

The Royal Society of Canada (Atlantic) in collaboration with For a New Earth presents

# FUTURE OF OCEANS

A SYMPOSIUM ON STEWARDING THE NORTH ATLANTIC

**Saturday 16 March 2019**

Signal Hill Campus, Memorial University, St. John's

**SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM**



For A New Earth



Faculty of Arts





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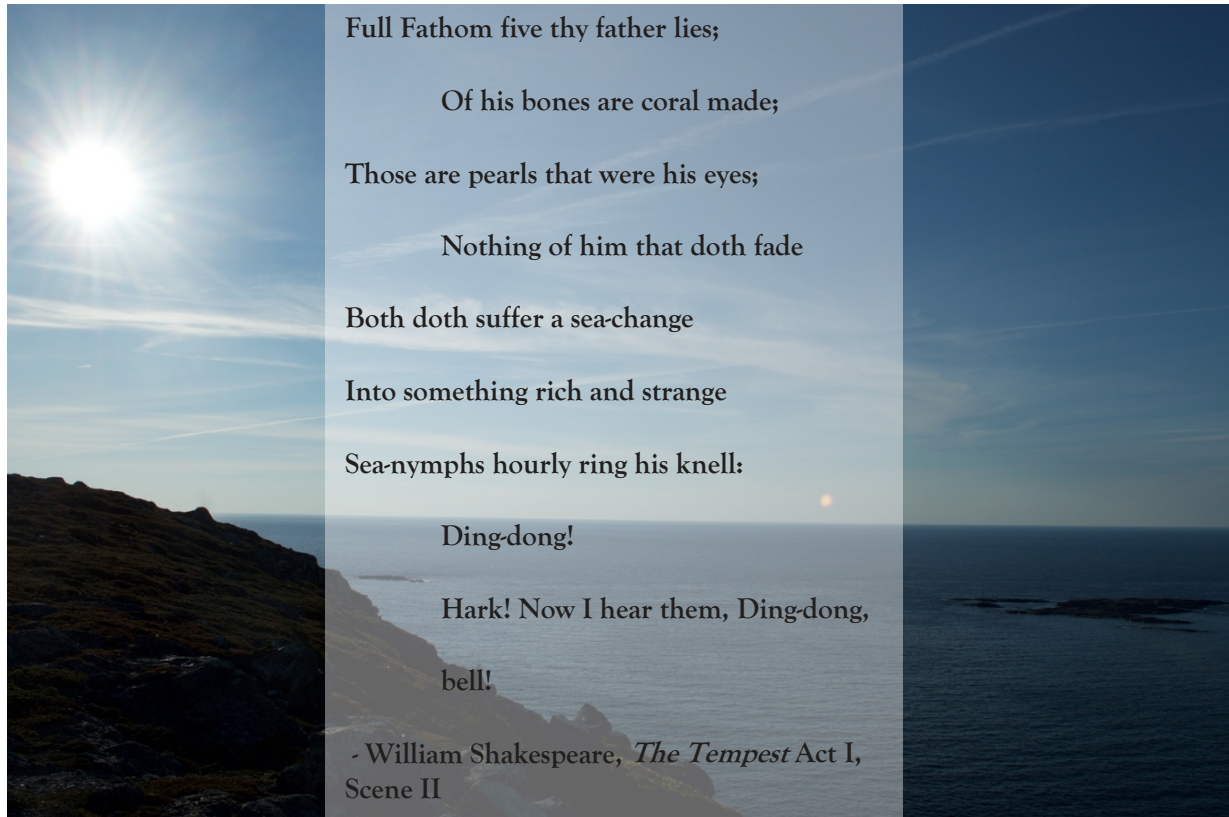
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# WELCOME TO THE FUTURE OF OCEANS

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Whether you are a visitor to the city or a resident of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Directors of For a New Earth (FANE) welcome participants to the *Future of Oceans Symposium*, held in the newly opened Emera Innovation Exchange space at Memorial University's new Signal Hill Campus.

