

Babiche 20

Art & Culture from the Dehcho & beyond...

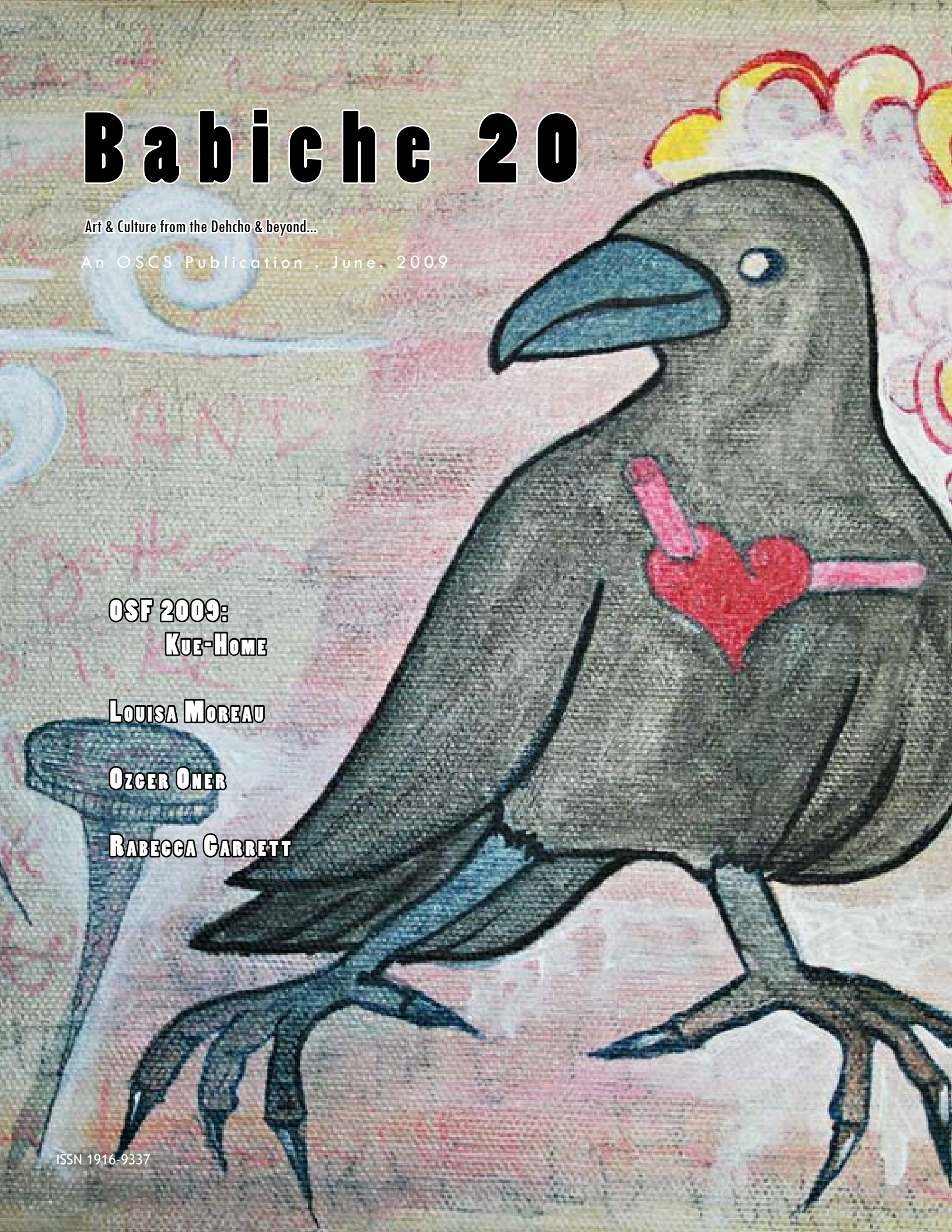
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**OSF 2009:
KUE-HOME**

LOUISA MOREAU

OZGER ONER

RABECA GARRETT



Where are you from?


Where do you call home?

As global society becomes increasingly transient what & where an average person considers home is also transforming. In the face of increasing global transience; how individuals chose to define home, the effects of transience on regional culture & tradition & the subsequent implications for artistic practice are all aspects of our current reality worth exploring.

