



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THINKING INSIDE THE BOX: LUMINATO UNVEILS 2009 *LUMINATO BOX* ARTISTS**

**TORONTO (May 14, 2009)** – **Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity** continues its dedication to engaging a wide range of artists with the unveiling of the 2009 ***Luminato Box*** installation series. From a wall of wax letters to walls of 'tweets' and talking shadows to grumbling dumpsters, the ***Luminato Box*** is guaranteed to provide 2009 Festival-goers with an introspective and immensely original visual arts experience. Focusing on the larger Festival theme of communication exemplified by the *Communication | Environment* visual arts exhibition, this ground breaking temporary experimental gallery is free to attend. The ***Luminato Box*** runs **June 5 – 14** at Sam Pollock Square in Brookfield Place.

Each day, the ***Luminato Box*** showcases a different provocative installation by one of 10 artists, all of whom received a grant of \$1,000 by Luminato to put towards a new or existing piece. Initiated as an open-call for installation proposals, the selected artists' installations must all fit within the 26' x 26' ft dimensions of a four-walled, whitewashed space the size of an average living room. Each ***Luminato Box*** artist is given two hours to set up their work on the morning of their respective exhibition, and must ensure their installations are removed and the box returned to its original pristine condition that same night. ***Luminato Box*** artworks are exhibited to the public daily from 8:00AM to 10:00PM.

The ***Luminato Box*** also features group projects from OpenCity Projects and ArtHeart Community Art Centre in conjunction with the Festival's larger Education and Outreach program. An exclusive exhibition day has been devoted to each organization to help encourage interactive participation and engagement at Luminato 2009 from students, teachers, youth, adults, and families.

The ***Luminato Box*** is presented by *Kiehl's Since 1851* with additional support from the *Hal Jackman Foundation*.

"Kiehl's is delighted to once again partner with Luminato in this unique celebration of Toronto's vibrant arts community," says Kristin Armstrong, Vice-President and General Manager of Kiehl's. "Kiehl's has a long-standing commitment to the arts community. We are honoured to join Luminato in supporting and raising awareness of the featured artists of the Luminato Box and we proudly support the artistic endeavours of these local, national, and international artists."

## **Complete 2009 *Luminato Box* exhibition schedule:**

### **June 5 – OpenCity Projects – *Icebreakers - Creating Common Ground by Design***

In partnership with the Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD), OpenCity Projects presents *Icebreakers - Creating Common Ground by Design*. The exhibit showcases the results of a creative lab with third-year OCAD industrial design students exploring how people in urban environments communicate, both directly and indirectly. OpenCity Projects is a Toronto-based consultancy using strategic design to make places, products and communications more meaningful experiences for people.

### **June 6 – Christos Pantieras – *Write Me A Letter***

Ottawa-based artist Christos Pantieras presents *Write Me A Letter*, an installation addressing the effects of a communication breakdown between two people. The piece consists of several empty envelopes coated with wax recycled from candles from Pantieras' local church. Each of the envelopes are strung together using unraveled wicks from these same candles to create a curtain hung diagonally in the box. This curtain creates two distinct spaces that emphasize the sense of unfulfilled anticipation in waiting for correspondence.

### **June 7 – Jason Baerg – *Primary Manifesto Series***

Established visual artist and media producer, Jason Baerg has appeared at the Walter Philips Gallery at the Banff Centre of the Arts and the Toronto International Art Fair. *Primary Manifestos* developed from a series of 360 digital drawings, referencing The Americas, Asia, Africa, and Europe. His images appear as abstractions illustrating lakes, cities, plants, and animals. His work for the ***Luminato Box*** consists of a new media piece, which randomly generates and projects his digital drawings onto one of the walls of the box; as well as three paintings, which were developed from the digital drawings. Baerg is the recipient of the *Emerging Artist Award* for the *2008 Premiere's Awards for Excellence in the Arts*.

### **June 8 – Studio F-Minus – *DoubleSpeak***

Known for their inventive use of silhouettes, Mitchell F. Chan and Brad Hindson's ***Luminato Box*** installation consists of wall-mounted wire sculptures whose shadows are projected onto a large blank panel. The placement of the lights and the fluctuating brightness causes the generated shadows to transform in unexpected ways. Playing on similar themes of the interactivity of silhouettes, Chan & Hindson received critical acclaim for their installation *A Dream of Pastures* at Toronto's Nuit Blanche 2008.