The *Symposium* brings together a diverse group of community leaders, academics, students, scientists, journalists and activists to think creatively about how best to steward the North Atlantic. The intended outcome of this event is a white paper which will outline a set of ecological and policy recommendations for government and industry. Topics addressed in the symposium include: aquaculture, the warming and acidification of cold-water oceans, rising seas and the submersion of human and non-human environments, sustainable fisheries, the symbolism of the sea in Atlantic Canadian history and culture, ocean waste and pollution (and what to do about it), the unique features of North Atlantic ecology, and the social and political obstacles to healthy oceans.

We hope you find the event and venue an inspiring and dynamic way to engage with some of the most pressing concerns facing Newfoundland and Labrador, as the Province navigates its rich and complex relationships to the sea.



# SYMPOSIUM HOSTS

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## **For a New Earth**

<http://foranewearth.org>

We mobilize knowledge in philosophy, science, and art and make it available to communities for the sake of opening up a public discussion about the future of our planet. Our common purpose is *ecological conversion*—to transform the imaginations and practices of our Newfoundland and Labrador communities—first, confronting the facts of how climate change and the inevitable end of the fossil fuel age is impacting our lives, and secondly, and more importantly, using our ingenuity to create new ways to sustain our communities both economically and culturally.



## **Royal Society of Canada (Atlantic)**

<https://rsc-src.ca/en>

The Royal Society of Canada recognizes leaders and their work in order to help them build a better future in Canada and around the world.

## **The College of the Royal Society**

<https://rsc-src.ca/en/college-members>

The College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists is Canada's first national system of multidisciplinary recognition for the emerging generation of Canadian intellectual leadership. It comprises a fourth entity (along with the current three Academies) within the Royal Society of Canada. The Members of the College are Canadians and Permanent Residents who, at an early stage in their career, have demonstrated a high level of achievement.



## **Memorial University**

<https://mun.ca>



As Newfoundland and Labrador's only university, Memorial has a special obligation to the people of this province. Established as a memorial to the Newfoundlanders who lost their lives on active service during the First World War and subsequent conflicts, Memorial University draws inspiration from these sacrifices of the past as we help to build a better future for our province, our country and our world. At Memorial University more than 18,000 students from over 100 countries come together to discover. From the classics to advanced technology, Memorial offers certificate, diploma, undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate programs across four campuses and online. A global network of more than 90,000 accomplished alumni throughout the world strengthens Memorial University's capacity and reputation for leadership in research, teaching and public engagement.



# SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

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## 9:00a.m. - 12:00pm

Sean McGrath (MUN;FANE) - Introductory Remarks

John Michael Lannon (Crossroads, HSSE) - Land acknowledgment

President Gary Kachanoski (MUN) - Welcome to Signal Hill Campus

Six Keynotes (20 mins each)

Maxime Geoffroy (MI: MUN): *The North Atlantic Ecosystem*

Uta Passow (CRC: MUN): *Marine Waste*

Bernie Boudreau (Dal): *Ocean Acidification*

Gordon Slade (Shorefast): *Ocean Ethics: The Fogo Process*

Áslaug Ásgeirsdóttir (Bates College): *Ocean Governance*

Brett Favaro (MI, MUN): *Sustainable Fisheries*

## 12-1pm Lunch and Learn (lunch provided)

12:20-12:40 Zoe Finkel (OFI, DAL);

12:40-1:00 Mary Denniston (Nunatsiavut): Imappivut

## 1-3:30pm - Concurrent panel discussions with moderators:

Table A: *Restoring and Protecting Ecosystems* led by Bill Montevecchi (MUN)

Table B: *Renewing Rural Communities* led by Jane Adey (CBC, the Broadcast)

Table C: *Mobilizing the Community* led by Sheilagh O’Leary (Deputy Mayor, St. John’s)

Table D: *Climate Change & Marine Ecosystems* led by Arnault Le Bris (MI, MUN)

Table E: *Sustainable Ocean Economies* led by Jay Foster (MPhil, MUN)

Table F: *Aquaculture and Food Security* led by Stephen Sutton (ASF)

## 3:15-4:30 pm Art Exhibit / Reception / Performance

- featuring Laura Loewen and Jane Leibel



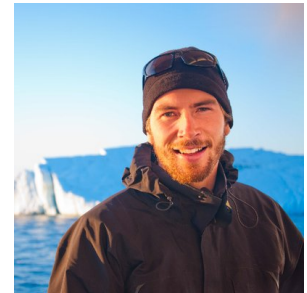


# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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Dr. Maxime Geoffroy, Research Scientist, Marine Institute, Centre for Fisheries Ecosystems Research (CFER), Memorial University

Dr. Maxime Geoffroy is a research scientist with expertise in bioacoustics, marine ecology and biological oceanography. His research aims at better understanding the ecology of North Atlantic and Arctic pelagic fish in relation to hydrography and climate change. In addition to ship-based surveys, he uses new technology, as unmanned vehicles and active acoustic moorings, to study marine ecosystems.



