

o'born contemporary

## MEDIA KIT 2012



# ABOUT US

O'Born Contemporary is a commercial gallery dedicated to exhibiting and disseminating recent works by living artists. The gallery opened its doors in 2008, settling in Queen West/Lower Ossington in September 2010 where it validated its position among leading contemporary galleries. OBC continues to seek out the best in the contemporary art field, presenting exhibitions by established and mid-career artists while fostering the careers of local emergent artists and collectives.

The artists represented and exhibited at OBC do not necessarily commit themselves to a single mode of expression but all contribute to the ongoing dialogue of photography's place in contemporary art practices. OBC currently represents fourteen artists and collectives working in every medium, including photography, digital assemblage, painting, collage and film installation.

In September 2011, O'Born Contemporary introduced auxiliary programming, geared toward a wider audience and including artists' resources. Events include performances, studio and collection tours, critiques, portfolio reviews, film screenings and collaborative ventures.

Through our consultation services, we are able to assist new collectors in developing their collections and also support experienced collectors in further investment, or divestment of their existing collections.

We are committed to passionate representation of our Gallery Artists and enthusiastic promotion of all works displayed in our gallery. O'Born Contemporary will continue to build its success on experience, education, and intuition in business and the arts.

# BIOGRAPHIES

## Principal & Sole Proprietor, Donald O'Born

In 1961, Donald O'Born and his brother opened a small graphic design and printing partnership. The business grew to become The Printing House, a national family-owned chain. Along the way, Donald collected photography, amassing a significant collection with seminal works by historical and modern masters. He also supported cultural initiatives in the city through active philanthropy as well as sitting on the boards of community and not-for-profit arts organizations. Upon his retirement from The Printing House in 2006 Donald began studying photography in earnest, developing his personal creative eye while continuing to collect work.

In 2007, Donald with the guidance of P. Elaine Sharpe and Carla Garnet began planning for a new business. After several proposed incarnations, the three resolved to open a photo-specific contemporary commercial art gallery at 710 Yonge Street, on the second floor. O'Born Contemporary opened its doors in June 2008 with an exhibition that reflected Donald's personal artistic proclivity: Play/Quatre Jeux comprised four female artists' portrait work. Subsequently, O'Born Contemporary moved to 131 Ossington and broadened its medium-specific mandate to include all mediums.

Donald is self-taught, as a gallerist and a business-owner.

## Director, Natalie MacNamara

Natalie MacNamara is a gallerist, curator, collector and consultant working primarily in Toronto. As director of O'Born Contemporary, Natalie presents lens-based and 'lens-linked' works to collectors, art-lovers and audiences. This broadened approach to medium specific programming reflects Natalie's view of content's position over instrument in art-making. Photography as an implement for art-works remains Natalie's first passion and informs her choices in both curation and collection.

Natalie has managed private collections; coordinated an international art exhibition and competition, Edmonton Print International (EPI 2008); curated alternative art spaces, including the presentation and performance of Mitchell Chan's kinetic sculpture and a Nuit Blanche public installation, both at The Spoke Club; and administered innumerable exhibitions. Natalie has sat as reviewer for Scotiabank Contact's portfolio reviews among internationally renowned curators, art dealers, directors, publishers and photo editors to review work by emerging and mid-career artists and photographers.

Natalie graduated from Ryerson University with a BFA in Image Arts.

# BIOGRAPHIES cont..

## Co- Director, Lili Huston- Herterich

Lili Huston-Herterich is an artist and curator currently working in Toronto. Her interest in conceptual and alternative approaches to art making has significantly informed her contributions to O'Born Contemporary's programming; moving forward, she will spearhead O'Born's new auxiliary programming, including artist forums, performances, and events for local artists, that will reinforce the gallery's commitment to Toronto's vivid community.

Lili also began and currently co- directs and curates Butcher Gallery, an alternative exhibition space founded in a living room in 2009 committed to the exhibition of installation and project-based work by young artists locally and internationally. Lili received her BFA from York University with a focus in new media arts in 2010.

## Consultant, Ann Miller

Ann is an art advisor and collector who lives and works in Toronto.

As O'Born Contemporary's dedicated art consultant, Ann focuses on developing relationships with new and existing clients. As a seasoned sale professional, Ann's primary focus is placing art in commercial, public and private collections.

Experienced as a sales manager specializing in consumer goods marketing and operations, Ann move to New York City to pursue a new career in art. Once arriving in New York City, Ann joined the elite Marianne Boesky Gallery and Zach Feuer Gallery, representing artist such as Yoshitomo Nara, Rachel Feinstein and Sean Landers. In May 2011, she contributed to the acclaimed exhibition of the late Salvatore Scarpitta, granting her the opportunity to interact with the legendary Julian Schnabel, Jeff Koons and Nancy Rubins. Ann also served as assistant and protégé to the notorious art advisor Venetia Kapernekas.

