Ruth Beer

In collaboration with
Jim Budd & Kit Grauer

CATCH + RELEASE

Mapping Stories
of CULTURAL AND
GEOGRAPHIC TRANSITION

May 12-30, 2010

Opening reception:
May 11, 2010 7 – 9:00pm
Gulf of Georgia Cannery
National Historic Site

12138 Fourth Avenue,
Steveston, BC, Canada

www.gulfofgeorgiacannery.com

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The Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site proudly presents **Catch + Release: Mapping stories of cultural and geographic transition**, an exhibition of new work by Ruth Beer in collaboration with Jim Budd and Kit Grauer. The exhibition includes sculptures, a video, and an interactive and immersive projection.

Beer's practice is grounded in sculptural considerations of form and its relationship to the body. **Catch + Release: Mapping stories of cultural and geographic transition** marks her first instance of incorporating interactive digital technology.

> A series of geologically inspired sculptures, video interviews with collaged excerpts, and an interactive component focus on the coastal salmon fishing industries as a means for considering the geocultural history and future of Canada's West Coast region.

The exhibition includes projected visual translations of real-time data from NEPTUNE, Canada's underwater ocean observatory in the Strait of Georgia and the Pacific Ocean west of Vancouver Island areas historically rich in salmon. The visual patterns of the gallery transmission are disrupted by visitors' presence, underscoring the relationship between our present ecological circumstance, our history and our impact on the future.

The accumulated scientific data in the projection echoes the implied accretion of minerals/materials in the sculpture formations and the polyphony of diverse voices in the collected video narratives, referring to both cultural and geological time.

Beer works at the intersections of art and research. As a highly respected educator at Emily Carr University, she has mentored and supported a new generation of artists. This project is part of a SSHRC Research/Creation in the Fine Arts grant in collaboration with Kit Grauer and Jim Budd. The project will continue to be developed over the next two years. It will be presented in museums in other international coastal cities where local and global conditions have similarly impacted fishing and the fishing industry that once played a key role in the economic and cultural life of the community.