Dr. Uta Passow, Canada Research Chair in Ocean Science, Memorial University

Research involves studying the impact of climate change and contaminants on the biological carbon pump, to increase our understanding of the impacts of climate change and oil or plastic pollution on marine ecosystems and allow development of mediating measures.



Dr. Bernard Boudreau, Professor of Oceanography, Dalhousie University

Research focus: Chemical oceanography: ocean acidification in rel. to climate change, marine geology  
PhD: Geology and Geophysics, Yale University  
M Phil and Masters: Geology & Geophysics, Yale University  
Masters II: Oceanography, Texas A&M University





### Dr. Gordon Slade, Director, Shorefast

Director, Shorefast Foundation. Gordon Slade is former Minister of Fisheries. Since 1996, he has served as an independent consultant in the fields of heritage, cultural tourism, and community development. Gordon is the former Chair and Managing Director of Battle Harbour Historic Trust.



### Dr. Brett Favaro, Research Scientist, Marine Institute, Memorial University

Research focus: Sustainable fishing technology, science-policy interface, arctic ecosystems  
Postdoc: University of Victoria, BC  
PhD: Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC and Vancouver Island University



### Dr. Áslaug Ásgeirsdóttir, Professor of Politics, Bates College, Maine

Professor Ásgeirsdóttir teaches courses focusing on international political economy, international cooperation, the Arctic and ocean governance. Her research focuses on governing of oceans and its resources. Her current research focuses on the settlement of maritime boundaries after 1960 and the politics of marine spatial planning in Northern Europe and the Gulf of Maine.





# ARTISTS AND PERFORMERS

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The symposium will conclude with a reception, an art exhibit curated by the Gerald Squires Art Gallery, and a performance of classical music by Dr. Laura Loewen (University of Manitoba) and Dr. Jane Leibel of Memorial University's Faculty of Music.





## ***Anita Singh***

Born in Guyana of Russian and Caribbean heritage, Singh explored several Canadian cities, New York and England before a fateful trip that led her to St. John's nearly two decades ago. Encaustics, printmaking and ceramics are her primary media. She is always evolving. Singh currently lives in St. John's with her husband and son.

Mushroom gills? Seaweed? Flower buds? Mermaids purse? Or are they birds? Maybe bunches of cells, swimming protozoa, bacterial balls?

The primordial, ambiguous organic forms of Anita Singh's recent works, belied by a surface simplicity, draw us into worlds within worlds. Worlds beyond modern language and rational thought, worlds of biotic surrealism and the ancient languages of emotion and intuition. They call us back to both the roots of life on earth and to the abyss. Richly layered, colourful and tactile, they celebrate a chaotic exuberance and terror which has it's own logic, pre-existing and resisting human order.

Inspired by the natural and subconscious worlds, Anita Singh is a seeker of patterns and glitches, a reveller in the ordered chaos of the universe. Her work documents the place where they meet. Suited well by island life, proximity to the ocean has fostered the connection Singh seeks to illustrate the enigmatic beauty of the marine world.

Depth through layers and a multi media approach generate inner structures that form the basis of her work. Singh dives beneath the surface of daily cognition.

*Felicity Roberts*





## ***BOYD CHUBBS***

Photo by Kristine Power, MUN

1955 Born - L'Anse Au Clair, NL. Poet, musician and artist Boyd Chubb's work has been featured in several exhibitions, galleries and museums such as Labrador Interpretation Centre, North West River Rooms Provincial Art Gallery Permanent Collection Municipal Collection, City of St. John's Provincial Art Bank, Newfoundland and Labrador Henley and Associates, St. John's, CEFI, Burlington, ON

Private collections Canada, United States, Europe, Ireland.

