

Interpretation Key

Each colour in the pattern is read as a single line of text or statement.

Art on Display

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Light Blue Text Boxes

1. So
2. whether
3. it be
4. the home-seeker
5. the tourist
6. sportsman
7. or
8. the city
9. resident
10. seeking
11. pleasure
12. and
13. relaxation
14. from
15. business
16. or
17. professional
18. cares
19. Surrey
20. has
21. inducements
22. to
23. offer
24. second
25. to
26. no
27. place
28. in
29. the
30. province

Source: Advertising message on the back of an 1899 map of Surrey, as quoted in *Looking Back at Surrey*, p. 88

Dark Blue Text Boxes

1. One man comes in and works his heart out of the stumps
2. until he runs out of strength and money
Source: Harvie, as quoted in *Treleaven, Surrey Story*, p. 14
3. There were speculators who bought large tracts of land in Surrey
4. and never appeared in person
5. In some cases they let the land lie idle
Source: *Treleaven, Surrey Story*, p. 25
6. Big lumber outfits took the green gold out of Surrey
Source: *Treleaven, Surrey Story*, p. 26
7. The stump farmers
8. were left with a forest of stumps
9. to burn or blast or dig out
10. before fields could be prepared for crops
Source: *Treleaven, Surrey Story*, p. 26
11. 124 sticks of stumping powder
12. to blow a tremendous Douglas Fir stump
13. a relic from the primeval forest
Source: McKinnon, in *Looking Back at Surrey*, Ch. 2, p.
14. They didn't have bulldozers
Source: Johnston, as quoted in *Treleaven, Surrey Story*, p. 13
15. It was tall timber they went to work on
16. You had to lean back to look at them you know
Source: Johnston, as quoted in *Treleaven, Surrey Story*, p. 13

Yellow Text Boxes

1. Lucky if you got an acre cleared in a year
Source: Johnston, as quoted in *Treleaven, Surrey Story*, p. 13
2. In the early days they had an axe and saw only as there was no readily available source of stumping powder
Source: McKinnon, in *Looking Back at Surrey*, Ch. 2, p. 13
3. The powder report of 1928
4. 1,150 cases of stumping powder
5. 12 cases of fuses
6. 33,000 caps
Source: McKinnon, in *Looking Back at Surrey*, Ch. 2, p. 14
8. There were still those stumps which had to be removed
9. smaller ones with a team of horses
10. larger ones had to be blasted
Source: McKinnon, in *Looking Back at Surrey*, Ch. 2, p. 13
11. When a large stump had been blown
12. there was a very large hole to be filled in
Source: McKinnon, in *Looking Back at Surrey*, Ch. 2, p. 14
13. To burn you bored two holes in the butt of the tree one straight in and another on a slant
14. You set a fire that smoldered
15. till the tree weakened and came down
Source: Johnston, as quoted in *Treleaven, Surrey Story*, p. 13

Source Material

Treleaven, G. Fern, *Surrey Story*, updated by Stan McKinnon, 1992, Surrey Historical Society

Looking Back At Surrey, Volume 1, 1995, Surrey Historical Society

Brown, Jack, *The City of Surrey: A History*, www.surreyhistory.ca (cited Dec 2019)



Christine Leviczky Riek (b. 1959)

Prototype for a Bathroom / Surrey Stories, 2018

Photomontage—resin-coated on cradled plywood panel, four panels 24"x24" each

On loan to Surrey Libraries from the collection of Renée Sarojini Saklikar, Surrey Poet Laureate 2015-2018.

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Peach Text Boxes

1. It
 2. took
 3. them
 4. close
 5. to
 6. 50
 7. years
 8. to
 9. log
 10. all
 11. the
 12. first
 13. growth
 14. forest
 15. in
 16. Surrey
- Source: Treleaven, *Surrey Story*, p. 53

Black Text Boxes

1. In the summer we used to work for the Chinese growers picking peas and weeding
 2. They could not own land back in those days—only rent it
- Source: Hardy, in *Looking Back at Surrey*, Ch. 3, p. 22
3. The original Serpentine Canal was dug by hand by Chinese labour gangs
 4. The canal was a ditch 7 feet wide
- Source: McKinnon, *Looking Back at Surrey*, Ch. 2, p. 15
6. The only ditching machine they knew in the early days was a Chinaman
 7. and he was an artist with a spade
 8. He could dig a ditch better and cheaper than any machine would do it
- Source: Brown, as quoted in Treleaven, *Surrey Story*, p. 31
10. Large numbers of Chinese were brought in
 11. Many of them found work in Surrey
- Source: Treleaven, *Surrey Story*, p. 17
12. Other races of men were busy
 13. developing different cultures
 14. They devised tools
 15. to do their work
 16. more effectively
- Source: Treleaven, *Surrey Story*, p. 8

