

PHOTO, MEDIA AND DIGITAL ART

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art
Suite 124, Box 124
401 Richmond Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 3A8
T 416.591.0357 F 416.591.0358
info@prefix.ca www.prefix.ca
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For Immediate Release (January 14, 2009)

TIME UNRAVELS IN PATRICK BERNATCHEZ'S NEW VIDEO INSTALLATION

(Toronto) – As its first exhibition of the new year, **Prefix** is pleased to present the **world premiere** of *The Chrysalides Trilogy* by emerging Québécois artist **Patrick Bernatchez**. Curated by **Scott McLeod** and **Elly Stegeman**, this exhibition is presented by **Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art** in association with **SM's – Stedelijk Museum 's-Hertogenbosch** in the Netherlands.

An **opening reception** with artist in attendance will be held on **Thursday, January 29th from 7 to 10 PM** at **Prefix**, located at 401 Richmond Street West, Suite 124, Toronto. The exhibition runs until **March 7th, 2009**.

A typical office space – tidy, serene and seemingly abandoned – is the setting for the first video in the trilogy: "I Feel Cold Today" (2007). The quiet visual scene is paired with a haunting orchestral soundtrack – the viewer's first clue that something eerie is approaching. Suddenly snow begins to fall, fluttering down hallways, through doorways and accumulating on the floors and against windows. The score contrasts with the increasing intensity of the events on-screen: strong wind causes the hanging blinds to crash together like wind chimes, office papers blow about and heavy snow drifts through the interior. Slowly the music transforms into an unnatural, grating wall of sound, one that complements the surreal vision of an abandoned office suite filled almost completely with snow.

Another video in the trilogy, "Chrysalide" (2008), features a man sitting in a car as it slowly fills with water. The driving, electronic soundscape fuels the camera's insistent movements, as it circles the car and the seemingly unconcerned occupant, building towards an ominous finale. All of the works in Bernatchez's trilogy focus on similar ideas, poetic narratives that build with anticipation over impending events, while themes of life, death and transitional states loom over the imagery.

Official Hotel Sponsor



The Sutton Place Hotel

Bernatchez has previously exhibited the first two of the three videos, "I Feel Cold Today" and "Chrysalide", but the third episode, and thus the trilogy itself, is exhibited here for the first time. *The Chrysalides Trilogy* is Bernatchez's first solo exhibition in a public art gallery outside of Québec and will continue as an international exhibition with Prefix's partner, SM's – Stedelijk Museum 's-Hertogenbosch, in the Netherlands.

Presentation Partner



About the Artist

Patrick Bernatchez is a visual artist working in painting, drawing, installation, sound, video and photography. He has exhibited widely in Québec, in both solo and group shows, notably at the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Galerie d'art de Matane and in the Québec Triennial 2008 at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal. He lives and works in Montréal, where he is represented by Galerie Donald Browne.

About the Curators

Scott McLeod is a writer, curator and arts administrator. His work focuses on contemporary practices, with a specialization in 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. McLeod is a member of IKT, International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art.

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Elly Stegeman is an experienced curator of international exhibitions of contemporary art, as well as an arts writer and critic in a wide range of contexts, such as historical art, society, human relations, philosophy and poetry. She studied at the Universiteit Utrecht. She worked for eighteen years as the curator of contemporary art at De Beyerd Breda, and now works at SM's – Stedelijk Museum 's-

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Hertogenbosch. In her various projects, she has worked with artists such as Marian Breedveld, Amar Kanwar and Spencer Runick; she also curated the influential exhibition *Contemporary Paintings of the Low Countries*, among many others.

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 photography, media and digital art. Recently, Prefix launched a new division, Prefix Press, and has just released its first book, *Milk and Melancholy* by Kenneth Hayes.

Acknowledgements

For their support of *The Chrysalides Trilogy*, Prefix gratefully acknowledges 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 and the Canada Council for the Arts.

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

Olivia Tsang
Publicist
Tsang Media Inc.
T: 647-430-5888
F: 647-430-7885
E: prefix@tsangmedia.com