

# SUMMER 2010 AT THE POWER PLANT

## ALL SUMMER, ALL FREE

Free gallery admission all summer, thanks to the support of the Hal Jackman Foundation and Media Partner *NOW Magazine*.



Following The Power Plant's 2009 summer exhibition 'Universal Code', which presented artists' reflections on time, space and the cosmos, this summer's group show, 'Adaptation: Between Species', casts an eye on our place within the ecosystem of planet Earth. With artists of varying ages and cultural backgrounds examining the complex relationships among human and non-human animals, plants and the natural world, 'Adaptation' encourages us to think differently about where the human ends and other living creatures begin.

We are very pleased to offer ALL SUMMER, ALL FREE gallery admission for the fifth year running, thanks to the Hal Jackman Foundation and Media Partner *NOW Magazine*.

Several public programs this summer take place off-site in the great outdoors. A specially designed nature walk through High Park focuses on its rare Oak Savannah ecosystem and a curated film screening in the courtyard of the 401 Richmond Street West complex explores interspecies drag – how humans masquerade as other kinds of animals and vice versa. Our opening weekend forum featuring a biologist, a philosopher and an artist will unpack some of the themes

of communication, mimicry and mutualism between species developed in the exhibition.

Families will enjoy our summer Power Kids, an afternoon spent exploring animal behaviour and communication through observing seagulls on the boardwalk and then performing on video. Finally, join us on our lakeside terrace for a special live event organized by the artists FASTWÜRMS, featuring a live DJ set and a reunion of their digital tarot-reading project, *Skry-Pod*, a highlight of Nuit Blanche 2009. The event is free, as are our weekly Sunday Scene and Amateur-led Saturday gallery tours, giving you plenty of chances to encounter your fellow creatures this summer.

## I WANT TO BELONG

### MEMBERS RECEIVE:

FREE gallery admission (plus free admission to many other public galleries across Ontario)

FREE entry to the International Lecture Series – attend talks by world renowned artists. The 2010 series included talks by Ryan Trecartin, Thomas Hirschhorn and Michael Snow.

The Power Plant newsletters *ON* and *CURRENT* and the magazine *SWITCH* delivered straight to your door.

DISCOUNTS on tickets, publications, merchandise, and more!

EXCLUSIVE benefits for higher levels of Membership.

For a full list of benefits, visit [www.thepowerplant.org](http://www.thepowerplant.org)

## The Power Plant

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The Power Plant is Canada's leading public gallery devoted exclusively to the art of our time.

### SUMMER HOURS

Tuesday to Sunday 12–6 PM  
Saturday 12–8 PM  
Open holiday Mondays & Canada Day

### LOCATION

231 Queens Quay West  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
M5J 2G8

To arrive by TTC, take the 509 streetcar (Exhibition/UnionStation) to lower Simcoe Street, 231 Queens Quay West

### INFORMATION

416.973.4949  
[thepowerplant@harbourfrontcentre.com](mailto:thepowerplant@harbourfrontcentre.com)  
[www.thepowerplant.org](http://www.thepowerplant.org)

### SENIOR/STUDENT/ARTIST

\$40

### INDIVIDUAL

\$50

### FAMILY/DUAL

\$70

### ASSOCIATE\*

\$100

### SUPPORTER\*

\$250

### CONTRIBUTOR\*

\$500

### CONTEMPORARY CIRCLE\*

\$1000

### DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE\*

\$2500

### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE\*

\$5000+

\*Charitable receipt for maximum allowable amount  
Charitable registration no.  
887821031RR0001

### GIVE THE GIFT OF CONTEMPORARY ART!

Memberships at The Power Plant make the perfect gift for any occasion. To purchase and for more information: [agrabham@harbourfrontcentre.com](mailto:agrabham@harbourfrontcentre.com) or 416.973.4926.

### A UNIQUE SETTING FOR YOUR EVENT

The Power Plant is a perfect waterfront venue for holiday parties, luncheons, cocktails, and meetings. Call 416.973.1264 or email [tbriggs@harbourfrontcentre.com](mailto:tbriggs@harbourfrontcentre.com) for details and available dates.

### ALL SUMMER, ALL FREE

Thanks to the support of the Hal Jackman Foundation and Media Partner *NOW Magazine*.

Please note that the east side of the parking lot is inaccessible due to construction in the parking lot. All visitors can enter on the west side of the building and additional parking is available along the Queens Quay.

LEFT: Olaf Breuning, *Mammoth*, 2008. Courtesy the artist and Metro Pictures, New York.

COVER: Marcus Coates, *Journey to the Lower World*, 2004. Courtesy the artist and Kate MacGarry, London.