His poetry and music have been broadcast and featured on both regional and national CBC Radio and Television. He has received numerous private and public commissions for drawings and illuminations. From 1987 to 1990 Boyd was Poet-in-Residence at the former Nova Scotia Teacher's College in Truro. His previous books of poems include *Lines from the Migrant Coast* (Mokoshan, 1989), *Through Solomon's Lane* (Mokoshan, 1991), *Poems from the Burntwoods* (Creative Publishing, 1995), *And You, Blessed Healer* (Breakwater Books, 1996), *The Birth and Burial Grounds* (Breakwater Books, 1999), *'Feral Domicile'* (Breakwater, 2008) and with Gerald Squires, the illuminated Book of Job, titled *'The Legend of Job'* (2016)

A play-in-progress, *A Day Upon the Wooden Crow*, was given two stage-readings by the RCA Theatre Company in St. John's in 1998. His guitar compositions include three recordings, *Spanish in the Harbour* (1991), *Across Waters and Stones* (1998) and *'Prossers Rock'* (2011)

My drawings, in recent years, from 1998 onwards, have been exploring my deep-rooted sense of myth, the mythology of land, sea and all the elements entering into the human and emerging as personal story. Sometimes those stories are then filtered through long-made models, the Holy Books for instance. But all stories told and rendered by image become, always, personal.



***George Horan***

I am a professional artist who lives in St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador.

I began showing my work in commercial galleries in the 1980's. I have a long history of solo and group shows both here and abroad. In 1985 through 1989 I exhibited in an international juried exhibition in Cognac, and subsequently by invitation in Bordeaux and Paris, France. During the late 1980's until 1990 I taught life drawing and portrait painting for Memorial University of Newfoundland Extension Services.

I continue to be fascinated by the beautiful, mysterious and ambiguous aspects of the Newfoundland landscape. The duality of our lives and of our environment provides inspiration in both my representational and abstract meditations in paint.

My work is shown at the Gerald Squires Gallery, and Emma Butler Gallery, in St. John's. My most recent solo exhibition was presented by Emma Butler Gallery in May 2018.



## ***Gerald Squires, C.M., D.Litt., R.C.A.***



Born in Change Islands, Newfoundland on November 17, 1937. Gerald died Oct 3, 2015. A painter, sculptor, printmaker, art activist and teacher, much of Squires' large body of work finds its inspiration in the landscape and culture of Newfoundland. His solo exhibitions have travelled to public art galleries across Canada and his work has been included in numerous juried exhibitions in Canada, Great Britain, the United States, France and India. Corporate and public collectors of his works include Hibernia Management & Development Ltd.; The National Library, Ottawa; The Permanent collection of the Rooms Provincial Art Gallery, St. John's; the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; the Robert McLaughlin Art Gallery, Oshawa; and the Confederation Centre Art Gallery, P.E.I. Several of his works deemed as 'national treasures' have been collected through the Certified Canadian Cultural Properties Act.

Squires has been the recipient of many honours, including the Saidye & Samuel Bronfman 'Best Young Artist Award' (1965); the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council's 'Ted Drover Award for Excellence in Visual Arts' (1984); The Canada Council for the Arts "B" Award (1987); the honorary degree of 'doctor of letters' from Memorial University of Newfoundland (1992); the Order of Canada (1999); member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (1999); The Newfoundland & Labrador Arts' Council's 'recognition of a significant contribution to the Arts', Hall of Honour award (2008).

### **Time is Bearing Another Son**

The enormous energy of the figures and landscapes and their symbolic interplay in Squires' Boatman Series serve to undermine any simple notion of these paintings as being solely laments for self or for damage culture. They are expressive of great grief, but that grief undergoes a transformation in the prism of art.

