

## Artist Statement

What would make it easier to stretch beyond your social circles so that you could make meaningful connections with people that are seemingly different than you, transforming yourself and hence your community?

*Wide Shot/Close Up* explores this question through an arrangement of five unique video installations in what I see as a progression of intimacy within a social context: making first impressions with strangers, the labels that identify us to acquaintances, speaking candidly within deeper relationships, connecting with our own image and celebrating our own uniqueness within community. By juxtaposing such a diversity of individuals I am playing with the tension in the question: Are we all unique and distinct from each other or are we all having the same fundamental human experience?

My background as an educator, community developer and documentary filmmaker all inform my treatment of this work. I put out a 'casting call for real people' to participate in what I called 'one part art installation, one part social experiment, and one part community development exercise.' Twenty-five people arrived from all walks of life and were directed through the same series of on-camera exercises. I framed each person using angles ranging from the wide shot to the close up. In approaching the footage this way, it was my intention to impart a more complete representation of each person, inspiring us all to look at others from more than one angle and build uncommon connections.

## Biography

Amy Bohigian owns and operates Watershed Productions, a video production company based out of Nelson BC. She has directed and produced award-winning films that include *Beyond the Chair* (2007), *Love It and Leave It* (2008) funded by the NFB, and *Conceiving Family* (2011).

As an artist-in-residence at the Oxygen Art Centre in Nelson in 2008, Bohigian created the video-based installation *Roundtable*, utilizing interviews and TV monitors to construct a dialogue between diverse groups of interior BC residents on the theme of "BOOM! A multi-disciplinary examination of change in the region."

Bohigian founded the Summer Film Camp for youth in 2007 and the Kootenay Summer Shorts Film Festival in 2007.

Bohigian earned a masters degree in Education from Harvard University in 1999 and an Advanced Diploma in the Independent Digital Film program at Selkirk College/Kootenay School of the Arts in 2007.

Amy Bohigian is the 2014 Arts Ambassador for Nelson.