# ON

The  
Power  
Plant  
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19 JUNE–12 SEPTEMBER, 2010  
ADAPTATION: BETWEEN SPECIES

FILM / FORUM / LIVE / FIELD TRIP / POWER KIDS / SUNDAY SCENE

# ADAPTATION

## Between Species

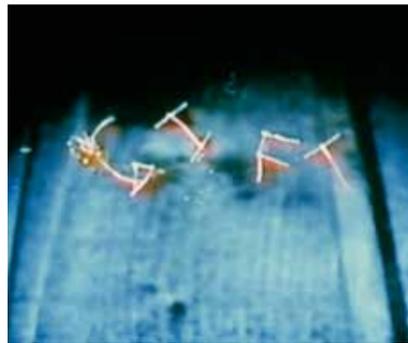
Allora & Calzadilla  
Francis Alijs  
Cory Arcangel  
John Bock  
Olaf Breuning  
Marcus Coates  
Robyn Cumming  
Mark Dion  
FASTWÜRMS  
Shaun Gladwell  
Lucy Gunning

Nina Katchadourian  
Louise Lawler  
Hanna Liden  
Hew Locke  
Sandra Meigs  
Rivane Neuenschwander  
and Cao Guimarães  
Jeff Sonhouse  
Javier Téllez  
Michelle Williams Gamaker

Responding to the contemporary desire to go “back to nature,” The Power Plant’s summer group exhibition highlights interspecies encounters. What happens when humans, animals and the natural world meet? What forms of communication, miscommunication, intimacy, and exchange ensue?

19 June–12 September, 2010  
Curated by Helena Reckitt, Senior Curator of Programs

Summer Exhibition Opening Party: Friday, 18 June, 8–11 PM



Clockwise from top left: John Bock, *Gast*, 2004. Courtesy the artist and Sadie Coles HQ, London; Nina Katchadourian, *GIFT/GIFT*, 1998. Courtesy the artist and Sara Meltzer Gallery, New York; Hanna Liden, *Bird Totem*, 2006. Courtesy the artist; Cory Arcangel, *Drei Klavierstücke, op. 11*, 2009. Courtesy the artist and Team Gallery, New York.

As the industrialized world further encroaches on the natural world, species live in ever closer proximity. Yet many people feel profoundly cut off both from natural environments and from their own animal natures. Our deep longing to connect with non-human life forms is reflected in contemporary phenomena ranging from the boom in pet ownership and the widespread anthropomorphism in popular culture to the upsurge in vacations that promise to transport us to unspoiled lands.

However, despite this deep-seated sense of alienation from nature, the species are in fact closely related. For instance, as Donna Haraway notes in her book *When Species Meet*, 90 percent of human cells are filled with the genomes of bacteria, fungi, protists, and such, with only 10 percent comprising human genomes. ‘Adaptation: Between Species’ explores this commonality between the species

and considers the various forms of intelligence and knowledge they share. It also asks what our interactions with other species reveal about our human as well as our animal natures. Highlighting the urge to observe, touch, live with, and mimic other species, the exhibition delves into the intimate and, at times, uncanny fusions that result. From another perspective, ‘Adaptation’ looks at the facility that animals have in adapting to our domestic and urban environments, including the ability to “train” their masters.

Coinciding with the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity, the exhibition considers how adaptation functions as a form of biological and cultural survival. ‘Adaptation’ also builds on Roger Caillois’ 1935 essay “Mimicry and Legendary Psychasthenia”—which was central to Surrealist thought as well as to Jacques Lacan’s theories of the Mirror Stage—to think



Clockwise from top left: Francis Alijs, *The Nightwatch*, 2004. Collection of Jay Smith and Laura Rapp. Courtesy the artist and Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zürich; Javier Téllez, *Letter on the Blind, For the Use of Those Who See*, 2007. Courtesy the artist and Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zürich; Mark Dion, *Maquettes*, 2008. Collection of Drs. Paul Marks & Shawna Granovsky, Toronto. Courtesy goodwater, Toronto; FASTWÜRMS, *Spotti Fang*, 2009. Courtesy the artists.

through the spatial, aesthetic and psychological nuances of camouflage and assimilation. However, ‘Adaptation’ also takes a realistic view of human/non-human dynamics: it acknowledges the unbalanced and exploitative power relations that too often characterize our society’s attitudes toward other life forms.

