



# Press Release

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**For immediate release  
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***Field Doll* – Heather Benning**

August 11 – October 28  
Gallery B  
Opening Event: Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> (7-9pm)  
Artist Talk: August 10<sup>th</sup> (6:30pm)  
Curator: Arin Fay



Artist: Heather Benning

The *Field Doll* will be taking up residence at Touchstones during the late summer and fall of 2018 and will also be making an appearance at several iconic spaces throughout the city of Nelson, including the

Big, Orange Bridge (BOB). Benning has exhibited the Field Doll both in Canada and the US by placing the work in the context of each specific place via photographs which are an essential part of the process and presentation. The work is an irreverent ode to place and change and the proportion of both to the viewer and their perspective. The doll is dropped into scenes, as if by the whim of a petulant child, and there is a whimsy and wackiness to this large scale installation piece which underlies the inherent sadness and challenge of expectations of the cast off doll in unexpected places.

#### Field Doll Artist Statement:

Cultural geographer Yi-Fu Tuan writes that place acquires deep meaning for the adult through the steady accretion of sentiment over the years (33). Tuan goes on to say that this sentiment for place accrues not necessarily through grand happenings but through small, almost nameless intimate experiences. Just as humble unspoken moments render places intimate; so do quotidian objects, like, for example a child's doll. We do not typically pay heed to such items the way we would objects of art; rather, they become part of the fabric of our lives, too close to be noticed. However, as Tuan writes, if contemplated, we feel for these ordinary objects what a thing of beauty makes us feel – as though we are in the midst of an independent presence (Tuan 144).

As children we relate to objects with directness unshackled by the protective cynicism of adulthood; Yi Fu Tuan suggests that this openness grants children the ability to know the world more sensuously than adults, adding that this lost childhood gift of receptivity "is one reason why the adult cannot go home again" (185).

<https://canadianart.ca/features/heather-benning/>



Touchstones Nelson is located at 502 Vernon St. in downtown Nelson, BC. For more information, please visit our website: [www.touchstonesnelson.ca](http://www.touchstonesnelson.ca), or contact 250-352-9813 (ext. 275), [curator@touchstonesnelson.ca](mailto:curator@touchstonesnelson.ca)