**Ocean Falls** by Ryan Ermacora and Jessica Johnson (Canada, 2015, 15:00)

review by Michelle Martin

A quiet and compelling contemplation of the consequences of capitalist exploitation of natural resources, Jessica Johnson and Ryan Ermacora’s film *Ocean Falls* lyrically explores the infrastructural decay of a small town. Johnson and Ermacora’s thoughtfully composed shots oscillate between intimate overgrown interiors and a tiny fading town dwarfed by the ever-present West Coast landscape. *Ocean Falls* departs, however, from the tradition of simple showing that many landscape documentaries employ and includes the recollections of one of the town’s few remaining inhabitants. Johnson and Ermacora offer glimpses of the man, but his largely disembodied voice haunts the film’s imagery and further emphasizes the town’s abandonment and isolation. Most importantly, *Ocean Falls* reflects on the absurd precarity of capitalism’s resource exploitation and speculates on a landscape from which human presence has been effaced.