



THE UNIVERSITY OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Beatty Biodiversity Museum

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Remnants Exhibition Explores Ongoing Natural Habitat Reduction by Human Activity Through Art

Vancouver, BC – Human progress comes at the cost to nature. Through drawing and collage, UBC Botanical Garden's Artist in Residence, Dana Cromie explores his reaction to this happening in *Remnants: A Visual Survey of Human Progress*. This new visual art exhibition opens today at the Beatty Biodiversity Museum, and it will run until April 20, 2014.

Remnants: A Visual Survey of Human Progress features a series of portraits that reflects Cromie's reaction to the ongoing reduction by human activity of natural habitat. Built using the small pieces of the contemporary viewing pane, these collage quilts pay homage to traditional home economics and to the Arts and Crafts movement of the late 19th century. The vertical format reflects the traditional portrait proportions of influential individuals. The repeated use of small pieces relates to how we build our impression of the world without experiencing it.

"It has been an exciting journey bringing out the "me" for this exhibition in the Beatty Biodiversity Museum," Cromie explained. "*Remnants* has coalesced many life interests into a single work expressed in a new medium."

Twenty-six original drawings have been letterpress printed, hand cut into 1,500 pieces and glued into five portraits. The sources for the nature drawings are mostly archival, some from the Internet, some from the cabinets of the Beatty Biodiversity Museum, and a few from nature. What is always missing is context. The design of the man-made elements in the style of traditional wallpaper is Cromie's response to the appropriation of 'Green' currently utilized to promote everything from gasoline to urban towers. Humans are absent in the portraits because as individuals we do not see our relationship to the changes in the environment.

"Part of what we do at the Museum is to explore the connection between art and the nature of, and threats to, biodiversity," says Dr. Eric Taylor, Director and Curator of the Fish Collection at the Beatty Biodiversity Museum. "The *Remnants* exhibition is a fantastic example of this aspect of our mission, and what makes this exhibition especially exciting is that Dana is the Artist in Residence of UBC Botanical Garden, our sister attraction on campus."

Dana Cromie is a mature emerging artist who has spent his life balancing the practice of art and gardening. He has travelled extensively on botanical trips, and photographed and wrote 'In My Garden' for Vancouver Lifestyle Magazine.

For more information on *Remnants: A Visual Survey of Human Progress*, please visit beatymuseum.ubc.ca.