

“One Eye Folly” – *Ice Follies*, 2008

Donald Lawrence

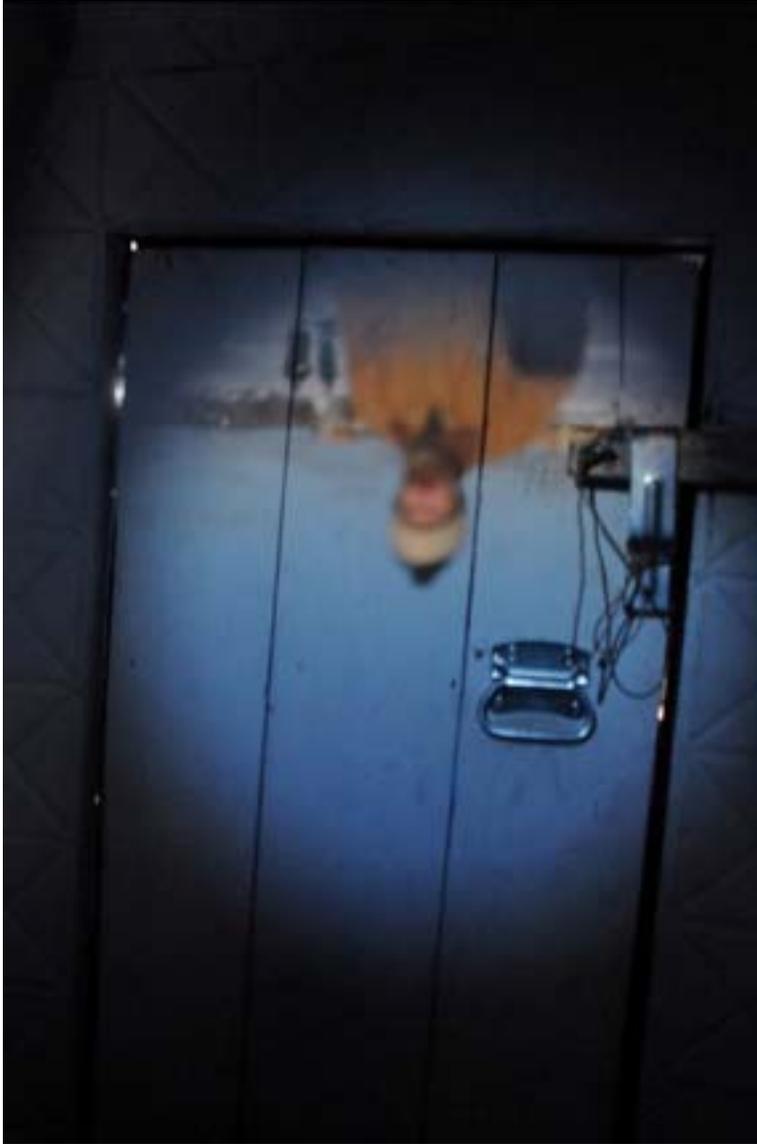
April 20, 2008

Created for the W.K.P. Kennedy Art Gallery’s *Ice Follies*, 2008, the “One Eye Folly” is a camera obscura that has been constructed out of and on top of a small row boat*. The work is configured as a piece of “microarchitecture” that is a hybrid form between a boat and a shed; the premise of *Ice Follies* (curated by Dermot Wilson) being to create something inspired by the notion of an ice-fishing hut. The boat’s hull is overladen with a structure that is clad inside and out with salvaged stamped tin ceiling tiles. On the outside, a couple of hatch-like windows are evident, together with an old shed door as a means of entering the boat/shed. A set of oars protrudes from inside the structure, and a small tin hood is added onto the front. Shaded by the hood is a small aperture, or opening, which allows light into the structure, thereby casting an image inside of the view that is in front of the boat/shed and turning the boat into a camera obscura. During Victorian times camera obscuras (from the Latin for “dark room”) in the form of small pavilions were typical at seaside resorts; inside, visitors would enter into these structures to take in a view of the surrounding beach and town. For *Ice Follies* the camera obscura’s view was across the frozen surface of Lake Nipissing, towards the city of North Bay and the other artists’ works. For future voyages, the hatch set into the bottom of the boat (to allow for ice fishing) will be wedged tightly shut and the boat/shed may be rowed about in a manner somewhat more akin to the boat’s original purpose.



“One Eye Folly” on frozen Lake Nipissing, *Ice Follies*, North Bay, Ontario, 2008

* The boat was built by Andrew Wong and generously given to me for this project by him upon his retirement, after 18 years of service as a Lab Faculty member at Thompson Rivers University.



Inverted image (of Donald Lawrence)
Projected on the inside surface of the
“One Eye Folly” camera obscura,
Lake Nipissing, North Bay

Photograph by Liz Lott



Baden Brownlee hauling the “One Eye Folly” onto Lake Nipissing with his Bombardier, photograph by Peter Nickle