

NEW MEDIA GALLERY - NW ARTS COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT 2016

In 2016 New Media Gallery curated 5 exhibitions presenting 26 artists from 11 countries: these are complex installations of light, sound, robotics, interactive connectivity and video. We also develop a radical re-design and rebuild of the gallery for every exhibition, recycling and finding ways to spread and reuse resources.

NMG organized six talks this year with exhibition artists as well as poetry and sound programs. We also collaborate closely with NW Arts Services and our Arts Programmer to develop programs linked with NMG exhibitions. *Fresh Talks* is a series that provides links between art and technology, science, film, literature etc. Examples of these successful, collaborative City programs are *Mediated Visions* and *Perseids + Poetry*, both held in the theatre. To date we've formed partnerships with DOXA Documentary Film Festival, NW Film Fest, Momentum Youth Festival, DIM Cinema, Cinemathique.

By the end of 2016 NMG will be nearing 50,000 visitors. A commitment to public engagement defines the gallery. Most visitors will be guided through each exhibition. About 70% of our visitors come from outside New Westminster while the majority of our local audience returns for multiple exhibitions. NMG was honored to be voted *Favorite Art Gallery* and *Favorite New Media Gallery* by **The Record** readers. We are also delighted to be featured in an upcoming *Profiles of Excellence*.

Education is vital to NMG. We have formed strong partnerships with UBC, Douglas College, University of the Fraser Valley, Emily Carr University of Art + Design and Simon Fraser University. We give exhibition tours, critiques and lectures: students respond with art and performance projects, essays and talks. NMG has developed nine internships for UBC, each about 4 months. For our Fall internship the intern is using neartuit i-beacon technology developed by a New West Technology company. In 2016 we offered tours and programs to over 1000 students from elementary to high school to University.

We write various texts for every exhibition. Check out local magazine *Tenth to the Fraser* for an interview with one of our very loyal visitors: 'The Mindfulness of Jim Johnston'. We have also been featured in Black Flash Magazine, Magenta Magazine, La Source, Vancouver Sun, Vancouver is Awesome, an upcoming Canadian Art review. The Record gives us excellent and consistent coverage. NMG Facebook is now approaching 1000 followers with over 500 Twitter Followers. We saw over 20,000 Twitter impressions on postings for OTIC and Germinal alone.

NMG curators sit on the Board of Artscape, they have Juried art prizes and projects and were invited to speak at the 2016 International Elektra Symposium in Montreal.

On the quirky front an NMG Curator qualified to become a Fire Marshall and we all took fire suppression training for a potentially combustible work of art. We've spent time lying under a meteor shower at Pier Park, hearing a Rocket Scientist describe how stars are born. Working at the New Media Gallery is always an adventure. Come and visit soon!