This focus on the interface between humans and other species builds on a rich body of critical work that is emerging in various disciplines, from policy and law, philosophy, anthropology, science, and cultural studies, to animal rights and environmental activism. Influential studies include Giorgio Agamben’s *The Open: Man and Animal*, Jacques Derrida’s *The Animal That Therefore I Am*, Gilles Deleuze’s *The Body, the Meat and the Spirit: Becoming Animal*, Richard Dawkins’ *The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution*, and Donna Haraway’s impressive oeuvre on

human/animal relations. Academic institutions are also addressing similar questions. In Ontario alone, a recent studio art class at the University of Guelph explored the phenomenon of “cultural followers”—animals that thrive within human environments—and in 2009 the Ontario College of Art & Design launched a module on Biomimicry and Design.

‘Adaptation: Between Species’ presents the work of leading international artists alongside that of newer figures whose work has gained international attention. Ranging in tone from reverent to decidedly iconoclastic, and created with media including photography, film/video, sculpture, and painting, works in the exhibition examine the lure of primeval states and primitive behaviours, and the urge to understand oneself as wild at heart.

Right: Robyn Cumming, *Lady 1* (from the series *Lady Things*), 2008. Courtesy the artist.



# ADAPTATION

## Between Species

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Francis Alj's  
Cory Arcangel  
John Bock  
Olaf Breuning  
Marcus Coates  
Robyn Cumming  
Mark Dion  
FASTWÜRMS  
Shaun Gladwell  
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Rivane Neuenschwander  
and Cao Guimaraes  
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Javier Téllez  
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**The Power Plant**  
© Harbourfront centre

**GALLERY HOURS**  
Tuesday to Sunday 12–6 PM  
Saturday 12–8 PM  
Open holiday Mondays & Canada Day

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thepowerplant@harbourfrontcentre.com  
www.thepowerplant.org

Shaun Gladwell, *Apologies 1–6, 2007–2009*  
Courtesy the artist, Anna Schwartz Gallery (Sydney)  
and Georgia Scherman Projects (Toronto).

Canada Council for the Arts / Conseil des Arts du Canada

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL / CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL

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Hal Jackman Foundation

NOW

### FORUM

## BETWEEN SPECIES

☉ SATURDAY, 19 JUNE, 7 PM

The Power Plant  
\$4 Members, \$6 Non-Members (at the door)

Presenters from a wide range of disciplines (philosophy, biology, visual arts) discuss key themes of the exhibition 'Adaptation: Between Species.'

**Karen Houle** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Guelph. Her research includes the history of the concept of "the animal" as a political or moral being, and the arguments for the demarcation of human from non-human animals offered by Western thinkers, as well as the implications for practical lives of animals, human and non-human.

**Annie Dunning** is a Guelph-based mixed-media artist who negotiates ideas of space, urban wildlife and her ecological place. Among other creatures, she has studied and created artworks with pigeons (the world's oldest domesticated bird), including a musical collaboration. She is interested in the concept of the "cultural follower," a scientific term used to describe creatures that have adapted to thrive in environments that humans have claimed as their own.

**Burton Lim** received his PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Toronto and is an Assistant Curator of Mammalogy at the Royal Ontario Museum. His research interests include the biodiversity and evolution of mammals. He studies contemporary patterns of species diversity and distribution to discover processes that explain the modes of speciation and adaptive radiations that have occurred over time.

Moderated by **Helena Reckitt**, Senior Curator of Programs and curator of 'Adaptation.'

### FREE GUIDED TOURS

☉ EVERY SATURDAY, 1 PM

Starting 3 July, join The Power Plant's trained Animateurs for a free guided tour of the summer group exhibition 'Adaptation: Between Species.'



Courtesy of the artists and Paul Petro Contemporary Art, Toronto.

### LIVE

## FASTWÜRMS: DJ SET AND SKRY-POD

☉ FRIDAY, 9 JULY, 6–9 PM

The Power Plant – Lakefront Terrace  
FREE

If weather conditions are poor, the event will be moved indoors to The Power Plant's lobby.

Come down to the waterfront to join legendary local artists and witches FASTWÜRMS as they spin tunes and revise their 2009 Nuit Blanche social performance, *Skry-Pod*. Featuring free public tarot readings activated through iTouch devices, *Skry-Pod* creates an open-air zone for divinatory encounters. You'll also be able to enjoy draft beer and an all-vegetarian barbecue as the summer sun sets over Lake Ontario.

Derived from an Old English word, "skry" is the form of clairvoyance achieved by gazing into reflective, flickering objects such as water, candle flames and crystal balls. For FASTWÜRMS, a "positive economy" is created in *Skry-Pod* through a combination of paranormal and envi-

ronmental activism: true prosperity is only gained by enhancing the personal freedom and well-being of others.

