

# In Appreciation of Gerald Ferguson: Mementos Mori

GALLERY PAGE AND STRANGE, HALIFAX APR 1 TO 22 2011



Cal Lane *Untitled (Dirt Floor)* 2011 Installation view

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Since artist [Gerald Ferguson](#)'s sudden passing in October 2009, many have noted the longtime NSCAD instructor's influence on generations of students and colleagues. Now, Halifax's [Gallery Page and Strange](#)—located right across the street from the classrooms where Ferguson used to teach—has mounted a tribute exhibition that features some of his star pupils. These artists range from the well-established, like [Susanna Heller](#), to the up-and-coming, like [Jack Bishop](#). But in all cases, says gallery co-director Victoria Page, these were “the folks that [Ferguson] hung in his own studio and over his own desk,” NSCAD alumni who had segued from students to “close friends and confidants.”



[Cai Lane](#) likely provides the exhibition's most poignant contribution with her installation of dirt arrayed in delicate, lacy patterns over a large portion of the floor. Similarly, Lane's rust prints, created by placing substantial steel doily sculptures onto raw canvas, speak strongly of a past body whose spirit lingers into the present. This effect is amplified when shown in conjunction with a couple of [Ferguson's](#) own works, including a rare white-on-white frottage work from the *Fireback* series that was also, as was typical for him, created on raw canvas. Rounded out by paintings from [Luke Murphy](#)—who is currently in the process of organizing a solo show of Ferguson's works for New York's [Canada Gallery](#), tentatively due to open in late 2012—and from [Jonathan Johnson](#), a landscape painter who has started to incorporate more stretches of raw substrate into his own work, "In Appreciation of Gerald Ferguson" promises the extremes of any heartfelt memorial: evoking a powerful presence while simultaneously lamenting its absence. (1869 Granville St, Halifax NS)

- [www.pageandstrange.com](http://www.pageandstrange.com)



Jack Bishop *Winter Business Park* 2011

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There are few places I'd rather spend time in Halifax than the sun-filled harbourside studio of my friend, the painter Gerald Ferguson. And on this particular day in mid-August, we're settling in for a long chat.

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Last week, the sudden death of noted painter and influential art professor Gerald Ferguson saddened the Canadian cultural scene. Ferguson will be deeply missed by many, and his many conceptual and creative strides will be well remembered.