

ALEX MCLEOD: BIOGRAPHY

Alex McLeod was born in Toronto in 1984 and studied Fine art at OCAD University. He currently works in animation, print, rapid prototyping and interactive media in Toronto. He has exhibited internationally at such institutions as The Austrian Film Museum, MASS MOCA, and the Museum of Image and Sound. Currently his work is in collections including the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, The Art Gallery of Surrey, Royal Bank of Canada, Bank of Montreal and TD Bank.

Since 2010, Alex McLeod has guest lectured at the Pratt Institute, The University of Waikato New Zealand, The University of Denver, OCAD and the Design Exchange in Toronto among others. He has also spoken at technology conferences including DIGIFEST and FITC. In 2014, he taught Digital Drawing at the University of Guelph. In partnership with brands such as Starbucks, Clorox and Toyota he has illustrated ads for web, television and print. There have been over 40 articles written about his work in fine arts and social media in the last five years. McLeod is currently represented by Division Gallery in Toronto and Gallery Jones in Vancouver.

Alex McLeod constructs hyperrealistic 3D environments filled with crystalline mountains, fiery lakes, and rotund clouds, all rendered in a sickly sweet and gooey candy-colored palette. Recalling the wide-open vistas of Romantic landscape painting while at the same time staging otherworldly dystopias, McLeods CGI prints act as hybrid spaces that imply an almost infinite recombination of the past and present, the real and virtual.

Beneath their seductively polished surfaces, of glimmering fortresses and floating geometric abstractions, lies a haunting stillness that comes forth in the aftermath of cataclysmic events. The cause of destruction remains unknown in these depopulated spaces -there are no people in these images, however much human traces remain in the rickety railways and empty fortresses. And yet, from the twilight of devastation shown in these strange dioramas lies possibilities for hope and rebirth in our own digital milieu through the artists new approaches to concepts as varied as ecological responsibility and the shared intersections between photography and painting.