



Monster

Presented with the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad with the support of the Audain Foundation
Exhibition runs from February 5 to May 8, 2010

Opening reception: February 4, 7pm – 9pm

Artist talks: Howie Tsui: February 6, 1pm - 2:30pm
Alexandra Flood: February 6, 3pm - 4:30pm
Sandra Meigs: March 20, 1:30pm - 3pm

"I am alone and miserable; man will not associate with me; but one as deformed and horrible as myself would not deny herself to me. My companion must be of the same species and have the same defects. This being you must create."

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Artists have depicted monsters in both a literal and figurative manner to critique the social, cultural and religious worlds of their time by producing works that address terror, atrocity, war, disease, discrimination and the abuses of power.

Hiding in the periphery, on the boundary between the known and unknown, the real and unreal, monsters lie in wait to prey on human vulnerability and fear. Various creatures, acting as portents, appear as key figures in mythology, legend, oral tradition, literature, popular culture and in art.

Children are taught through fairytales and parables that if sage advice is ignored a wolf will devour them or a monster will come and cut off their fingers. To ensure a safe passage through childhood, lessons are often highlighted with threatening imagery.

By demonizing that which is dangerous, alien, morally or physically repugnant and by championing "good" over "evil", the beast afflicting us can be defeated. Alternatively, we build walls behind which to hide, avert our eyes and avoid the uncomfortable so that our security and certainty is assured. Or is it?

This contemporary art exhibition features innovative works by Canadian and international artists Shuvina Ashoona, Shary Boyle, Lutz Braun, Beau Dick, Marcel Dzama, Alexandra Flood, Sandra Meigs, Nick Sikkuark, Corin Sworn, Joseph Tisiga, Howie Tsui and Nicola Tyson.

Monster explores the depths of human anxiety to provoke critical thought on the underlying reasons for monstrous sensibilities in contemporary art production.

THE | **AUDAIN** FOUNDATION

West Vancouver **Museum**

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