

LIVE IN PUBLIC

THE ART OF ENGAGEMENT



INNOVATIVE CONFERENCE BRINGS THE PUBLIC AND ART TOGETHER

Live in Public: The Art of Engagement conference set to bring together artists, activists, academics, and community cultural workers.

October 10th-13th 2007

Celebrating its 10th year anniversary, the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre, has partnered with artist-run centre grunt gallery to produce, Live in Public: The Art of Engagement. The conference will look at artists working in the public realm and engaging communities within their art practices.

Focusing on the history of these practices from across Canada over the past 30 years, conference delegates will come together to tear down, rebuild, question and expand the ideas behind socially engaged art and share artists' definitions of their work within communities.

The 4-day conference will explore the many forms of publicly engaged art—from the activist art of Montreal-based organization ATSA and the tea parties of Mountain View Cemetery's artist-in-residence and Vancouver's Public Dreams Society founder, Paula Jardine, to the cultural revitalization work of Saskatchewan community arts leader Common Weal and the unique approach of artists' collective Bitter Melon, which uses an uncommon vegetable to cultivate vibrant and diverse community.

Panelists will include keynote speaker Laurie McGauley, whose multi-media projects explore themes of oppression, possibility, and hope; Ingrid Mayrhofer, whose practice crosses cultural boundaries; Geoff McMurchy, speaking on disabilities and the arts; Valerie Salez, possibly one of the only artists whose work incorporates snow-shoveling; and many more exciting and boundary-pushing artists. ATSA and leading Aboriginal contemporary artist Edgar Heap of Birds will enliven the proceedings with presentations and performances.

With artists and panelists working in mediums from performance art to community celebration, dance, and new media, this meeting of the minds will prove to be a provocative snapshot of community art practice in Canada and abroad.

For more information and a complete list of conference panelists and biographies, or to schedule interviews with artists or conference organizers, please contact:

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