

cschool Study Guides

C105 Sports

Ray Cronin, “Graeme Patterson: The Grappler,” C Magazine 105 (Spring, 2010): p. 14 – 19.

In his book, *Imagined Communities*, first published in 1983, the cultural theorist Benedict Anderson writes: “Nationality, nation-ness, as well as nationalism are cultural artifacts of a particular kind.”ⁱ He further argues that “to understand them properly we need to consider carefully how they have come into historical being, in what ways their meanings have changed over time, and why, today, they command such profound emotional legitimacy.”ⁱⁱ For Anderson, nations are both real *and* fictional, and take shape in the imagination through various cultural practices. With this in mind, consider the following questions in relation to Ray Cronin’s article on the work of Graeme Patterson:

1. What kinds of cultural artifacts or, particularly, nostalgic sporting activities does Patterson appropriate in *10 Point Game* and *Grudge Match*?
2. How do these objects and activities arouse such deep attachments to Canadian identity?
3. Drawing from Patterson’s *Woodrow* exhibition, describe the ways he uses these cultural artifacts to evoke memories that are in fact fictional.
4. How does the closed, yet still-standing hockey rink function as a malleable locus of memory and identity in this exhibition?
5. What meaning can be attributed to the fact that *Woodrow* portrays a town that is abandoned?
6. How does personal memory converge with collective memory in this installation? (For example, there is a parallel between the Lafleche vs. *Woodrow* and Canada vs. Russia games).

Additional Sources

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso, 2006.

Sue Carter Flinn, "The wonderful world of Woodrow," *The Coast* (February 1, 2007), accessed March 1, 2010; <http://www.thecoast.ca/halifax/the-wonderful-world-of-woodrow/Content?oid=960288>.

David Garneau, "Graeme Patterson," *Border Crossings*, Vol. 27, no. 1 (February 2008), 109-11.

Richard S. Gruneau, *Hockey Night in Canada: Sport, Identities and Cultural Politics*, Toronto: Garamond Press, 1993.

Graeme Patterson, "Artist Project: Wild at Heart," *Blackflash*, Vol. 26, no. 2 (Winter 2009), 8.

Leila Porurtavaf, "Biennale de Montréal 2007," *C Magazine*, no. 95 (Fall 2007), 11-13.

ⁱ Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (London: Verso, 2006), 4.

ⁱⁱ *Ibid.*

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