



Office: 1183 King Street West,
Suite 200
Toronto, ON, M6K 2C5
hello@thebentway.ca
416.304.0222
thebentway.ca

MEDIA ADVISORY: April 18, 2018

**The Bentway presents
A FOREST OF CANOES
by Dana Claxton**

**Co-commissioned with Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival
Opening April 27, The Bentway Skate Trail**

The Bentway presents **A FOREST OF CANOES** by **Dana Claxton**, a site-specific installation co-commissioned with Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival and curated by Bonnie Rubenstein. **A FOREST OF CANOES** will open Friday, April 27 and will be on display through the spring and summer at The Bentway Skate Trail.

Vancouver-based artist **Dana Claxton** (Lakota Sioux) considers the iconic role and symbolism of the canoe in Canadian, Métis, and Indigenous histories. Claxton works with photographs sourced from the Internet, adding layers of colour and graphic treatments for a Pop Art aesthetic.

A FOREST OF CANOES (2018) is presented as a series of 16-foot tall murals adhered to the columnar bents supporting the Gardiner Expressway. Claxton's installation creates a forest of canoes, amidst the surrounding forest of high rises, to wander among and consider the layered narratives of The Bentway site.

"From traditional imagery of birch bark canoes to contemporary leisure vessels, Dana Claxton's hyper-saturated depictions describe both digital and physical modes of travel, setting the stage for a dialogue between past and present," explains Ilana Altman, Director of Programming for The Bentway. *"It is important to me that The Bentway, which is located on the Treaty lands of the Mississaugas of the New Credit and the traditional territory of many other Indigenous nations, and which follows the original shoreline of Lake Ontario, participate in and stimulate those conversations."*

While construction continues towards the completion of phase one, The Bentway has exciting plans for spring and summer pop-up programming. **A FOREST OF CANOES** will be featured in the CONTACT Public Installation Bike Tour on May 26, (11am-1pm); The Bentway and Fort York National Historic Site are both participating in the 19th annual Doors Open Toronto on May 26 and 27; and The Bentway will participate in the Indigenous Arts Festival, produced by the City of Toronto and hosted by Fort York National Historic Site, June 21-24. More programming will be announced for spring and summer including the official opening of the Strachan Gate in August and the launch of the fall season.

For more information, please visit TheBentway.ca
Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) using @TheBentway and [YouTube](#)

Media Contact: [FLIP PUBLICITY](#), 416.533.7710 • Carrie Sager X224, carrie@flip-publicity.com

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About The Bentway

[The Bentway](#) is a unique and innovative public space that transforms 1.75km underneath Toronto's Gardiner Expressway into a new gathering place for our city's growing population.

The Bentway knits together seven local neighbourhoods with over 70,000 residents, becoming a gateway to the waterfront, while providing access to important attractions and destinations – from Fort York National Historic Site, Ontario Place and Exhibition Place to Harbourfront Centre and the CN Tower. The Bentway offers year-round activities and events, including gardens, a skate trail, recreational amenities, public markets, public art, special exhibitions, festivals, theatre and musical performances, and more. The initial phase of The Bentway is open to the public. Stretching from Strachan Avenue in the west to just east of Bathurst Street underneath the Gardiner Expressway, this section of The Bentway is located on the lands of Fort York National Historic Site, recognized by the Government of Canada as a site of national significance.

The Bentway is maintained, operated, and programmed by The Bentway Conservancy. The project was made possible through the collaboration of a range of city-builders and experts, including the [City of Toronto](#), [Waterfront Toronto](#), Judy and Wilmot Matthews, [Ken Greenberg Consultants](#), [PUBLIC WORK](#), [Fort York National Historic Site](#), and [Artscape](#). The Bentway is a proud member of the [High Line Network](#), an international network of projects that transform underutilized infrastructure into new urban landscapes.

About Fort York National Historic Site

[Fort York National Historic Site](#) is one of 10 Toronto History Museums operated by the City of Toronto. Since 1793, Fort York has been an important military location and is where Toronto was founded as an urban place. Located in the heart of downtown Toronto, this 43-acre heritage conservation district is home to Canada's largest collection of original War of 1812 buildings. Fort York offers permanent exhibits and immersive multimedia displays at the Visitor Centre, ongoing programming and events, site tours, military displays, historic cooking demonstrations, and the annual Indigenous Arts Festival. Fort York National Historic Site is also home to the first phase of The Bentway. For more information, visit <http://www.toronto.ca/fortyork>.

About Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival

[The Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival](#) fosters and celebrates the art and profession of photography with an annual Festival in May and year-round programming in the CONTACT Gallery.

CONTACT, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1997, is generously supported by Scotiabank, Scotia Wealth Management, Nikon Canada, Pattison Outdoor Advertising, La Fondation Emmanuelle Gattuso, Vistek, Dentons Canada LLP, Toronto Image Works, The Gilder, Transcontinental PLM, 3M Canada, BIG Digital, Waddington's Auctioneers and Appraisers, Four By Eight Signs, Beyond Digital Imaging, Steam Whistle Brewing, Art Toronto, The Gladstone Hotel, First Gulf, Colliers International, The Globe and Mail, NOW Magazine, CBC Toronto, and Canadian Art.

CONTACT gratefully acknowledges the support of Celebrate Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Ontario Arts Council, The Government of Ontario, Partners in Art, Canada Council for the Arts, Consulate General of the United States, the Howard Webster Foundation, Mondriaan Fund, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Goethe-Institut, the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council, and all of our funders, donors, and programming partners.