Formed in 1979 and based near Creemore, Ontario, FASTWÜRMS is the cultural project, trademark and joint authorship of Kim Kozzi and Dai Skuse. FASTWÜRMS integrate time-based media, performance and visual art in the context of immersive installations, social exchange and event architecture principles. Their artwork is characterized by a determined DIY sensibility, witch-positive identity politics, and a keen allegiance towards working-class, queer alliance and artist collaborations. Their retrospective 'DONKY@NINJA@WITCH' was shown at the Art Gallery of York University, Toronto (2007), Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver (2008), and Plug In ICA, Winnipeg (2008).

Skry-Pod Tarot Readers: **Jenn E. Norton, Bradley V. Benedetti, R. M. Vaughan, Amber Landgraaf, Jacob Ireland, Elinor Rose Galbraith, and Beth Stuart.**

Co-presented with



Douglas Gordon, *The Right to Not Be Tortured*, 2010. Courtesy the Scottish Documentary Institute.

### FILM

## ANIMAL DRAG KINGDOM

☉ SATURDAY, 17 JULY, 9 PM

401 Richmond Street West – Courtyard  
\$5 Members of The Power Plant/Pleasure Dome,  
\$8 Non-Members (cash only at the door)

If weather conditions are poor, the screening will be moved to the following evening: Sunday, 18 July, 9 PM.

Co-presented with Pleasure Dome, this screening examines the playful and perverse forms of mimicry that complicate distinctions between human and non-human animals.

In the twenty-first century, the limits between human and non-human animals are collapsing, thanks to ecological devastation, genetic research and interspecies plagues, among other phenomena. Consequently, the dynamic in visual culture between anthropomorphism and zoomorphism—the investment of human qualities in animals and vice versa—has become more and more complex and fraught. Increasingly we project the most eccentric human qualities onto animals, and then try to explain our species' own bizarre behaviour through reference to their "natural" ones. The result is a messy kind of inter-species drag.

Spanning over a century of moving images, and drawing on scientific and novelty films as

well as recent international video work by artists such as **Douglas Gordon, Kristin Lucas, Guy Ben-Ner, Kathy High, and Steve Reinke & Jessie Mott**, the program features a strange parade of performing insects, Frankenstein animal-human hybrids, mother-fixed monkeys, spooked sheep, and nauseous cats (and their existentially troubled keepers).

Co-presented with PLEASURE DOME (www.pdome.org)

### FIELD TRIP

## HIGH PARK NATURE WALK

☉ WEDNESDAY, 4 AUGUST, 6–8 PM

Meet at the High Park Nature Centre, 430 Parkside Drive  
\$4 Members, \$6 Non-Members (cash only)

Spaces are limited to 20 so please call 416.973.4949 to reserve. If weather conditions are poor, the event will be moved to Thursday, 5 August, 6–8 PM and registrants notified.

Join fellow patrons of The Power Plant for a specially-designed nature walk of High Park led by **Katie Krelove**, coordinator of the **High Park Nature Centre**.

Centrally located on 400 acres of land in the heart of Toronto, High Park is home to countless species of wildlife, including insects, birds, fish, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. Recognized as one of the most significant natural sites within the City of Toronto, about one-third of High Park's terrestrial system is considered to be ecologically significant because of the rare vegetation and wildlife found there. The walk will introduce visitors to the park's natural history and flora and fauna, with a focus on the rare and endangered Oak Savannah ecosystem.

The High Park Nature Centre organizes a variety of nature walks all summer. Please visit [www.highparknaturecentre.com](http://www.highparknaturecentre.com) for more info.



Kathy High, *Everyday Problems of the Living*, 2000. Courtesy the artist.

### SUNDAY SCENE

☉ 20 JUNE–12 SEPTEMBER, 2 PM  
(EXCEPT 27 JUNE)

The Power Plant  
FREE with gallery admission

Every Sunday, speakers from the world of art and beyond offer their responses to the current exhibitions. Whether focusing on a single work/artist or on the entire exhibition, guest presenters draw provocative connections between our programs and broader cultural and intellectual debates.

20 JUNE / **ROBYN CUMMING**

Robyn Cumming is a Toronto-based artist whose work is featured in 'Adaptation: Between Species.' If she were a creature, she would be a troll baby because they're small, strong and totally adorable. If she were an object, it would be a stack of \$500 million with which to buy more objects. If she were an emotion, it would be laughing that turns into coughing... and then crying.