### **June 9 – Sarah Lazarovic – *Older***

Toronto artist Sarah Lazarovic's ***Luminato Box*** installation features a collection of Twitter 'tweets.' An accomplished artist and illustrator, Lazarovic's work has appeared in *The National Post*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *The Toronto Star*. In *Older*, Lazarovic has chosen a selection of tweets based on their wit, intimacy, and what they communicate about the city. Using various forms of typography to make these digital Tweets permanent, Lazarovic's work addresses the speed at which communication in today's society quickly becomes 'old,' and subsequently archived.

### **June 10 – ArtHeart Community Art Centre – *ArtHeart Totem Pole***

Based in Toronto's Regent Park, ArtHeart Community Art Centre provides inner-city children, youth, and adults with visual arts programs and materials, free-of-charge. ArtHeart's ***Luminato Box*** installation features a totem pole made entirely of recycled, painted, and decorated computer cases; reflecting the theme of communication within our digital age. Standing 10 ft tall, the *ArtHeart Totem Pole* explores the relationship between communication and urban spaces from the

perspective of participants in the adult program and members of the Regent Park community. (Installation closes at 9:00pm.)

**June 11 – Laurel MacDonald – *if I love you if you love me***

Singer, composer, and video artist Laurel MacDonald's ***Luminato Box*** installation portrays the hands of Rhonda Tepper, an actor and teacher of deaf children, using Signed Exact English (also known as SEE - a supplemented version of American Sign Language) to communicate the work's intimate title. MacDonald uses close framing and a unique skip-frame process to heighten the power and intimacy of this message. For those not fluent in SEE, the piece becomes a mysterious and unrecognizable form of code. In 2007, MacDonald collaborated with John Oswald on the sound installation *qui*, a permanent exhibition at the Royal Ontario Museum.

**June 12 – Caitlin Erskine-Smith – *Writing Down the Gauntlet***

Building upon her studies in Europe, South America, and at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Caitlin Erskine-Smith's work features a series of weavings combining two different versions of a similar story. Her pieces use textiles to implore viewers to consider how information is generated, distributed and read. Erskine-Smith's installation will highlight the complexities involved in communication by compelling viewers to search for understanding.

**June 13 – Scott Massey – *Swan Song***

Scott Massey's *Swan Song* examines the scientifically-documented notion that certain animals have been altering their sound frequencies to compensate for noisy urban environments. The installation is based on recent studies proving some animals, particularly birds, have been studied changing their call patterns to mimic sirens, cell phones, and other human-derived sounds. *Swan Song* will transform the ***Luminato Box*** into a park-like atmosphere complete with sod and marsh grass, while sounds from today's urban species will gradually build in intensity and variety within the piece. Massey is a Vancouver-based artist who completed his BFA at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in 2003.

**June 14 – Robert Hengeveld – *flicker'n hum***

Robert Hengeveld's project consists of a pairing of a simple fluorescent light suspended from the ceiling and an industrial-sized dumpster. At first glance, both objects seem to be communicating with one another through Morse code, with the light flickering as the dumpster seems to rattle a response. However, as the viewer further engages with the installation, it becomes apparent that the objects are not actually engaging in conversation at all but are, in fact, both conveying independent monologues about each object's inability to find a suitable partner to communicate with. The two layering monologues are posted on the wall, allowing the viewers to further uncover each object's ramblings as they quest to come to terms with urban solitude and banality.

## **ABOUT LUMINATO**

For 10 extraordinary days in June, Toronto's stages, streets, and public spaces are illuminated with arts and creativity. Luminato is an annual multi-disciplinary celebration of theatre, dance, classical and contemporary music, film, literature, visual arts, design and more.

For more information, visit [luminato.com](http://luminato.com). Tickets are available through all Ticketmaster outlets (call 416-872-1111 or visit [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca)).

Luminato gratefully acknowledges the generous support and vision of its Luminaries, SuperNova donors, and Patron Passholders; corporate sponsors, particularly our presenting sponsor, L'Oréal; our dedicated government partners, especially the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada; and many other partners and supporters.

**Luminaries:** The Founding Luminaries were among the Festival's first supporters. These visionary arts patrons and civic-builders stepped forward to help found Luminato, and will be recognized for their commitment in perpetuity.

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This list represents commitments as of May 5, 2009.

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For media inquiries, please contact:

Nick Poirier, Media Relations Coordinator

O: 416-368-3100 ext. 253, E: [npoirier@luminato.com](mailto:npoirier@luminato.com)

Laura Hughes, Manager, Media Relations and Communications

O: 416-368-3100 ext. 242, C: 647-966-3870, E: [lhughes@luminato.com](mailto:lhughes@luminato.com)