper, into large grids like an archive or documentary collation. The exhibition's title work, *You Are Here* (2005), features a map of Halifax Harbour overpainted on hundreds of used envelopes, reflecting the artist's ongoing interest in how transportation and exchange shape the local cultural geography. *Pressure Today* (started 2004) maps daily barometric pressure from *The Globe and Mail* onto envelopes addressed to the artist. This journal is a record of the correspondences that locate the artist socially and professionally and of the changing physical environment of daily life. The artist will design an installation of *Pressure Today* specifically for the Saint Mary's Side Gallery, replicating the wall dimensions of his own home studio.

In other recent works, corporate logos appear delicately rendered in coloured pencil or rise moonlike behind hilly landscapes of stock market charts. *State Dinner* (2005) features colour-coded map silhouettes of the states, provinces and territories of the three signatory countries of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

*Peter Dykhuis: You Are Here* is on exhibit at Saint Mary's University Art Gallery from 13 January through 18 March 2007. The exhibition opens with a public reception on Friday evening, 12 January at 8:00 pm. Peter Dykhuis will make a public presentation on his work in the gallery on Thursday, 1 March at 8:00 pm. All events are free of charge and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Saint Mary's University Art Gallery is in the Loyola Building, 5865 Gorsebrook Avenue. This exhibition and associated activities are generously supported by programme funding from The Canada Council for the Arts.

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Digital images/slides/photos available



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