

Surrey_cine

Exploring Surrey's Geographic Landscapes
October 2 – December 18, 2005

Doku'ment

A video by Veeno Dewan,
Music by technojerker and the roaming rips



Daydream

An animation by Maya Ersan



The Class from 5 to 9

A video by Nimi Langer,
Music by Bruce Henczel, and
Coin Gutter,
Co-Cinematographer Sebnem Koyuncu



Surrey Seen

In 2005, the Surrey Art Gallery celebrates 30 years of exhibitions and education in contemporary art. To recognize the ongoing support of the citizens of Surrey, the Gallery is presenting a series of projects that consider the complexities and characteristics of Surrey. The Surrey Art Gallery commissioned these three media works on the theme of Surrey for this exhibit.



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Doku'ment

A video by Veeno Dewan, Music by technojerk and the roaming rips

Veeno Dewan's *Doku'ment Surrey* presents a multifaceted snapshot of contemporary Surrey and its natural and human geography. Using time-lapse traveling road shots, viewers are taken on a surreal high speed journey around the City and its neighbourhoods... Viewers may find themselves thinking: "I know this...but where is it? Or: "I pass by this every day, but I've never seen it like this before."

Artist Veeno Dewan seeks to show beautiful as well as raw images of Surrey. He is interested in its different landscapes, the multicultural, urban, industrial, parks, water, and mountain views. He says, "Side by side with rapidly changing Surrey I am also seeking to capture the stillness and unchanging facets of the City – strip malls and farms juxtaposed with rows of nearly identical new single family houses in standardized symmetrical plots. There are literally hundreds of panoramas people pass by every day and barely notice. Dewan says, "I am a resident of Surrey who appreciates and realizes the exciting, amazing and very diverse community we live in. I have a vested interest as a multimedia video artist in seeing this project come to fruition and would very much welcome the chance to be involved in this project. I think *Doku'ment Surrey Seen* is an excellent opportunity to present the City in a light it's not been seen in before."

About the Artist:

Veeno Dewan was born in the East End of London in the United Kingdom. The child of South Asian Immigrants he grew up as an artist with a strong drive to document, explore and disseminate the immigrant 'Stranger in a strange land' experience common to so many first and second generation children of Immigrants in the West. Combining a career as both an artist, journalist and filmmaker for institutions such as the BBC, Channel 4 and as an independent have given Veeno much scope to travel, redefine and explore the boundaries of the truly cross cultural society. Veeno has exhibited his photographic, small installation and video art work in the UK. He moved to Canada in late 2002, and formed a progressive independent TV and Film Company and has become active in the Vancouver

arts scene. He is a board member of the Video In Arts Collective and has served in an advisory capacity for the CBC. In 2005 Veeno is embarking on a number of new arts driven projects.

Acknowledgements: Cameras and technical support provided by: Video In studios, Editing: Direction and Camera: by Veeno Dewan. Music supplied by technojerk and the roaming rips.

Special thanks to: Surrey Art Gallery; Chandra Kanta, Vineel Rajan Dewan, Shaylen Anita, Savika Shirleen; all staff at Video in Studios, Donna Szoke, Emma Hendrix, Mark Curry Dinka Pignon and Rafael Tschida.



Video still from *Doku'ment*

Daydream

An animation by Maya Ersan

Daydream

You are invited to embark on a journey beyond the clouds!

Above the Fraser River, as the valley stretches south towards the ocean, floats a place rich with melancholic romance.

This is where all the things that you think you left behind live.

Every once in a while they will visit you, (that's why they came along after all) bringing you smells, sounds and visions of long ago and far away.

They grow with you and change, becoming faint with time and eventually, they die.

Between two skytrain stations, there is a secret passage to this place. If you ride the skytrain often you will notice people who ride back and forth for days trying to find the secret station, for they have heard there is none like the one that floats above the city of Surrey.

Visions of incredible colour, depth and diversity float about. There are so many, from so many different places, so many belief systems, so many sounds, noises and languages all living together. It's said that if you ever find your way there, it will change the way you see the world.

Maya Ersan's animation is inspired by conversations with people who have not grown up in Surrey and therefore have to negotiate a complicated emotional relationship with their new landscape. She says "I intend to walk around Surrey and talk to people who have recently immigrated to Surrey, asking them their memories about their first toy. My aim is to investigate these objects as portals into places and times remembered. As a recent immigrant myself, I find that the closer I look at what it means/feels to be culturally and geographically separated from where I experienced my childhood, the closer I become to what my immediate surroundings mean emotionally. Geographical displacement creates an absence of a connection from the past to the present. It's not automatic for me to imagine myself walking down these streets for years to come because I don't have an image of myself running through them as a little girl. Using images of Surrey; (scrap yards, highways, buildings, architecture, etc) a collage/ reconfiguration will create an imagined landscape out of contemporary Surrey. In this imagined landscape

these toys that are reconstructed from memory will play out a story. This will be an attempt/ suggestion to replace a feeling of disconnection or absence with an attention to details and subtleties in the immediate surroundings."

About the Artist:

Maya Ersan was born and raised in Istanbul Turkey, and has been living in Vancouver since 1998. She is currently co-directing a community art project named *Our Community Story* that focuses on the living history of the Hastings Sunrise neighbourhood in East Vancouver. Since Graduating from the Emily Carr Institute in 2003, she has worked on projects in Canada and Turkey. The 2003 Istanbul Biennial, a four month work-study at the Banff Centre for the Arts, an experimental residency project, "ETAY" in Montreal in February 2005 are some of the experiences that have led her to her current medium; time based collage and stop motion animation. Her latest short piece *çay içerken - in between sips* has shown in Vancouver (Video-In Studios) and New York City (Ph Gallery & Rush Arts Gallery).

Acknowledgments: Cinematography and animation by Maya Ersan; Song: "Kadikoylu" by Deniz Kizi Eftelya. Thanks to Alev Ersan and the Surrey Art Gallery.



video still from *Daydream*

The Class from 5 to 9
A video by Nimi Langer,
Music by Bruce Henczel, and
Coin Gutter,
Co-Cinematographer Sebnem Koyuncu.

In the video "*The Class from 5 to 9*", Nimi Langer presents the awakening of Surrey B.C., from the point of view and thoughts of Ms. Holman, an elementary school teacher, during her commute to school. The morning events the teacher encounters are filmed and layered with the teacher's students' voices which follow the teacher outside the school, and together with the imagery and music present a subjective statement on the uniqueness of Surrey as a city and as a home.

While the video contrasts a narrative of the teacher's life commuting to Surrey from Vancouver with the hopes and dreams about the future of the students, it also documents the changing patterns that are emerging in the greater urban district. Surrey is no longer a bedroom community, but instead is a site of employment for many people who live in Vancouver and other cities in the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

About the Artist:

Nimi Langer creates both art and commercial video works. His experimental documentaries have been exhibited in Europe and Canada. He studied law and theatre at the Hebrew University in Israel, and film in Tel Aviv and Vancouver. In 2003, together with a group of new media artists, Langer founded the Disasteroids, an artist collective, committed to promote an experimental approach to collaborative art making. Langer is also a partner in City Talks Inc. and works as the director of its documentary-style walking tours.

Acknowledgements: Produced and directed by Nimi Langer; Teacher: Andrea Holman Cramer; cinematography by Nimi Langer and Sebnem Koyuncu; Music: "Unity" by Coin Gutter; "Andrea's Morning Journey" and "Bhagra" by Bruce Henczel; Children's voices: Grade 5 students, Cougar Creek Elementary School.

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video still from *The Class from 9 to 5*

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