

PHOTO, MEDIA AND DIGITAL ART

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ROBERT BEAN'S ART RENDERS OBSOLETE OBJECTS INTELLIGIBLE

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art is pleased to present *Metamorphosis*, a mid-career retrospective exhibition by Halifax artist **Robert Bean**. *Metamorphosis* features several of the artist's most significant photographic series of the past decade, including *Verbatim* and *Lapsus*, as well as the world premiere of *Folds* and *Etudes*. The exhibition also includes the world premiere of an audio artwork titled *Polyphony*.

Metamorphosis is curated by Prefix's staff curator **Scott McLeod**. About the exhibition, McLeod states: "By recovering obsolete technology, found objects and other miscellany, and presenting them through photographic enlargements, Bean transforms them into subjects worthy of our attention. Here, a paperclip, unconsciously twisted and discarded by its owner, becomes a sculpture; a grocery list, an intriguing psychological portrait of its author; a snapshot of two children, a tale of abuse and neglect. In the artist's careful re-presentation of these objects lies a strange and compelling metamorphosis."

Robert Bean was born and raised in Saskatchewan. In 1978, he obtained a B.F.A. from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (now NSCAD University) and, in 1999, an M.A. in cultural studies from the University of Leeds. Since 1976, he has lived and worked in Halifax, where he is an associate professor at NSCAD University. Bean has exhibited his work in solo and group exhibitions in Canada, Europe, South America and New Zealand. He has also published articles on photography, art and culture, written catalogue essays and undertaken curatorial projects. Bean's work is housed in public and private collections, including the Nova Scotia Art Bank, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography. His commissions include the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and Gallery TPW.

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An **opening reception** for *Metamorphosis* will be held on **Thursday, January 25 from 7 to 10 PM** at Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art, located at 401 Richmond Street West, Suite 124, Toronto. The artist and curator will be present. The exhibition continues until March 3, 2007. Admission is free.

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art is a public art gallery and art publishing house based in Toronto. A registered charitable organization, Prefix fosters the appreciation and understanding of contemporary photographic, media and digital art. For the loan of the work *Lapsus*, Prefix gratefully acknowledges the National Gallery of Canada. Prefix also acknowledges the support of our Official Catering Sponsor, à la Carte Kitchen, and our Official Hotel Sponsor, the Sutton Place Hotel. Lastly, Prefix acknowledges the assistance of the Toronto Arts Council.

For more information, please contact Daniel Ehrenworth, Public Programs Manager, at 416-591-0357 or daniel@prefix.ca.