4 JULY / **BOJANA STANCIC & ALEX WOLFSON**

Trained at the University College Drama Program, University of Toronto, Bojana Stancic is a theatre designer who approaches her work as an installation art practice. Alex Wolfson is a playwright and theatre director whose work is often presented in galleries. Their latest collaborative performance installation, *And so, the animal looked back...*, at the Art Gallery of York University (2010), was concerned with the relationships between the many different creatures who live on Earth.

11 JULY / **COLIN CRAWFORD & DANIELLA SANADER**

Colin Crawford was born on the Wirral Peninsula (UK), studied Fine Art and the History of Art at Goldsmith's College, London, and is interested in Truth, Beauty and Ghost Stories. Daniella Sanader is completing her Honours BA at the University of Guelph, studying Art History, Art Theory & Criticism and Women's Studies. Both are Curatorial Interns at The Power Plant.

18 JULY / **SOPHIE HACKETT**

Sophie Hackett is the Assistant Curator, Photography at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO). She recently co-curated Barbara Kruger's *Untitled (It)*, a site-specific commission for the façade of the AGO.

25 JULY / **CRAIG MCFARLANE**

Craig McFarlane is a doctoral candidate in sociology at York University and teaches in the Department of Law at Carleton University. He writes about animal-human relations at [theoria.ca](http://theoria.ca).

### SUMMER BOOK SALE

☉ THURSDAY, 1 JULY, 2–6 PM

The Power Plant – Lakefront Terrace  
If weather conditions are poor, the sale will be moved indoors to The Power Plant's lobby.

Looking for fantastic deals on art books, exhibition catalogues and artist editions? Join us on Canada Day on our lakefront terrace for great sales not just on Power Plant publications but on a wide array of titles featured in our Store during past exhibitions—all at deep discounts!

### POWER KIDS

☉ SUNDAY, 15 AUGUST, 2–5 PM

The Power Plant  
\$4 Members, \$6 Non-Members (per child)  
For children ages 8–12 and their adult companions  
Spaces are limited to 20, so please call 416.973.4949 to reserve.

From Mowgli to Harry Potter, the ability to speak the language of the animals has been one of the ultimate magical powers granted to kids in storybooks. But this skill can also be learned just by trying hard enough, as British artists Marcus Coates and Lucy Gunning show in the exhibition 'Adaptation: Between Species.' Through drawing and video, we will record how people and seagulls share the space of the urban waterfront, and observe how bird behaviour reflects politics of friendship, opportunism, creativity, and deception. Speaking through the voices of seagulls, workshop participants will stage a comical video reflecting how we see ourselves as a species inhabiting the city.

Led by artist and educator **Olia Mishchenko**, the workshop will begin with a gallery tour designed for young visitors by The Power Plant's Animateurs.



1 AUGUST / **EDWARD KANERVA & SAELAN TWERDY**

Edward Kanerva has an MA in Studies in Comparative Literature & Art from Brock University, where he focused on avant-garde poetics and the work of Robert Smithson. Saelan Twedy is currently pursuing an MA in Art History at York University and is the music editor of *Color* magazine. Both are Curatorial Interns at The Power Plant.

8 AUGUST / **JOSHUA SCHUSTER**

Joshua Schuster is an assistant professor of English at the University of Western Ontario. He has published essays on poetry, philosophy and ecology, and is currently writing a book on the difference between environments and environmentalism in literature.

15 AUGUST / **DAVID REGAN**

David Regan tracks what happens to animals in Canada at [animalsincanada.wordpress.com](http://animalsincanada.wordpress.com) and teaches English at William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute.

22 AUGUST / **LISA VISSER**

Artist and curator Lisa Visser holds an Honours BFA from Queen's University and is currently in the Interdisciplinary Master's of Art, Media and Design at the Ontario College of Art & Design. Her work evokes tenuous human-animal relationships with deliberate miscommunication, humour and irony.

29 AUGUST / **MEERA MARGARET SINGH**

Meera Margaret Singh is a visual artist based in Toronto. She holds a BA (Anthropology) and a BFA (Photography) from the University of Manitoba, and an MFA from Concordia University. She is currently an instructor in the Photography department at the Ontario College of Art & Design.



5 SEPTEMBER / **JON DAVIES**

Jon Davies is the Assistant Curator of Public Programs at The Power Plant, where he recently co-curated the exhibition 'Ryan Trecartin: Any Ever.' He is also a widely published writer who is particularly interested in the relationships between human and non-human animals.

12 SEPTEMBER / **LAURA PAOLINI**

Laura Paolini is an artist living in Toronto, who practices as a professional writer, arts administrator, sometimes educator, and internet-kitty enthusiast.

PRIMARY EDUCATION SPONSOR

CIBC Wood Gundy