In Canada & much of the world, no strict cultural codes exist to dictate how we define home. We are instead left to our own devises. Geography, family, friends, ancestry, a childhood 'hometown', or even physical structures are all points of reference used by individuals to define home. Further influence on an individual's definition of home may be based on a sense of belonging or feelings of personal connection with the people, the land, or even the culture of a place (language, food, idiosyncrasies of daily interactions, a sports team, etc.). For some, home may be multiple disparate places, a large geographical swath, a virtual community online, or no particular physical place at all.

In a more transient society does regional culture & personal identity become disoriented & fragmented to the point of being detrimental to social cohesiveness? Or does society become vibrant & more resilient as citizens become more familiar with an array of people, places, & cultural experiences? It could be argued that neither of these positions, are entirely true or false & that regional cultures (as well as culture on a larger scale) are in an ongoing state of flux, for better or for worse. Perhaps the onus rests on the individuals participating in a culture & their personal perceptions to determine weather cultural flux will influence their lives either positively or negatively & respond accordingly.

How an artist chooses to define home (if at all) & how they may choose to respond to transience & subsequent accelerated cultural flux may have serious implications for their individual practices & communities as a whole. Home will influence their artistic reactions, especially if they choose to define home by ancestry & claim ancestral ownership over a given tradition. An artist or other cultural practitioner may respond by either embracing change or striving to preserve languages or other pursuits in their traditional forms in order to maintain a sense of cultural integrity. Others may attempt to adapt the traditions of their chosen home to reflect the changes it has undergone, or the changes the individual has undergone in their own transient experiences. Resistance may be met by outside interests who regard tampering with traditional practices as taboo. On the other side of the spectrum others may regard traditional practices irrelevant to the modern world. Resistance may also be encountered by those who adopt traditions of their geographic home & yet can not lay ancestral claim over a given pursuit.

As the Open Sky Festival enters its ninth year it invites participating artists to explore 'home'; how it is defined, influenced by an increased state of transience, & the resulting implications for artistic practice both in the Dehcho & beyond. 

(Michael Blyth - OSCS Programming Coordinator)



Early afternoon at the Open Sky Festival 2008 - (photo David Haggarty)

LOUISA MOREAU

Louisa is the youngest daughter of James & Rose Tsetso. She was born at Tagacho and at eight years old she went to residential school in Fort Simpson. After Grade 9, she moved to Yellowknife to attend high school & dropped out after her first year. A few years later Louisa (nee Tsetso) Married John Moreau. They eventually moved back to Fort Simpson & she upgraded & completed her grade 12.

Together her & her husband have five children & now they are proud grandparents of eight. She has many nieces & nephews and is always willing to share her knowledge with them. She started to learn how to tan moose hides from her sister Elsie Tsetso ten years ago.

Louisa loves to sew all kinds of things, make moccasins, bead, & moose hair tuft, tan moose-hides, pick berries, make jam & prepare dried meat. She is very outgoing & is always up for the challenge of learning new skills, "I'm still learning, last week I learned how to do quill work". 📷

(below) Cell Phone Case (2008) - (as seen at the exhibition "She's the Bee" at the OSC Gallery from April 14th-May 22nd, 2009) - Louisa Moreau



Bride Bodice (2008) - (as seen at the exhibition "She's the Bee" at the OSC Gallery from April 14th-May 22nd, 2009) - Louisa Moreau & Julia Tsetso



Pride - Ozgur Oner . (2008) . 10.5"x16.5"

Bio

OZGUR ONER was born in Afyon, Turkey. She studied Meteorological Engineering at the Istanbul Technical University and graduated in 1995. She found her passion for photography while in university and became a member of the photography club at school. She also took a short introductory course at the Istanbul Amateur's Photography and Cinema Club (IFSAK) and gained experience over the years.

She photographs ordinary people in ordinary moments; people whose whole occupation is living. She has a unique ability to connect with her photographic subjects and bring out their personalities and stories in natural settings. Bright colors, aesthetics and human love are the main themes of her work and photography has a big part in the expression of her evolution.

Her first solo exhibition took place at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Cafe, Yellowknife in 2005. She has participated Aurora Arts Society - Arts Walk Week displays for four years and has worked on several other photography projects.

