

PHOTO, MEDIA AND DIGITAL ART

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Photo Magazine, Visual, Audio and Surround Art Galleries.
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For Immediate Release (February 29, 2008)

BETTINA HOFFMANN KEEPS VIEWERS RETURNING TO PLACES OF DEPARTURE

(Toronto) – Mesmerizing and haunting, the new video installation by Montréal-based artist **Bettina Hoffmann** transports viewers into spaces where they experience moments of eerie intimacy. Curated by **Scott McLeod** and presented by **Prefix** in association with the **Images Festival, *Décalage*** is a pair of dual projections: each scene, which depicts figures in a tableau, is simultaneously presented in two, slightly different, versions. Those who are familiar with Hoffmann's previous work will recognize the themes of consciousness and self-consciousness, stillness and movement, the personal and the interpersonal.

In *Décalage*, the camera moves freely, carefully exploring the stationary figures of a couple in bed and of two women standing over a third woman lying on a floor. The apparent three-dimensionality of video and the two-dimensionality of the still photograph – evoked in the tableaux – intersect to produce a palpable tension. The viewer seems to be pulled into an image that simultaneously asserts its impenetrability. Without a fixed point of view, suspended between two- and three-dimensionality, the spectator is entranced and transfixed.

An **opening reception** will be held on **Thursday, March 13 from 7:00 to 10:00 PM** at **Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art**, located at **401 Richmond Street West, Suite 124, Toronto**. The **Images Festival** runs from **April 3 to 12, 2008**. The exhibition closes on April 19, 2008.

About the Artist

Born and educated in Berlin, Bettina Hoffmann lives in Montréal where she continues to work in photography, digital photomontage and video. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, most recently at the Oakville Galleries (Oakville, Ontario), Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal and the Kristi Engle Gallery (Los Angeles). She has received numerous grants and awards, and her work is held in both public and private collections in North America and Europe.

About the Curator

Scott McLeod is a curator, writer and arts administrator based in Toronto. His work focusses on contemporary practices, particularly photography, media and digital art. Since 2000, he has been the director and curator of Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art, where he also serves as editor and publisher of *Prefix Photo* magazine.

About Prefix

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art is a public art gallery and arts publishing house in Toronto. A registered charitable organization, Prefix fosters the appreciation and understanding of contemporary photographic, media and digital art.

Acknowledgements

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For more information, print-ready images or to schedule an interview with the artist or curator, please contact:

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