KELOWNA ART GALLERY

For Immediate Release

Parallax(e) Exhibition Asks What the 49th Parallel Left Out

Rare boundary survey photographs, watercolours, and maps meet new work by Indigenous artists in Parallax(e): Perspectives on the Canada–U.S. Border | Perspectives sur la frontière Canada –È.-U. / November 7, 2026 to March 28, 2027

November 4, 2026 – Kelowna, BC: In the Okanagan, the 49th parallel runs through the middle of Osoyoos Lake, just over an hour south of Kelowna. The water on either side of this boundary is the same water, and yet a border divides this landscape in two. *Parallax(e): Perspectives on the Canada–U.S. Border / Perspectives sur la frontière Canada –È.-U.* opens at the **Kelowna Art Gallery** on November 7, 2026, and asks what we see when we stop looking at the boundary from only two sides.

Parallax(e) is aptly named for the optical effect where a view shifts depending on where you stand. It brings together rare historic photographs, watercolours, and maps made by the surveyors who marked the line from the Salish Sea to the Rocky Mountains between 1857 and 1862, alongside sculpture, photography, installation, and new media by contemporary artists. Together they point to the communities, cultural connections, and ecosystems that were here before the line and are still here today.

Audiences will step into an expressive, interactive space featuring a horizontal scroll suspended from the ceiling that winds through the gallery like a physical river. This piece, titled *Beholden: A Poem As Long as the River,* depicts the entire Columbia River system accompanied by poetic text by Fred Wah and Rita Wong. Nearby, historic survey photos and glass-plate negative imagery sit in dialogue with hand-carved sculpture, oral histories, traditional basketry, and a historic map drawn by an Indigenous mapmaker that measures distance in travel time rather than miles.

“We are peoples of continuous cyclical change. THE modern tool, the camera or camera phone, walks with us on this border,” notes contributing artist **Dr. Michelle Jack uɬ snəmtÌtkʷ**. In the Okanagan, *syilx* territory continues unbroken on both sides of that line.

Dr. Jack is one of five commissioned Indigenous artists invited by guest curator Dr. Julia Lum to join the team as curatorial collaborators along with Dr. Shawn Brigman, Dr., Deb Silver, Xémóntalot Carrielynn Victor, and Dr. T’uy’t’tanat Cease Wyss. Participating artists also include Sonny Assu, Corwin Clairmont, Joe Feddersen, Andreas Rutkauskas, Fred Wah, and Rita Wong with Nick Conbere, and Claude Zervas.

Visitors can hear more about the exhibition in person at a *Parallax(e)* Tour & Talk with Dr. Julia Lum on Saturday, November 7, at 1:00 pm. Admission is free for members or included with regular admission.

Parallax(e): Perspectives on the Canada–U.S. Border runs from November 7, 2026, to March 28, 2027, at the Kelowna Art Gallery. It is organized and circulated by The Reach Gallery Museum, Abbotsford, BC, with support from the BC Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Abbotsford, the Terra Foundation for American Art, and the Government of Canada.

The Kelowna Art Gallery is located at 1315 Water Street in the heart of downtown Kelowna. For more information, visit kelownaartgallery.com.

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