On Butterfly Logic Descriptive Audio Guide Transcript

Introduction
0:00

This recording is a guided description of the lightbox exhibition, *On Butterfly Logic* by Inari Sandell. Curated by Fraser McCallum, the exhibition is dispersed across the gallery's four outdoor lightboxes on the University of Toronto Mississauga campus.

Currently speaking is Liam Mullen, Research and Outreach Assistant at The Blackwood. In this recording, I will provide visual descriptions and wayfinding information for *On Butterfly Logic*.

Entry to the CCT Building Courtyard: Davis Building
0:35

All four lightboxes are 6 feet tall, and 9 feet wide. This one is mounted on the William G. Davis Building along a pavement walkway that leads to the CCT courtyard. The bottom edge rests approximately at knee-level. All four lightbox images in the exhibition are bisected into two vertical sections: a video-still drawn from Sandell's *On Butterfly Logic*, coupled with a textual composition of lines borrowed from the video.

On the left half of this image is a photograph of a butterfly fluttering in a greenhouse and butterfly sanctuary. The butterfly is justified slightly above the centre of the image plane. Its wings hold a gradient of yellow, decorated with a blackened lattice

overlaying pattern. Crowding around the frame are overlapping industrial elements such as: white-painted irrigation pipes and valves embellished with rust along their seams; segments of scaffold jutting into the frame from the periphery; and a suspended light fixture that guides the eye towards the centre of the composition. These elements fall in and out of focus, adding depth to the, otherwise, pared back composition. In the background, the greenhouse's glass walls are slicked with silt and mildew that work to evenly diffuse the light within the scene.

On the right half of the lightbox, there is a scanned, bright white page containing offset, uppercase, letterpress text, which is a consistent design across all the text sections. These staggered clusters of text carry the concepts voiced in the video, *On Butterfly Logic*. The text reads: "I watch them beat / their wings / against the glass / until they break. / and then keep beating. / repeated motions / movement with no / apparent function. / stimming / are seen as disordered; / something to suppress / to assimilate / into society." As the words meander along the surface of the image plane, they leave behind incidental traces: smudges of black ink, scratches, and scuffs that fill the gaps between each fragmented thought.

Awning-Corridor: CCT Building Courtyard
3:00

This lightbox is mounted beneath the awning-corridor of the CCT Building. The bottom edge of the lightbox rests approximately at knee-level.

On the left section of the image, the staggered clusters of text read: "in philosophy / "butterfly logic" / describes faulty logic. / jumping / into conclusions by association. / randomly fluttering from / A to B with:, / insufficient data."

On the right section, a butterfly, suspended in the top third of the frame, flies through a greenhouse. The butterfly's wings are round with a translucent quality rendered by their sappy, resin-like polish. Across the span of its wings, a vibrant amber colouration gently fades into a pale-yellow punctuated by uneven groupings of darkened detailing. Out of focus, in the foreground, a loose wire bends into view from beyond the frame, slightly obfuscating the butterfly.

Entry to the Blackwood Gallery: Kaneff Centre/Innovation Complex
4:10

This lightbox is mounted outside the entrance into the Kaneff Centre/Innovation Complex used to access the Blackwood Gallery. The bottom edge of the lightbox rests approximately at waist-level.

On the left section of the lightbox, the text is more uniform and centrally-justified, though towards the bottom the text begins to meander, landing emphatically, off-kilter. The text reads: "butterflies are considered / valuable environmental / indicators because of / their fragility, / their sensitivity and / rapid reactions to subtle changes / in habitat and climate. [paragraph break] what if we saw this sensitivity / in humans as something to / preserve and / protect?" Again, incidental traces are left behind: smudges of black ink, scratches, and scuffs that fill the gaps between each fragmented thought.

On the right section, a braided vine attached to the armature of a greenhouse, slouches towards the bottom third of the image. Resting in an inverted position upon the vine is a pale-yellow butterfly with jagged wingtips. Its wings carry an intricate lattice pattern interrupted by darkened blots. Surrounding the delicate looking butterfly are industrial infrastructural elements: galvanized steel beams intersecting with each other; irrigation

pipes, fashioned with a green lever and accents of corrosion; wire frame channels with wires encased with white, PVC piping, strapped in place by black zip-ties.

East Entry to the South-Wing: Davis Building
5:54

This lightbox is mounted next to the William G. Davis Building's entry to the South-Wing. The bottom edge of the lightbox rests approximately at waist-level.

On the left section of the lightbox, a grey-green butterfly hovers in the centre of the frame. Closely behind the butterfly is a fogged over window, sectioned off by a steel frame that runs horizontally across the bottom third of the composition. The built-up condensation, clinging to the glass, streams down the panes leaving behind trails. Alongside the traces of runoff, gentle demarcations of movement are drawn into the condensation: dotted lines, and long, wandering strokes recalling the tapping and rubbing of delicate foliage against the surface of the glass.

On the right, the text is double-spaced and centered, while at the bottom its kerning and linespacing tighten, landing as emphatic stanzas along the bottom third of the image. The text reads: "scientists call / the butterfly's movement 'erratic' / the way it moves in an unpredictable / manner abruptly / up-and-down / from side-to-side / to confuse possible predators [paragraph break] I know how it feels / to flutter with my own kind, / how effortless / not having to explain every / train of thought and need."