Shakespeare says it well in his great dramatic poem to the sea and to the imagination,

#### *The Tempest:*

Full fathom five thy father lies,  
Of his bones are coral made:  
Those are pearls that were his eyes.  
Nothing of him that doth fade,  
But doth suffer a sea-change  
Into something rich and strange.  
Mary Dalton



## ***Gerald Vaandering***

Gerald Vaandering grew up in Ontario and is now a Newfoundland and Labrador based artist having moved to NL in 2009. He graduated with a Liberal arts BA with a visual arts emphasis and a teaching degree from Dordt College in Iowa and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Western Ontario. He has worked as an artist and art educator for the last 35 years. His most recent work of note came out of his residency at The Labrador Institute Research Station (LIRS) located in North West River Labrador. Gerald works in a variety of mediums and substrates depending on the desired tone of the work.

While you will find a handful of landscape paintings to his name the principal theme of Gerald's work looks at culture and the economy that shapes the world we live in. Images of people in business attire swimming in water, or the same group presented, as hunter-gatherers are more common in his art, however his most current work uses ashes and burnt fish, suits and ties implied.

### **Ashes and Penance**

These ashes are obviously what they appear to be, the carbon remains, ashes, of fish. Added to the pieces are a few drops of mercury, a direct reference to methyl mercury contamination down stream of many hydroelectric dams around the world. Ashes are a memory. Ashes are a signifier of mourning and for some a sign of penance.

My artist response in part, were these pieces called *Ashes and Penance* that points to loss and memory/memorial for what once was and now is gone.

### **Diving In**

A man in business attire diving into the water that is also a swirl with the number of the daily stock market quotes. This is about the economy of a place, how it shapes our culture, the very lives we live. It can sustain us and we can drown in it and be destroyed by it. The concept of the immersive and pervasive nature of water is very compelling in this discussion of its ability to sustain life. When the world and everything in it is 75% water I am surprised at how we use it, take it, and what we throw into it.





## ***Peter Wilkins***

(British, b. 1968) a multimedia artist based in Clarke's Beach, Newfoundland. Wilkins' various bodies of work have been exhibited in public and private galleries across Canada and abroad, including The Rooms Provincial Art Gallery (St. John's, NL), Confederation Centre Art Gallery (Charlottetown, PEI), the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (Victoria, B.C), and Canada House (London, England) and the 55th Venice Biennale. His portrait and landscape artworks are held in public and private collections in Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, France and Greece. In 2009, Peter Wilkins was the inaugural artist-in-residence at Memorial University (St John's, NL). In 2011, his works based on the architecture of Toronto were exhibited as a featured exhibition of the Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival (Toronto, ON). In 2013, Wilkins exhibited at the 55th Venice Biennale in the Collateral Event, About Turn: Newfoundland in Venice, Will Gill & Peter Wilkins. Most recently he showed 72 British Albums at Old Truman Brewery in London and in 2016 is exhibiting three new 4k video works at Interaccess in Toronto.

### **Humpback Whale, Blue. 2014**

Looped HD Video.

The mythic search for whales is one of the most dramatic and romantic stories on the seas. This is humpback whale has been captured by camera in Conception Bay. By reflecting and repeating the image we can see the first possible steps of meiosis, splitting into 4 segments, as the viewer witnesses the scale of the whale and it's completed steps of meiosis, swim through the ocean.



## ***WILL GILL***

A St John's based artist whose practice spans photography, painting, sculpture and live-action work. He has exhibited nationally and internationally. Gill was selected to the national long list in the 2004 and 2006 "Sobey Art Award" competitions. This is Canada's premiere award for acknowledging contemporary artists under 40 years of age. Will's work is in many private and public collections and is handled exclusively through Christina Parker Gallery in St. John's, Newfoundland. He lives and works in St John's, Newfoundland, Canada.

### **The Green Chair**

My work has, for many years, involved the ocean in some way or other. I am perpetually fascinated and in awe of its strength, beauty and capacity to give and take. I wanted to create a piece that was poetic in a way; a piece that was about solitude, strength against circumstance and perhaps loss. The idea of placing a chair in the face of the onslaught of wind, waves and water spoke to the idea of quiet fortitude against unrelenting forces. During the 2017 Bonavista Biennale, visitors to the site were encouraged to visit more than once to see the chair in many conditions: when the waves were active and wild, when it was calm, when tides were high and low and when the light was different. While it existed, it was an ever-changing work. I saw the work as collaboration between the ocean and myself. March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 The Green Chair was damaged beyond repair by pack ice blown onshore.