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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake Country Art Gallery Presents *The Mystery Spot* by Alexis de Chaunac

Site-responsive exhibition rooted in the Okanagan landscape

Lake Country, BC — Lake Country Art Gallery is pleased to present ***The Mystery Spot***, a site-responsive exhibition by Chicago-based artist Alexis de Chaunac. Drawing from the Okanagan Valley’s orchards, agriculture, and seasonal labour, the exhibition transforms the apple—one of the region’s defining symbols—into a recurring form through which memory, ritual, and perception are explored.

Positioned as both material and metaphor, the apple appears throughout the gallery in drawings, prints, film, and installation. Works on paper in ink and oil pastel depict abstracted apples that are cut, doubled, and hollowed, oscillating between figuration and geometry. Through repetition and variation, the fruit becomes a rhythmic device that opens interior and exterior space, allowing the familiar to be seen anew.

Two projected videos extend this inquiry. One reworks the opening scene of *Earth* by Aleksandr Dovzhenko, isolating and looping the image of an old man lying on a bed of apples as his community gathers around him. This moment is physically re-enacted in the gallery as a communal apple bed illuminated by two car headlights. A second projection, live-streamed from this apple bed, introduces another body at rest, linking land, memory, and ritual in real time.

The exhibition unfolds as a sensory journey: industrial lights cut through a darkened space, road sounds drift in and out, and cinematic imagery echoes across walls and floor. Visitors are invited to enter the scene themselves—lying on the apple bed beneath the glare of headlights—becoming both observer and apparition within a landscape shaped by cultivation, industry, and myth. As perception subtly shifts, the “mystery spot” emerges not as a destination, but as a state of attention.

About the Artist

Alexis de Chaunac is a Chicago-based artist whose practice explores spirituality, material histories, and the poetic potential of everyday surfaces. He received his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and his BA from Sarah Lawrence College. He is a recipient of the Dedalus Foundation Fellowship and a Fundación Jumex grant. De Chaunac has exhibited internationally, with projects at Galleria Ramo (Como, Italy), Sargent's Daughters (New York), and the Carrillo Gil Art Museum (Mexico City). His work has been reviewed in *Whitewall Magazine*, *Whitehot Magazine*, and *Artsy Editorial*. He is currently a faculty member at SAIC and was a BOLT resident at the Chicago Artists Coalition.

Collaborators and Acknowledgements

Mural made in collaboration with **Nancy Wilde**

Apple bed and bin installations made in collaboration with **Byron Johnston**

Car light installation made in collaboration with **Paul Lewendon**

Special thanks to **Sumeet Gill and Farming Karma, Kelowna** for supplying the Ambrosia apples

Special thanks to **Bob McCoubrey** for construction of the bed structure, apple bin, and orchard ladders

Introducing the New Curator at Lake Country Art Gallery

With *The Mystery Spot*, Josh Willdigg presents his first fully curated exhibition in the Okanagan, bringing his focus on storytelling, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and the transformative potential of creative exchange to the gallery's exhibition program. A curator, writer, and filmmaker from North West England, Willdigg believes in curating as storytelling and is passionate about blending and bridging worlds with artists inside and outside traditional contemporary art boundaries. A Leverhulme Scholar for screenwriting, his largest curatorial project to date was the multi-part *Football City, Art United*. with Factory International, bringing together artists and footballers to produce original collaborations. His work is guided by the belief that creativity transforms rather than disappears, and that innovation begins when familiar things are combined in unfamiliar ways.

Exhibition Details

The Mystery Spot

February 28 – April 4

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 28, 1:00–3:00 pm

Lake Country Art Gallery

Attached images

- Invitation to opening
- Alexis de Chaunac works in studio
- Alexis de Chaunac with Josh Willdigg

For media inquiries, additional images, or interview requests, please contact:

Curator joshwilldigg@lakecountryartgallery.ca 1-672-969-9602

Short Description

Lake Country Art Gallery presents *The Mystery Spot*, a site-responsive exhibition by Chicago-based artist Alexis de Chaunac, rooted in the Okanagan Valley’s orchard landscape and agricultural history. Using the apple as both symbol and material form, the exhibition explores memory, ritual, and perception through drawing, projection, and installation.

Works on paper depict abstracted apples that hover between figuration and geometry, while two projected videos extend this inquiry. One reworks a scene from Aleksandr Dovzhenko’s *Earth*, isolating the image of an old man resting on a bed of apples. This moment is re-enacted in the gallery as a communal apple bed illuminated by car headlights. A second projection live-streams from the installation, linking land, memory, and the body in real time.

Together, the exhibition unfolds as a sensory environment where the everyday shifts into the poetic, and the “mystery spot” emerges through subtle changes in perception.

The Mystery Spot marks Josh Willdigg’s first fully curated exhibition at Lake Country Art Gallery, where his practice centres on storytelling, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and the transformative potential of creative exchange.