

NEVEN LOCHHEAD

Saturday, June 25, 2016 to Saturday, August 6, 2016



Neven Lochhead: *and after that what changes*

June 25 to August 6, 2016

Opening: Saturday, June 25 at 5 pm

Performance / Closing: Thursday, August 4 at 7 pm

State of Flux, Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre

and after that what changes is a new video by Neven Lochhead shot in Gatineau, Québec in 2016. Over the past year, while living in Syracuse and Los Angeles, Lochhead has been developing strategies for producing work that allows for his content to always remain open. When constructing his images, the notion of there ever being a final edit of the sequence is kept at a distance—an ambivalence toward closure that he says permits a more loving behavior to play out in the work.



Installation Image: Neven Lochhead, *and after that what changes*, single-channel video, 2016

The imagery in this new piece covers the span of one full day and night spent in the woods along the Gatineau River, with the changing of natural light being detected gradually over its duration. On top of these images, Lochhead takes the strange linguistic events of proper names as his primary instrument. Evoking a credits sequence, names are played over the images with varying degrees of density, movement, and volume, creating a suspended drama of nouns without a reference. Some names will appear in groups, suggesting a nascent form of collectivity. Others flash on the screen as single entities, inviting speculation about the possible lives to which they are/were/will be attached. Hundreds of names appear throughout the full length of the piece, all of which have been invented by the artist through a process of mutating and mixing preexisting names. As the names in the piece anticipate the context and community in which it is being viewed, they attempt to expand and collapse the proximities of familiarity taking place with the imagined viewer. Do you by chance know a Catt Rabalsky? Flora Kellers? Thames de Garde? Nevone Lugbed?

“And after that what changes what changes after that, after that what changes and what changes after that and after that and what changes and after that and what changes after that.” —from Gertrude Stein, *Composition as Explanation*

Performance / Closing Reception

Please join us on Thursday, August 4 at 7pm for a performance by Neven Lochhead in the Tett Centre's Community Gallery (Room 109), followed by a Closing Reception in Modern Fuel for his exhibition *and after that what changes* in our State of Flux Gallery. This event is free and all are welcome.

Neven Lochhead's performance *The Buffer Zone* is a choreographed procedure performed upon a projected video image. Holding the projector in his hands, Lochhead pans and swings images and text along the surfaces of the room with varying degrees of speed, scale and intensity. Building upon an optical illusion that he once saw performed by super-8 filmmaker John Porter at The Artel in 2009, as the digital projection drifts through the space, it appears to reveal an image zone that lingers beyond the borders of the video frame.

Following the performance, visitors are invited to join us in moving from the Community Gallery to Modern Fuel (both in the Tett Centre) for a Closing Reception.

Neven Lochhead is an artist from Kingston, Ontario who works in video, sound, and performance. He studied Art Video at Syracuse University, where he completed an MFA in May 2016. He attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine in 2015, and the Artist Research Laboratory in Como, Italy in 2014. Central to his working process is the harnessing and inhabiting of structures of excess, which he views as behavior-permitting zones that allow for strange utterances to emerge and become legible. An important zone of excess for Lochhead is the sustained state of silliness, and his works are often propelled by its exuberant magnetisms. He is currently based in Ottawa, Ontario.