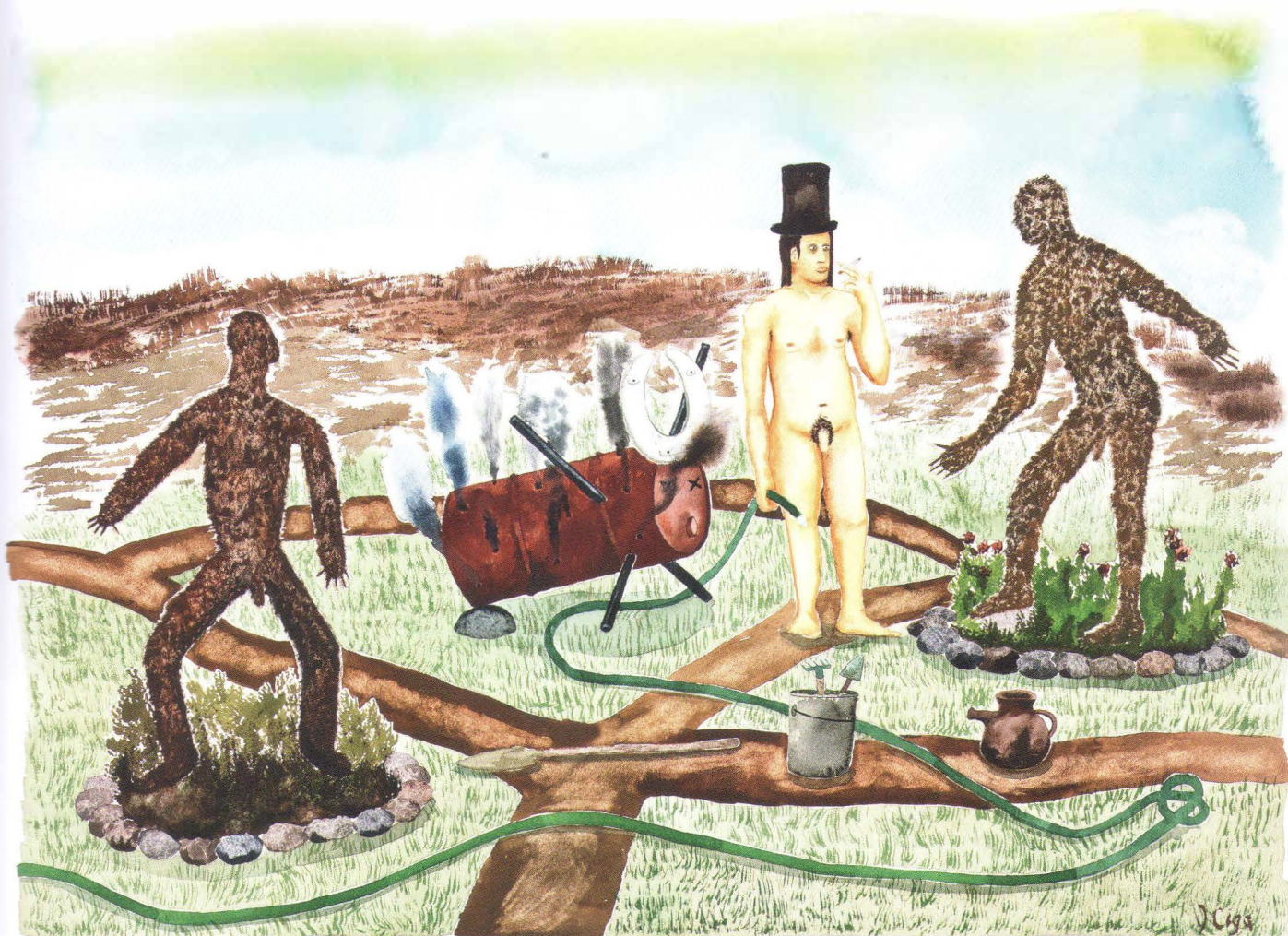


PREVIEW

Conversations with artists and curators on upcoming projects



PAINTING

JOSEPH TISIGA

AUDAIN ART MUSEUM, WHISTLER

February 16 to April 29

"Tales of an Empty Cabin" is Joseph Tisiga's first solo show on the west coast outside Whitehorse, where he lives and works. Here, he talks about finding pleasure in banality.

JOSEPH TISIGA: The title is from a collection of short stories by Grey Owl, an Englishman originally named Archie Belaney who came to Canada at the turn of the century, passed himself off as First Nations and became among the first eco-warriors. This exhibition's themes are consistent with what I've been doing: exploring ambivalent identity constructions, spiritual amnesia and the affect of displacement. I could describe it with this: imagine if you woke up from a coma and had to create a version of yourself, but based on stories, events or life ways that never existed. Exploring passive violence is consistent in the work, whether it's through pseudo-ritual symbolism or narrative interactions between figures in the painting. Because the work is narrative, I think in terms of storytelling or literary devices: conflict drives the plot, but its motive is indefinite.

What are the characters trying to pursue? It's often banal, but there's pleasure in confronting the everyday banality of our lives that ultimately defines our ambitions.

Joseph Tisiga *Liberties on the Verge of Permissiveness* 2016
COLLECTION NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA