

Emmy Willis

Emmy Willis is from Kimberly, BC, and she holds a BFA from Emily Carr University, specializing in animation and video art. A recent project, funded by grants from the Columbia Basin Trust and the East Kootenay Cultural Alliance, presented a series of four short documentaries about individuals who had forged innovative lifestyles from the region near the headwaters of the Columbia, near where Willis was raised. Willis has also worked at artist-run centers Western Front and Vivo Media Arts Centre.

Rita Wong

Dr. Rita Wong is an award-winning author and Associate Professor at Emily Carr University of Art and Design. Her most recent book of poetry, *undercurrent*, addresses water through personal, cultural and political lenses. She also recently co-edited *Downstream: Reimagining Water*, a book of essays entitled arising from her SSHRC-funded research creation project Downstream. As a resident of the Fraser River watershed who benefits from electricity generated through the dams on the Columbia, Wong considers the relationships that exist across watersheds and what reciprocity entails in such contexts.

Fred Wah

Fred Wah is Professor Emeritus of English of the University of Calgary and a former Parliamentary Poet Laureate of Canada (2011-2013). His writing has garnered many awards, including the Governor General's Award for poetry. Much of Fred Wah's writing, particularly evidenced by the recent publication of *Scree: The Collected Earlier Poems 1962-1991*, has had as a focus the geography of southeastern BC. He has spent most of his life in the Kootenay region, and his poetry addresses the physical and social terrain inhabited by the Kootenay and Columbia watersheds, its mountains, forests, rivers, and lakes.

Nick Conbere

An Associate Professor at Emily Carr University, Nick Conbere has exhibited his artwork at venues including the International Print Center New York, Minneapolis Institute of Arts and Hawaii Art Museum. In his creative practice, he investigates landscape, seen through the lens of personal experience and narrative, as a means to consider human/nature relationships. For the past three years, he has researched historical images related to the development of the Columbia River, examining what these images reveal in relation to contemporary discourse. Conbere is co-organizer of River Arts, a symposium and exhibition to be held in May 2018 in Castlegar, BC, at Selkirk College and the Kootenay Gallery.

Genevieve Robertson

Genevieve Robertson holds a Masters degree from Emily Carr University, where she recently taught. Since 2015, In addition to work on River Relations, she has led a research-creation project, supported through a year-long Early Career Development Mentorship Grant from the BC Arts Council, which involves interviewing women who advocate for the health of the Columbia, Fraser, Athabasca and Peace Rivers. She has exhibited her artwork in venues including the Or Gallery (Vancouver), Gallery 555 (Toronto), the New Gallery (Calgary) and the James May Gallery (USA). Robertson lives in Nelson.

John Holmgren

Holmgren is an Associate Professor of Photography at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Researching themes of environment, industry, time and memory, Holmgren has photographed dams, including those on the Columbia, for over 10 years. His artwork has been exhibited at the Photo Center NW in Seattle, the Bronx Art Space and the Milwaukee Art Museum and. When not teaching, he resides at his home near the Columbia in Ellensburg, Washington.

Matthew Evenden

Dr. Evenden is Professor of Geography and Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies at UBC in Vancouver. His research focuses on environmental and water history with an emphasis on the history and politics of large Canadian rivers, including the Columbia. He has provided guidance in River Relations. His books include *Allied Power: Mobilizing Hydroelectricity during Canada's Second World War*, *The River Returns: An Environmental History of the Bow* and *Fish vs Power: An Environmental History of the Fraser River*. As co-founder of the Network in Canadian History & Environment Water History (NiCHE), Evenden is co-leader of the Water History Project, examining environmental and social consequences of dam and infrastructure development, conflicts over international waters, and social perceptions of floods.

Zoe Kostuchuk

Zoe Kostuchuk hails from Northern Manitoba, with Cree and Ukrainian roots and a deep love for the environment. She will graduate with a BFA from Emily Carr University in June 2018, majoring in Visual Arts with a focus in drawing and painting, and she has also studied at Laguna College of Art and Design in California. Her recent exhibitions include a solo exhibition at the Centre East Gallery in Saskatoon as well as group exhibitions at Emily Carr University.