

## ICA

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art  
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Photo Magazine. Visual, Audio and Surround Art Galleries.  
Reference Library. Small Press. Travelling Shows.

## PREFIX.

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For Immediate Release

### PREFIX PRESENTS

## STAN DOUGLAS'S EVERY BUILDING ON 100 WEST HASTINGS

MAY 6 – JUNE 26, 2004

"Even for spectators unaware that for decades Hastings Street was the most important social and commercial thoroughfare in Vancouver, this picture tells a story of a tragic decline."

– Denise Blake Oleksijczuk

**Toronto, ON, March 11, 2004** – Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art presents celebrated Canadian artist Stan Douglas's renowned photo exhibit of Vancouver's desolate Downtown Eastside, *Every Building on 100 West Hastings*. This special presentation coincides with the official unveiling of Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art's new facility, located in the heart of Toronto's art district. The exhibit runs from May 6 to June 26, 2004.

"When we launched *Prefix Photo* magazine it was a privilege to have featured Stan Douglas's work in our premiere issue. Now, five years later, it seems wonderfully appropriate to be exhibiting his latest photographic work for the grand opening of our new gallery", remarked Prefix's Director/Curator Scott McLeod.

*Every Building on 100 West Hastings* is Stan Douglas's photographic tribute to one of the most controversial neighbourhoods in Canada. To capture the decline and neglect of West Hastings within Vancouver's evolving cityscape, Douglas created a 66 x 427 cm panoramic print of the block's continuous row of old wood and brick buildings. His photographic study of urban decay in Vancouver's unsettling Downtown Eastside was the subject of the book *Every Building on 100 West Hastings*, co-published in 2002 by Vancouver's Contemporary Art Gallery and Arsenal Pulp Press (winner of the 2002 City of Vancouver Book Prize). Now Toronto audiences have the chance to experience the exhibit for the first time at Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art.

A unique exhibition and educational facility, the newly renovated Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art is dedicated to the appreciation and understanding of contemporary photographic, media and digital arts. The gallery consists of a photo and video installation space and a separate **audio art gallery**. The audio art gallery – the first one of its kind in Canada – is a discrete exhibition space designed exclusively for the presentation of audio art, which will encompass a diversity of creative sound works including experimental, electroacoustic, and radiophonic works, sound poetry, found sound, and film and video soundtracks. The exhibition spaces are supported by a **public reference library** specializing in books and periodicals on photo, media and digital art.

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This year also marks the fifth anniversary of *Prefix Photo* magazine -- a semi-annual, award-winning publication dedicated to contemporary photography and related arts. Stan Douglas's work will be featured in the upcoming 9th issue of *Prefix Photo*, along with portfolios and essays by Philip Monk, Rodney Graham, Rebecca Belmore, Xandra Eden, Wang Qingsong, Chris Curreri, and Robert Polidori, to name a few.

### PREFIX INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

presents

Stan Douglas's *Every Building on 100 West Hastings*  
May 6 (Opening Reception 7 – 10 PM) – June 27, 2004

at Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art  
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### **ABOUT STAN DOUGLAS**

Stan Douglas was born in Vancouver, British Columbia and educated at the Emily Carr College of Art. His work explores social histories played out through a complex cinematic and televisual language. His interest in the social implementation of Western ideas of progress, particularly utopian philosophies, is located in their often divisive political and economic effects. His interrogation of the structural possibilities of film and video, in concert with intricately developed narratives, has resulted in a number of groundbreaking contemporary art works. These have been included in exhibitions around the globe, including Documenta IX, X and XI (Kassel), Venice Biennale, Tate Modern (London), Sao Paolo Biennale, Serpentine Gallery (London), Art Institute of Chicago, DIA Center for the Arts (New York), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), and Guggenheim Bilbao. For complete bibliography of Stan Douglas's work, please visit [www.tractor.com/douglasbio.html](http://www.tractor.com/douglasbio.html)

### **ABOUT PREFIX INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

Founded in 1999, Prefix institute of Contemporary Art is a non-profit contemporary arts organization based in Toronto. Prefix's mandate is to promote the appreciation and understanding of contemporary photographic, media & digital arts through exhibitions, publications and related activities.

Located at the heart of Toronto's art's district at 401 Richmond West, Prefix is a unique facility designed to increase the visibility of Canadian artists and support Canadian writers, curators and critics, while also bringing a diverse body of international work to the nation's audiences through its exhibitions, publications and community-partnered activities. The newly renovated facility consists of a visual gallery, an audio gallery, and a public reference library. Over the past year, Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art showcased a number of accomplished artist works including *Motels* by Steve Payne (nominated for a Steam Whistle Art Award for Best Photography Show of 2003); *Present-day Epics* by Wang Qingsong; *Ordinary Marvel* by Susan Kealey and David Small's *Illuminated Manuscript*. Confirmed upcoming shows include Peter Kingstone's *One a Day* and The Atlas Group's *The Fakhouri Files*.

### **About Prefix's Audio Art Gallery**

This one-of-a-kind gallery is a sound-proofed room with multiple layers of soundblok, drywall and insulation to prevent external sounds from penetrating the space, as well as the audio art from leaking out into the visual art gallery. The walls of the gallery are lined with acoustical panels designed to optimize the quality of the sound. The audio gallery is completely empty, with the exception of an enticing, upholstered bench and a single light fixture. Upon entering the room, the visitor sits (or stretches out) on the bench and the audio art piece (triggered by a motion detector and piped into the room via speakers embedded in the wall) begins. Like a visual art gallery, the audio art gallery has a revolving series of temporary exhibitions.

### **About *Prefix Photo Magazine***

*Prefix Photo* is an award-winning magazine dedicated to contemporary photography and related arts. Characterized by innovative design and outstanding production values, *Prefix Photo* consists primarily of portfolio and essay sections, providing a complement of intelligent texts and breathtaking visuals. These features are accompanied by newsbriefs which provide information and opportunities for professional photographers, including new technological developments. Each issue of *Prefix Photo* presents the work of Canadian photographers, both emerging and established, alongside that of their international counterparts. But *Prefix Photo* is not restricted to images conventionally considered to be "photographic"; its mandate encompasses film, video and digital art.