Ann, a native to Seattle, graduated from the University of Washington in 2004, with a bachelor degree in Communication and Art History. She is a long time patron of the arts and has been affiliated with such institutions as the Seattle Art Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New Museum, Museum of Modern Art and the Art Gallery of Ontario.

## When did O’Born Contemporary open?

OBC held its inaugural exhibition in June 2008.

## Does O’Born Contemporary exhibit photography exclusively?

OBC’s original mandate was to show photography and lens-based images. In September 2010, the mandate was broadened to include ‘lens-linked’ works in addition to photographic and digital works. OBC now exhibits all mediums that contribute to the ongoing dialogue of photography’s place in contemporary art practices.

## How many artists does O’Born Contemporary represent?

OBC embraces a (we think) progressive approach to artist representation: The relationship between gallery and artist is fostered over time in effort to customize the partnership. OBC lists 14 Gallery Artists and collectives, each will be exhibited in solo and group exhibitions at OBC as well as other public, private and commercial institutions. They are: Robert Canali, Liam Crockard, Alex Fischer, Rafael Goldchain, Jill Greenberg, Abby McGuane, Kate McQuillen, John Monteith, Dominic Nahr, Ed Ou, Mark Peckmezian, Noel Rodo-Vankeulen, Caitlin Rueter and Public Studio (Elle Flanders & Tamira Sawatzky).

## What kind of programming does O’Born Contemporary present?

In addition to a full exhibition programming schedule, O’Born Contemporary presents auxiliary programming, which comprises performances, studio and collections tours, critiques, portfolio reviews, film screenings and collaborative ventures, including presentation of the world premiere of Public Studio’s ‘Road Movie’ in collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada.

## What services does O’Born Contemporary provide?

Through our consultation services, we are able to assist new collectors in developing their collections and also support experienced collectors in further investment, or divestment of their existing collections. We provide consultation services to individuals, institutions and businesses.

## Where is O’Born Contemporary located?

OBC moved to its current location on Ossington Avenue in September 2010. It is located between Argyle and Foxley Streets, on the east side of Ossington.

# OBC HIGHLIGHTS

## 2012 (upcoming)

- [Public Studio's Road Movie to be featured at the Berlin Film Festival](#)
- [Alex Fischer at Volta NY 2012](#)
- [Jill Greenberg presented for Contact 2012](#)
- Rafael Goldchain to be featured on a Bravo documentary, scheduled to air summer 2012.
- O'Born Contemporary to participate in Art Toronto 2012.

## 2011

- [O'Born Contemporary participates in Art Toronto 2011](#)
- [O'Born Contemporary and Public Studio \(Elle Flanders & Tamira Sawatzky\) present the World Premiere of Road Movie, an immersive six-screen film installation at the Toronto International Film Festival \(TIFF\)](#)
- [Ed Ou featured on CBC](#)
- [John Monteith completes residency at CAT Cologne](#)
- [Caitlin Rueter presents A Feminist Tea Party with collaborator, Suzanne Stroebe at Winkleman Gallery, NY](#)
- [Ed Ou wins 1st Prize, Contemporary Issues for World Press Photo 2011](#)
- [Liam Crockard's A Month of Sundays selected as one of Canadian Art's top three exhibitions of 2011](#)
- [John Monteith's Lost Highway reviewed by C Magazine](#)
- [Ed Ou wins 1st Prize, Contemporary Issues for World Press Photo 2011](#)
- [Noel Rodo-Vankeulen featured on The New Yorker Photo Booth](#)
- [Noel Rodo-Vankeulen featured in Francesca Gavin's 100 New Artists](#)

## 2010

- [Grand reopening of O'Born Contemporary at 131 Ossington Avenue](#)
- [Ed Ou's work on child soldiers in Somalia is presented at UN Security Council Meeting. Subsequently, American funding to the Somali military was revoked](#)

## 2009

- Rafael Goldchain's work from *I Am My Family* is purchased by the National Gallery of Canada.
- [Dominic Nahr signs on with Magnum Photos](#)
- [Dominic Nahr receives the Leica Oskar Barnack Newcomer Award](#)
- [Gallery Artist Ed Ou signs on as contract photographer for the New York Times, covering mainly stories in the middle east and Egypt, in particular](#)

# INSTALLATION



Installation view of Alex Fischer's *Smarter Today*, October 2010



Installation View of Liam Crockard's *Month of Sundays*, August 2011



Installation View of Dominic Nahr's *The Wave*, June 2011



Installation View of Kate McQuillen's *Conventional Weapons*, December 2011

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