

Nicolas Baier Transmission

Division Gallery, 25 October – 21 December 2013

Division Gallery and Arsenal Toronto are proud to present Nicolas Baier: Transmission a major exhibition of recent work by this acclaimed artist from Montreal. On view from October 25 to December 21, 2013. Transmission will be Baier's largest exhibition in Toronto to date.

The works on view, which include large-scale installations, photographs, digital renderings and paintings are united by Baier's interest in science, perception and the artist's role as intermediary between technology and imagination. The connecting thread among this particular group is knowledge, its transmission and the limits of what we can know.

Anchoring the exhibition is the monumental installation, *Vanité/Vanitas* a highlight of last year's *Oh, Canada* survey at Mass MoCA. A glass and mirror vitrine contains the artist's working environment completely plated in gleaming chrome, from furniture and hardware to trash can and half-eaten breakfast. Updating the tradition of the *vanitas* still-life painting Baier reminds us that all our knowledge cannot protect us from death.

This theme is echoed by a mural comprised of scanned antique mirrors, which reflect the strains and scratches of age rather than the viewer's image. Other scanned mirrors have been etched with the dodecahedron postulated as the shape of the universe. Baier deconstructs and reconstitutes the resonant form in *Schemes*, a 3-D rendering that took him 800 hours to create.

Other images represent micro and macrocosmic views of the universe. Photographs shot through a microscope illustrate human neural networks, while clouds and constellations illustrate predictive systems, real and imagined. The physical transmission of knowledge is symbolized by a massive steel armature representing six mainframe computers. The black-coated structure sits on a white marble base, metaphor for ancient Greece and the beginnings of philosophy.

A new series that see Baier going back to his roots in painting features meticulous hard-edge abstractions reproducing images of collisions in the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva. Boldly grappling with humankind's futile desire to know the unknowable. Baier has created an outstanding body of work that is both visually and conceptually mesmerizing.

Nicolas Baier, born 1967, is based in Montreal. He has exhibited extensively throughout Canada. His solo exhibition, *Paréidolies*, was co-presented by National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, and the Musée Régional de Rimouski. His work has also appeared in group shows across North America and Europe. Collections National Gallery of Canada, the Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne, Paris and many more.

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