Ozgur is a 2006 and 2008 GNWT Arts Council grant recipient. With the support of the GNWT Arts Council, she photographed people of the North in their daily lives. Her exhibition, HOME, was opened in Yellowknife first and traveled to several communities of the Northwest Territories in 2008.

Ozgur has made Yellowknife her home and been with the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre since 2005 as an Office Manager & Volunteer Coordinator.

HOME

Fascinated by cultural diversity, the harsh climate & the extraordinary human adaptability to an environment of extremes, Ozgur Oner, originally from Istanbul, Turkey, set herself on a journey to find out why the north is "Home" to people from over 120 different nations.

Home is a photographic essay of a diverse array of people that colour the north - from diamond industry workers, artists, craftspeople, cab drivers & construction workers - elders & youth from inland communities such as Hay River, Inuvik, on the Mackenzie Delta, Tuktoyaktuk, on the Beaufort Sea & from Yellowknife, the capital city of the NWT. HOME is a revealing, compelling look into the character of the people who have made the north their HOME seen through an immigrant's lens.

Reasons for coming North can be varied & many, but they all have the same reason to call North HOME. 📷

*Ozgur Oner - will be exhibiting her project **HOME** as part of the **Kue-Home** exhibition at the OSC Gallery in Fort Simpson, NT Between: May 29th-July 10th, 2009.*



Rebecca Garrett - will be exhibiting her piece *Echolocation* in Fort Simpson in collaboration with **Melaw Antoine**. June 2009 as part of the Open Sky Festival.

RABECCA GARRETT

Bio and searching for relations that have been elided or erased.

Rebecca Garrett has been exhibiting film, video, and installation works and photo-based wall pieces since graduating from the Ontario College of Art in 1981. She was a member of the Board of YYZ Contemporary Gallery from 1981 - 1986, a founding member of the Grace Hopper Gallery in 1987, and President of the Board of Directors of Charles Street Video from 1998 - 2005. In 1989 she moved to Africa where she was Visiting Artist in Residence at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe for three years. From 1994 - 1995 she worked in community based video in Kenya. In 2000 she completed a Masters in Visual Art at York University in Toronto, Canada, and subsequently taught at York University, the University of Toronto, and the Ontario College of Art and Design. Garrett's installations and videotapes have been exhibited and/or screened at various venues in Canada and abroad. Her videotapes are distributed through V-tape in Toronto; G.I.V. in Montreal; and Media for Development Trust in Harare, Zimbabwe. She has recently completed a community-based video and training project with the Dehcho First Nations in the Northwest Territories, and she is a member of the Hard Pressed Collective in Toronto.

ECHOLOCATION


“Open Sky Echolocation” extends an ongoing experimental video project that explores the history of land and occupation in Southwestern Ontario, the place that I call home.

The project has involved research into the origins of representational and communications technologies in the military, as well as collecting personal and community stories

The installation “Open Sky Echolocation” mirrors the structure of moving into, out of, around, through... a kind of representational proprioception. The intention with this project is to explore structures of representation, ways of seeing, and of framing knowledges; and of interconnectedness of narratives, places, histories, and people.

The science of many representational technologies involve a signal being sent out and received back, like an echoing loop. Echolocating animals emit calls out to the environment and listen to the echoes of those calls that return from various objects in the environment. They use these echoes to locate, range, and identify objects, and for navigation.

A connection to the land, our mother earth, allows us to feel ‘at home’ when we are far from our birth homes. The media environment that many of us share and to a great extent feel at home in, is often defined in opposition to specific places and contexts.

Video mages from various places and historical contexts are projected onto a painted image evocative of forms and concepts specific to the Dehcho. The soundtrack that plays along with the video images evokes natures and cultures originating both in the Dehcho and elsewhere. An additional sound component of the installation includes the viewer in the piece, folding their words and movements into a meditation on home and away. 

Rebecca Garrett June 2009



Still from **Tumbleweed** - Short Film By Angela Edmunds & Ryan Good (2008) - Running Time 9 minutes

OSF 2009 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday - June 26th

5:00PM - Exhibition Reception, & Artist Talks at the OSC Gallery

Saturday - June 27th

12:00-5:00PM - LKFN Papal Flat (Sun) / VOFS Rec Centre (Rain): Music Performances, Visual Arts & traditional Crafts Workshops & Demonstrations.

