



March 30, 2017

Eldon + Anne Foote Edmonton Visual Arts Prize
Visual Arts Alberta Association
3rd Floor, 10215 112 St NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 1M7

Dear Eldon + Anne Foote Edmonton Visual Arts Prize,

It is with great pleasure that dc3 Art Projects and the Art Gallery of Alberta co-nominate Sean Caulfield for the 2017 Eldon + Anne Foote Edmonton Visual Arts Prize for his work *The Flood*, exhibited at the Art Gallery of Alberta from February 6 – August 14, 2016.

The Flood is comprised of 48 maple panels coated in Japanese sumi ink and hand-carved by the artist using traditional and power-based tools, completed over a two year period. The large-scale relief mural, measuring 21 x 32 ft in its entirety, is Caulfield's largest work to date and follows his ongoing explorations into the impact of technological advancements on our environment.

Informed by the artist's visit to Fukushima, shortly after the disaster, and subsequent visit to Hiroshima, *The Flood* looks to traditional medieval woodcuts of apocalyptic events of flood and rain. Specifically, it is moments of dramatic change that interest Caulfield, and how we respond to these traumatic events. Merging anxiety with hope, the immense woodblock mural calls in to question our own role in shaping a future narrative for our ecosystem.

Traditionally used as an intermediate in the print process, Caulfield's exhibition of the hand-carved woodblock panels as a work itself exposes the elaborate carving process of traditional wood block printing and expands the possibilities and language of print medium.

The Flood provided engagement both within the gallery and in the public realm that far surpassed the reach of any other exhibition within the Edmonton area in 2016. Within the Manning Hall at the Art Gallery of Alberta, the woodblock created an engaging and contemplative site for the myriad of events and educational programming that occurred in the space. Creating positive prints of sections of the woodblock and installing them into the public realm in Churchill LRT station, *The Flood* further served as a generative source that expanded to engage with the downtown commuting public on a daily basis. Capturing the attention of both local and national press in the Edmonton Journal, Edmonton Examiner, Avenue Magazine and Momus, *The Flood* later travelled to the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie where it was the centre piece of Caulfield's solo show *The Flood: Landscapes in the Approaching Present*.



Caulfield is an internationally renowned printmaker and Centennial Professor in the Department of Art and Design at the University of Alberta who has had a profound influence on the Alberta art community. He has exhibited his prints, drawings and artist's books extensively throughout Canada, the United States, Europe, and Japan and has received numerous grants and awards for his work. *The Flood* pushes the limits of what printmaking can be, specifically within the public domain of Edmonton.

The Flood is a major achievement for Caulfield, not only for its scale, but its scope, pushing the boundaries of the medium of print and the potential for public engagement. It is an exemplary art work which opens up new possibilities for the artist, for the medium and for the community. In my opinion, it is certainly deserving of the 2017 Eldon + Anne Foote Edmonton Visual Arts Prize, and it is our honour to put forth this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Schultz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michelle Schultz, Director
dc3 Art Projects