

MEDIA RELEASE

March 14, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MR17-017

NIC Announces 2017 Artist-in-Residence

Meet Rita McKeough at the March 21 Artist Talk

NIC is delighted to welcome Artist-in-Residence Rita McKeough for May and June 2017.

McKeough is a Calgary-based audio, media installation and performance artist. Her work blends her varied experience as a radio disc jockey and drummer with her studies in printmaking and sculpture to create unique installations, some with interactive environments. Her work has been exhibited throughout Canada and she was awarded the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts in 2009.

"We are excited to see what Rita will create during her residency," said Sara Vipond, an art instructor at NIC. "To see how the artist works will offer a unique insight; to begin with a concept and develop the artwork through the dialogue of electronic media and installation."

The Artist-in-Residence is a collaborative program between NIC School of Fine Art and Design, the Comox Valley Art Gallery (CVAG) and the

McLoughlin Gardens AIR residence. It is the second year the program has run. The residency offers a creative space and platform for professional practicing artists to conduct active, hands-on research in the fine art studios at NIC. McKeough's residency will take place this summer. The work she develops at NIC will be shown in an exhibition at CVAG.

Members of the public will get the chance to hear McKeough speak about her work as part of the Artist Talk Series March 21 at NIC's Comox Valley campus.

The series featured a variety of artists from across Canada speaking on their journey as artists, their practice and answering questions from the public.

"The Artist Talk Series is a wonderful opportunity for artists to connect with the public and for the public to learn about their process," said Vipond. "We're thrilled by how this winter series has gone and are delighted to be able to cap it off with a talk by our next Artist-in-Residence."

McKeough's talk takes place at the Stan Hagen Theatre, starting at 12 pm. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

For more information, visit www.nic.bc.ca/finearts.

Photo caption: Hear 2017 Artist-in-Residence, Rita McKeough, speak about her work Tuesday, March 21 at NIC's Stan Hagen Theatre, starting at noon. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

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"Tender" by Rita McKeough, photo credit: John Dean
 2016 installation included in the exhibition: *Oh, Canada: Contemporary Art from North North America*, Esker Foundation in Calgary Alberta