7:30-8:30PM - TBA - Storytelling Evening

10:00PM-2:00AM - Annual Fundraising Concert Dance

Sunday - June 28th

12:00-4:30PM - VOFS Rec Centre: visual arts, media arts, traditional crafts, & fiddling workshops, demonstrations, & presentations.

5:30-onward - LKFN Papal Flat (Sun) / VOFS Rec Centre (Rain): Feast & Drum Dance

OSCS PRE-FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

May 29th-July 10th, 2009

Kue-Home Exhibitoin at the OSC Gallery featuring work by: Ozgur Oner (Yelowknife, NT) & Angela Edmunds (Saskatoon, SK)
Exhibition Reception & Artist Talks Friday June 26th, 2009 5:00PM at the OSC Gallery

June 2nd, 9th, 16th, & 23rd

Silversmithing Workshop SORRY THIS WORKSHOP IS FULL
4 part workshop on basic silversmithing technique facilitated by: Tracy Brown

June 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, & 27th, 2009:

5 Part Animation Techniques Workshop. Call to register (867-695-3005)!!!

Workshop fees: \$20 current 2008-09 members / \$40 non-members

Day 1 - The Flipbook

Day 2 - Basics of Cell Animation

Day 3 - Scratching on Film

Day 4 - Cut out Characters

Day 5 - Claymation

facilitated by: Angela Edmunds

June 25th-28th, 2009

Youth Photography Workshop.

Call to register (867-695-3005)!!!

facilitated by: the Frozen Eyes Photographic Society

Thursday - June 25th, 2009

7:30-8:15PM - (venue-TBA)

Kue-Home Video Screening Evening

Featuring a selection of video shorts by: Leslie Supnet, Graham Ududec, Darios Ahmed, Emily Baxter, Murray Toews, Angela Edmunds, & more.



A mural painted in Tela, Honduras by artist **Diane Boudreau**, who spent 3 months & a half months in spanish immersion in Honduras from January-May 2nd, 2009. The mural includes local imagery over a map of the North Cost, & was commissioned for computers for the local cultural centre, dinner for 8 friends, & \$200. **Diane Boudreau** will be in Fort Simpson for the Open Sky Festival 2009 to create a mural project & to teach mural painting techniques to interested community members.

ATTENTION ARTISTS AND TRADITIONAL FINE CRAFTERS

Do you want customers to easily identify your artwork as proudly created and produced in the Northwest Territories? Join with other artists and enrol in the **NWT Arts Branding Logo Program** to help market your art or fine craft.

The NWT Arts Branding Logo, is an image designed to be attached to arts and fine crafts products created by NWT artists, and provides common visual identification and representation for all artists to market their arts and fine crafts.

If you are an NWT resident who actively produces arts and fine crafts, then you are eligible to use this program.

The program is **FREE**, and registration is easy.

Price tags, stickers, posters, tent cards and electronic copies of the logo are available for free to those who are registered with the program.

Casey Koyczan from the Arts and Fine Crafts section of the Government of the Northwest Territories will be at this year's festival to provide artists with program information and to assist with registering for the program. He will also have promotional materials on-site.


Visit Casey at the NWT Arts booth that will be set up in

the arena on Sunday, June 28, 2009

For more information about the program and how to join, please visit:

www.nwtarts.com, email: **nwtarts@gov.nt.ca** or contact your local Industry, Tourism and Investment office toll free at: **1-877-445-2787 (ARTS)**.

BABICHE 20 - CREDITS

Contributors to this edition include: Michael Blyth, David Haggarty (photography), Ozgur Oner, Louisa Moreau, Julia Tsetso, Rebecca Garrett, Angela Edmunds, Ryan Good, & Diane Boudreau. This edition of *Babiche* was edited & designed by Michael Blyth. **Cover image: Talking Bird (detail) - Melaw Antoine (2009)**. Babiche 20 editing, design, & layout by Michael Blyth. Printed at *Kopykat North* (Yellowknife, NT) 

For more information please contact the Open Sky Creative Society:

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www.openskyfestival.ca



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ATTENTION ARTISTS AND TRADITIONAL FINE CRAFTERS WE CAN HELP YOU BUILD YOUR BRAND

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