Red Text Boxes

1. Chow Wing
 2. He rammed crowbar
 3. down stumphole
 4. When he no go off
 5. then
 6. boom
 7. doctor no fix him this time
- Source: Crew boss, as quoted in McKinnon, *Looking Back at Surrey*, Ch. 2, p. 15
8. In the late afternoon
 9. there were several blasts
 10. and then
 11. a very loud one
 12. It took a couple of hours
 13. to locate Chow Wing's head
 14. over on our property
 15. 100 feet away
 16. from the blast
- Source: McKinnon, in *Looking Back at Surrey*, Ch. 2, p. 15



Christine Leviczky Riek, women's washroom at the Scottish National Gallery in Edinburgh

Grey Text Boxes

1. Will and Fred laughed immoderately
 2. This disorderly laughter has a bad effect on the school
 3. I will change Fred's seat
 4. All the big boys left last week on account of the spring work
 5. I only had 5 today so everything was quiet
 6. The children were all back
 7. The evil spirit among those children
 8. that has descended into them from their fathers
 9. is constantly springing up like the dragon
 10. who having one of his heads cuts off
 11. another would spring up in its place
 12. A pleasant day. I'm learning when to smile in the schoolroom
 13. without damaging my dignity
- Source: 1897 Diary of Carolina McLellan, as quoted on SurreyHistory.ca/mclellanddiary.html
14. Our playhouse was the inside of a huge old hollow cedar stump
 15. on the bank of the ravine
- Source: Hodgins, in *Looking Back at Surrey*, Ch. 6, p. 37
16. There was a lot of beaver. We kids trapped them too
 17. Mother put little cowbells on us every time we went out to play
 18. to keep animals away
- Source: Johnston, as quoted in Treleaven, *Surrey Story*, p. 13

Green Text Boxes

1. Bear, deer and cougar were numerous
- Source: Treleaven, *Surrey Story*, p. 7
2. When Surrey was still
 3. un-named un-tamed
 4. piece of wilderness
- Source: Treleaven, *Surrey Story*, p. 7
5. Bear, deer and cougar were numerous
- Source: Treleaven, *Surrey Story*, p. 7 (note: intentional duplicate)
6. Animals whose skin was valuable as fur
- Source: Treleaven, *Surrey Story*, p. 7
7. The appearance of beaver being pretty numerous
- Source: 1824 Journal of John Work, McMillan Expedition, as quoted in SurreyHistory.ca/mcmillan.html
8. Hardhack was bush as high as a man
 9. stems like a pencil
 10. as thick as hair on a dog's back
 11. impossible to walk through
 12. the wood was hard as blazes, and useless
- Source: Brown, as quoted in Treleaven, *Surrey Story*, p. 12
13. Old Indian boxes placed in the trees
 14. growing along the south bank of the Nicomekl River
- Source: Harvie, as quoted in McKinnon, in *Looking Back at Surrey*, Ch. 5, p. 35
15. The best tract of Douglas Fir found anywhere was south of the Nicomekl River
- Source: Hardy, in *Looking Back at Surrey*, Ch. 3, p. 22
16. Three-quarters of Surrey was covered by fir and cedar forest

Artist Statement about *Prototype for a Bathroom/Surrey Stories 2018*

This work focusses on descriptions of the early settler environment in South Surrey - logging, stump-clearing, ditch-digging. The resulting artwork is an exploration of settler voices and historian voices about the place where I live. These voices presented, for me, often difficult and problematic parts of our past. In this work, these uncomfortable historical extracts and quotes are broken, blasted apart, like the stumps that remained after Surrey's old-growth forests were logged. These remnants are recombined into a modern colourful palette, like the beautifully-manicured Morgan Creek neighbourhood in which I live. The work attempts to capture the tension I feel between how I live today with what I know about the area's past. But if I spend time digging into the history (or trying to "read" the text in the artwork), it becomes uncomfortable.