

PHOTO, MEDIA AND DIGITAL ART

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For Immediate Release (January 9, 2008)

OSCAR MUÑOZ MAKES A LASTING IMPRESSION

(Toronto) – Internationally renowned Colombian artist, Oscar Muñoz, will be in Toronto to present his **first major solo exhibition in North America**. *Imprints for a Fleeting Memorial*, curated by **José Roca**, is a compilation of Muñoz's life's work, spanning more than three decades. The exhibition is **travelling internationally**, with its first North American stop at **Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art**.

Muñoz is recognized as one of the most significant contemporary visual artists in Colombia. He applies traditional techniques to fundamental elements (water, air and fire) in photography, printmaking, drawing, installation, video and sculpture. His innovative processes combined with the use of unusual surfaces allow spectators to share in the creation of art.

Imprints for a Fleeting Memorial will exhibit 12 imaginative works celebrating Muñoz's career by investigating **the status of the image in relation to memory**. A variety of materials are used for the exhibition including glass, sugar cubes, coffee, Plexiglas, cigarettes, newspapers and mirror.

Works to be exhibited include the Narcissus series, consisting of *Narcissi in Process* (1991/2007), *Narcissus in Process* (2001–02), and *Narcissus* (2001–02), depicting the progressive deformation of an image floating in water; *Project for a Memorial* (2004–05), a video installation inspired by images of deceased persons found in local obituaries, emphasizing the process of “dis-remembering”; and *Re/trato* (2003), in Spanish meaning “portrait” or “to try again”, documenting a self-portrait painted with water on a stone slab. *Paistiempo (Newspapers)* (2007) is Muñoz's newest work, currently in progress.

Muñoz's creative processes have also been applied to *Ambulatorio* (1994–2003), *Pixels* (1999–2000), *Biographies* (2002), *Palimpsest* (2003), *Intervals (While I Breathe)* (2004) and *Line of Destiny* (2006).

Imprints for a Fleeting Memorial will be displayed at **Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art**, located at **401 Richmond Street West, Suite 124, Toronto**, in association with **YYZ Artists' Outlet, Suite 140** (located in the same building). The exhibition opens on **Thursday, January 24, 2008 from 7 to 10 PM**. Muñoz and Roca will provide a **tour of the exhibition at 7:30 PM**. The show runs until **Saturday, March 1, 2008**.

About the Artist

Oscar Muñoz resides in Cali, Colombia. His work has recently entered the collections of the Tate Modern, L.A. MOCA, the Miami Art Museum, the Hirshhorn Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Fundación La Caixa in Barcelona and, most recently, the Museo Extremeño e Iberoamericano de Arte Contemporáneo in Spain, among others. In 2007, he participated in the 52nd Venice Biennale in Italy. Muñoz's work has been featured in numerous exhibitions internationally since 1994. *Imprints for a Fleeting Memorial* is Oscar Muñoz's first solo exhibition in Canada.

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About the Curator

José Roca is a curator based in Bogotá, Colombia, where he heads the temporary exhibitions program at the Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango. His recent curatorial projects include *Phantasmagoria: Specters of Absence*, Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango, Bogotá, a travelling exhibition co-produced with ICI (Independent Curators International), New York (2007–09); *Botánica política*, Sala Montcada, Fundación La Caixa, Barcelona (2004); *Traces of Friday*, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (2003); *TransHistorias*, survey of the work of José Alejandro Restrepo, Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango, Bogotá (2001); *Define "Context"*, APEX Art Curatorial Program, New York (2000); *Ruins; Utopia*, survey of Cuban artist Carlos Garaicoa, Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango, Bogotá, Bronx Museum for the Arts, New York and Museo Alejandro Otero, Caracas (2000–01).

He co-curated the Trienal Poli/gráfica de San Juan, Puerto Rico (2004) and the 27th São Paulo Bienal (2006). Roca is currently the Artistic Director of Philagrafika, a quadriennial of contemporary printmaking to be held in different venues in Philadelphia in 2010. He edits *Columna de arena*, an online column on art and contemporary culture.

About Prefix

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

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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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