

THE ART GALLERY OF CALGARY

# DAN HUDSON

## NEWS, WEATHER & SPORTS



THE MEDIA GALLERY  
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## Dan Hudson

### NEWS, WEATHER & SPORTS

Dan Hudson's video installation *NEWS, WEATHER & SPORTS* documents one year at a public park through time-lapse video. Hudson spent one full year filming seasonal changes and visitor activities amongst majestic mountains, water and trees. The resulting images have been woven together in a continuously moving timeline and interwoven with audio of news clips taken from the same year. The combination of these elements creates an awareness of time that defines human experience and the dislocation that we sometimes have with the world around us.

Hudson's process of creating *NEWS, WEATHER & SPORTS* is unlike traditional time-lapse video with fast moving clouds and jerky images. He used video clips instead of still images of the same place, shot at the same time of day. His experience in doing this allowed him to experience the landscape first hand in a slow more observatory way. He realized what initially seemed inert and static was continuously changing before his eyes. He attempted to emulate this experience in his work by creating a subtler, more natural structure and order to the video.

The dichotomy of the carefree park activities and the triumph and tragedy of the content of the news stream lends to this work's transformative quality. The audio is comprised of layers of news taken from the BBC, CBC and CNN woven together with

sound composed and performed by renowned bassist Chris Jennings, creating 42 audio tracks that are intertwined into a rhythmic pattern. Hudson's background in conceptual sound and input from David Gleeson, formerly of Abbey Road Studios, London and Skywalker Light and Sound of California, has created an audio element that reveals complex structures and relationships that produce a conscious socio-political implication.

Dan Hudson's technique captures the world in a way that one would imagine it would look like if we had the dedication to stand still in one place for a fixed amount of time. As we hurriedly go through life, always moving toward the next moment, thing, experience, we overlook the changes happening around us. It is as if Hudson has given us the gift of time, fulfilling the desire we often have to stop time and look beyond our own lives — that fleeting thought that sometimes crosses our minds when we are outside of ourselves for a moment. It produces a consideration of the outside world, outside one's life, one's head, and one's own perspective. The static point of view of the camera creates feelings of isolation and observation. Hudson creates a perspective for the viewer, a position from which to observe a year's time in minutes. We often think of time lapses as a speeding up of time in which to observe minute changes with a quick glance; although Hudson uses this formula, his process produces a fluid view of the time that passes.

With this process, it is as if he slows time down, just enough to allow us an internal silence and a slower pace than we are used to, to observe the bigger world around us. The interwoven audio of news clips subtly jerks us back to the realization that life is not perfect, it is complex, and an awareness that perhaps this beautiful spot in the rocky mountains has existed forever, moving forward and evolving, but a touchstone in relationship to the myriad issues of the greater society.

This quiet, isolated experience of watching time move forward amongst the reality of the world's politics questions personal positions and the larger meaning of humanity and our own personal impact and experience. There is an opportunity to be reminded that what immediately surrounds you is minuscule compared to the larger sphere.

*NEWS, WEATHER & SPORTS* is a documentation of the insipid quality that sometimes surrounds our perceptions but so quietly and beautifully suggests that in our small actions and thoughts the outward affect does have consequences and that we are part of a whole. In a melancholy reminder of our position in space and time, Dan Hudson gives us reason to hope.

- Marianne Elder, Senior Art Curator



Dan Hudson, *NEWS, WEATHER & SPORTS* (video stills comp), 2010. Courtesy of the artist.