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On the canvas: Moodie's works probe concept of time



By Joe Belanger, The London Free Press
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London artist and Western University professor Kim Moodie modelled for photos and videos featured in the exhibition Kim Moodie: Any Dream Will Do at McIntosh Gallery. (Dave Kemp/Special to Postmedia News)

A renowned London artist and educator is featured in one of two new exhibitions opening at McIntosh Gallery.

Kim Moodie: Any Dream Will Do, and Leading the Way: Early Canadian Women Artists open Friday at the gallery at Western University.

Moodie, a professor in Western's visual arts department known for his "incredibly detailed, densely-packed imagery," has turned to photography and video for his new works, said curator James Patten.

Patten said the work "explores the concept of time as a rapid progression of transient fluidity" with Moodie serving as model in photographs and videos.

However, in a press release, Patten said the show also includes new paintings accompanied by drawings

Moodie's work has been shown at the National Gallery of Canada, Oakville Galleries, Jessica Bradley Gallery, Art Gallery of Ontario, and Threadwaxing Gallery, New York. In 2011 he was the subject of a major solo exhibition at Museum London, Kim Moodie: All But Not.

Opening the same day is Leading the Way: Early Canadian Women Artists, curated by Catherine Elliot Shaw, examining those artists who faced major challenges and obstacles in their career, including educational and employment opportunities, family responsibilities and a general lack of support for their talent.

As a result, according to a press release, "They frequently chose subjects based on personal experience such as landscape, portraiture and still life and their work was consequently considered outside mainstream trends and attracted little attention."

Among the artists explored in the exhibition are Florence Carlyle, one of the few who "enjoyed national and international careers," Mackie Cryderman and Henrietta Hancock Britton,

The exhibition is designed to "complement" the launch later this spring of McIntosh Gallery's online project, A Driving Force: Women of the London, Ontario Visual Art Community 1867-2017.

It is aimed at documenting the achievements of the artists, patrons, collectors, donors, writers, critics, administrators, educators and volunteers from London and Middlesex County who, since confederation, have ensured the vibrancy of the visual arts in the region.

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If you go

What: Kim Moodie: Any Dream Will Do, curated by James Patten, and Leading the Way: Early Canadian Women Artists, curated by Catherine Elliott Shaw.

Where: Western University's McIntosh Gallery.

When: Opening reception Friday, 8 p.m. and continuing until May 14.

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