



November 25, 2008
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KIAC SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS OVER THE WIRE EXHIBITION WITH IAIN BAXTER&

Sense of Place Guide

SOVA Gallery, Dawson City, Yukon
Dec 16th-Jan 16th

Opening coincides with SOVA Open Studios Dec. 16th, 2009 from 5-7pm

For the fourth installment in the OVER THE WIRE Series, SOVA students work with acclaimed artist Iain Baxter&.

Iain Baxter& is one of the most important living Canadian artists responsible for defining and developing Conceptual Art during the 60s and 70s under the guise of N.E. Thing Company Ltd. Baxter& originally travelled to the Arctic in 1969 with Ingrid Baxter, American artist Lawrence Weiner, and art historian Lucy Lippard, where the ensemble created several art works around Inuvik, NWT. One of these works resulted in a collaborative project with David Askevold's "Project Class" at NSCAD involving early Telex technology and exploring what NE Thing Co. called "the aesthetics of distance"—a concept at the core of OVER THE WIRE. Since then, Iain Baxter& has gone on to exhibit in museums around the world, received the Order of Canada, and awarded the Canada Council's Molson Prize.

OVER THE WIRE is a project series that creates an exchange between an established Artist and the KIAC School of Visual Arts. Each semester, a set of instructions created by a distant Artist is delivered to the students in order to produce a new work. The students in turn interpret the instructions and create the work locally for exhibition.

Immersed in the sensual, infomatic world of Iain Baxter&, SOVA students are creating a *Sense of Place Guide* for Dawson City. Pairing colours and the senses, the work is a portrait of one of Canada's most unique locations full of history. Photographs and reflections on the community will be collected for an exhibition opening in the SOVA Gallery on Dec 16th at 5pm and then published in a book later in the year.

"We are excited to have our students and Iain collide in this project. Iain brings such a wealth of experience and wry wit in regards to the world we live in and the way we shape the world, and the students provide a unique perspective on a community driven by the tourist industry." says Charles Stankieveh who organises the series.

As Lucy Lippard wrote in 1969: "Baxter is... the prototype of the new artist, a product of the McLubricated era but also of the vast natural landscape in which he lives. Like the archetypal artist, however, he is concerned with ways of seeing, and seeing the natural and the artificial environment, and he is concerned with communicating these ways so that others see more clearly the world about them."

More information about *Sense of Place Guide* as well as the previous three OVER THE WIRE projects can be found online at: <http://media.kiacsova.ca/over-the-wire>.

OVER THE WIRE is another example of how the SOVA foundation year provides students with learning experiences that reflect the unique approach to arts education that is SOVA.

For more information contact the following:

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The KIAC School of Visual Arts is operated under a joint partnership between the Dawson City Arts Society, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon College, with funding from Government of Yukon.

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