



Choir of Love, video still, 2012, by Libby Hague is in All That Glows at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

Human condition, animated

All That Glows,

AT THE GALLERIES



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The human condition is in focus in the All That Glows exhibit at the AGNS.

All That Glows, at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia to June 22, links three artists who use animation to describe the human condition.

Lucie Chan and Barry Doupe of Vancouver, B.C., and Libby Hague of Toronto work in painting, automatic drawing and installation, as well as digital media. Their storytelling is poetic and non-linear but deeply felt.

Chan's watercolours of repeating figurative images have an obsessive, habitual and highly human quality. She is worrying over a relationship and the world. Her fragmented figures and beasts and written texts are a combination of the material of daily life and nightmares.

She connects figures in amazing chains of being. The connected pictures are like a giant lace pattern on the wall revealing the pain and effort of human existence. Her animation acts like a magnifying glass further illuminating her imagery.

Libby Hague's beautiful, complex and affecting 19-minute animation Choir of love is built out of 90 preparatory drawings that are colourful watercolours and two paper, marionette-like puppets, that are lifeless in the gallery but come to life in her animated film.

Set on the Irish Aran island of Inisheer, Choir of love is inspired by the death of Hague's father. It melds the ideas of leaving for a new world and leaving this world, and is rich in music with a text written by the artist with selected late poems by Yeats.

The themes of love, loss and death come through clearly in a poetic, mythical structure that includes a tiny coastal community, a garden of bones, fire, the ocean, dancing and swimming in a pool. Hague combines images from reality, puppetry, different types of figures and the watercolour paintings. The way she creates waves and makes fire by tossing bits of paper at the land is visually exciting.

Barry Doupe's animations have a completely different feel and put one in the rapid, digitized, urban world of video games and multi-tasking and iPhones. The figurative images shifts rapidly and are constantly in motion. People cannot connect. The col-



The Colours that Combine to Make White are Important, a video still, 2012, from Barry Coupe's artwork, is on exhibit in All That Glows at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.



Living Room for the Lost, watercolour, ink on paper, 2012, by Lucie Chan, is on exhibit in All That Glows at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

ours are hot. Doupe, who has exhibited his films internationally, is inspired by a dream state and the subconscious. As with Hague and Chan, the viewer connects to the imagery to complete the story.

All That Glows, curated by Mireille Bourgeois, is co-presented by the Centre for Art Tapes and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, with a book for sale at the

gallery shop and the Centre for Art Tapes.

The Family Sunday workshop this Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m., includes hands-on studio activities based on All That Glows for children and young people.