

For Immediate Release (September 4, 2006)

BETWEEN SOUND AND VISION – ACCLAIMED ICELANDIC ARTIST FINNBOGI PÉTURSSON MAKES DEBUT IN CANADA

(Toronto) – Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art and InterAccess Electronic Media Arts Centre present *The Finnboji Pétursson Project*. Curated by Scott McLeod, this exhibition has been conceived in two parts with Pétursson's work featured in inaugural Canadian solo exhibitions at both venues. *Sphere* (2003) – a work that gives striking visual presence to the most elemental of sounds and provides a window onto the artist's previous work – will be presented at Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art courtesy of Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary (Vienna). Offering insight into the artist's creative process, Interaccess Electronic Media Arts Centre will show a new site-specific work, the result of Pétursson's residency at the centre.

Opening **Thursday, September 21, 7:30 to 11 PM** at InterAccess Electronic Media Arts Centre, 9 Ossington Avenue, Toronto. *Traps* will be exhibited until **Saturday, November 4, 2006**.

Opening **Thursday, September 28, 7 to 10 PM** at Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art, 401 Richmond Street West, Suite 124, Toronto. *Sphere* will be shown until **Saturday, November 25, 2006**, with a closing reception on **Thursday, November 23 from 7 to 10 PM**, in conjunction with the launch of *Prefix Photo 14*.

Please note that the artist will be present at both openings.

Known for electronic creations that fuse sound (the artist's primary medium), sculpture, architecture and motion – and with a practice that spans more than twenty years – **celebrated contemporary Icelandic artist Finnboji Pétursson** has earned a solid reputation throughout the arts community, and among jazz, classical and experimental musicians, as an innovative artist whose work defies convention and easy categorization.

Pétursson is the recipient of numerous awards, including a 1997 Edstrand Award, and his work resides in public collections worldwide. Recent solo shows include: a 2005 show at Lichtkunst aus Kunstlicht, Museum für Neue Kunst, Karlsruhe, Germany; a 2004 show at Akureyri Art Museum, Akureyri, Iceland; 2002 shows at Gothenburg Konstmuseum, Gothenburg, Sweden, and at the National Gallery of Iceland; and a 2001 show at the Venice Biennale.

"In Pétursson's work, the ancient and the contemporary, the material and the invisible, the elemental and the technological, co-exist. While the landscape of Iceland is not explicitly represented, Pétursson's experience of being born and raised in that country has clearly influenced his psychology and can be strongly felt in his work. The harshness, the austerity and the stark beauty of this extreme northern clime; the rumble and roar of the inner earth as felt on this volcanic island; the extended periods of darkness and light all contribute to the aesthetic, conceptual and experiential dimensions of this artist's work." – Scott McLeod, curator

***Traps* (2006)**

Presented by InterAccess Electronic Media Arts Centre

Based on the frequencies present in the gallery, this as-yet-untitled site-specific work will consist of five black, rectangular, wall-mounted sculptures. Each of these five two-piece units will be hung precisely throughout the space and will respond and pay homage to a particular frequency. Although appearing to be a "silent" sound installation, the viewers' interactions with the work will yield subtle sound rewards when their ears are placed against the 2 cm gap in each unit.

Associated programming at InterAccess:

Artist talk

Wednesday, September 27 at 7 PM
Finnbogi Pétursson discusses his work and practice.

Saturday, September 23 from 2 to 4 PM
Finnbogi Pétursson will be present for casual discussions about his work.

Sphere (2003)

Presented by Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art, courtesy of Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary (Vienna)

In *Sphere*, as in many of his other works, Pétursson highlights the sine wave, an elementary form of sound and a pitch that is central to traditional Icelandic singing. Pétursson uses water in a large glass bowl to "trap" channelled sound, which then rhythmically moves the surface of the water. Light (also a sine wave) from beneath the bowl then enables these waves to be projected onto the ceiling and the ten 50 to 60 Hz tones to integrate with the light and water. The result is a dynamic sound sculpture that evokes the primitive nature of music within a dazzling play of light and shadow.

Associated programming at Prefix:

Nuit Blanche

Saturday, September 30
Prefix will be open from 7 PM to sunrise.

Closing reception

Thursday, November 23 from 7 to 10 PM
In conjunction with the launch of *Prefix Photo 14*

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art is a registered charitable organization based in Toronto. Prefix fosters the appreciation and understanding of contemporary photographic, media and digital arts through exhibitions, publications and related activities. For their assistance with the receptions for *The Finnbogi Pétursson Project*, Prefix gratefully acknowledges the Icelandic-Canadian Club of Toronto, the Embassy of Iceland in Ottawa and À la Carte Kitchen Inc.

InterAccess is a not-for-profit, artist-run centre that enables artists and the general public to explore the intersections of art and technology. Our mission is to expand the cultural space of technology. InterAccess thanks Creemore Springs Brewery for their support of the opening reception. InterAccess also gratefully acknowledges the support of the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their continued support.

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