



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

AURORA SKALA

BA (University of Victoria, 2013)

“Heiltsuk and Wuikinuxv Rock Art: Applying DStretch to Reveal a Layered Landscape, a Case Study on the Central Coast, British Columbia, Canada”

Department of Anthropology

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

1:00 P.M.

Cornett Building

Room A319

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. April Nowell, Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)

Dr. Duncan McLaren, Department of Anthropology, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:

Dr. Alan McMillan, Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Margaret Cameron, Department of Philosophy, UVic

Abstract

This archaeological community-engaged research focuses on locating, recording, photographing, and classifying, rock art (pictographs and petroglyphs) designs within Heiltsuk and Wuikinuxv Nations' territories. The two areas are on the Central Coast of British Columbia, Canada: River's Inlet/Owikenno Lake (Wuikinuxv territory, near Oweekeno village), and Roscoe Inlet (Heiltsuk territory, near Bella Bella). By listening to stories and visiting rock art locations its deep history and significance can begin to be comprehended. Throughout this research 57 rock art sites were visited and over 900 designs were categorized into nine types. Within this context I consider the feasibility and benefits of digital contrast adjustment of photographs using DStretch, a plugin created for ImageJ, that renders visible faint traces of pigment which can not be seen with the naked eye. Additionally, the potential of underwater archaeology (scuba diving) for the discovery and recording of rock art sites is explored.