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WATERLICHT
A Monumental Public Art Installation
Canadian Premiere, October 12-14, 2018
as part of
IF, BUT, WHAT IF?
Fall Public Art Exhibition at The Bentway
plus Weekly Art Tours with Special Guest Guides

WATERLICHT, the signature piece of The Bentway's fall public art exhibition, *If, But, What If?* is a dream landscape created through the imaginative use of LEDs, special software, and lenses, designed by acclaimed Dutch artist **Daan Roosegaarde**.

Larger-than-life, cascading waves of blue light will soar underneath the Gardiner Expressway, simulating a virtual flood and illustrating the universal power and poetry of water. Due to the unique nature of the installation, **WATERLICHT** can only be viewed after sunset, 7pm-11pm, **Friday October 12 - Sunday October 14, 2018**.

The commission of **WATERLICHT** presents The Bentway with the opportunity to foster a city-wide conversation about the importance of clean water, environmental responsibility, and climate change. Working with numerous partners, additional programming includes:

With the support of Ryerson Urban Water Centre, Great Lakes Water Works, New College and Waterlution, The Bentway is recruiting **Water Ambassadors** who will be on-site and ready to answer questions, encourage conversation, or identify additional resources about the layered history of the Bentway site, its relationship to the waterways, the Lake's ecology, and environmental threats facing the Lake now and in the future.

Paired with Roosegaarde's own words about the installation, three local contributors, each with a long relationship with Lake Ontario, have recorded their own personal stories for **Waterlicht Radio** – waterlichtradio.com. Contributors include, **Nancy Rowe**, the founder of Akinomaagaye Gaamik Lodge and a member of the Great Lakes Guardians' council, **Angus Armstrong** Harbour Master Emeritus for PortsToronto, and **Madhu Nagaraja**, an avid long-distance swimmer and a founding member of the Great Lakes Open Water Adventures. They discuss their perspectives: shared ethics and values for the water; ecological changes and challenges; and how to protect Lake Ontario for future generations.

On October 13 from 1-2:30pm at Jackman Hall, The Bentway partners with the AGO for **On Water**, a free panel discussion between a number of artists and scholars who are exploring water as a medium as well as social, environmental and economic issues that threaten water resources, including [Daan Roosegaarde](#), Assistant Professor [James Miller](#) (Faculty of Design, OCAD University), and filmmaker [Lisa Jackson](#) (*Biidaaban: First Light VR*) to be moderated by water activist **Sarain Fox**.

If, But, What If? explores what could be, what should be, and what may never be, in the ever-evolving city of Toronto. In addition to WATERLICHT, *If, But, What If?* consists of seven other works.

- Artist and architect [Michael Awad](#)'s 90 metre photograph of the entire length of the elevated Gardiner Expressway from Dufferin Street to the DVP, and Lakeshore Boulevard beneath, is both an urban-scaled selfie, and a visual record of a dynamic changing city. Part of his *Entire City Project*.
- *Earthbound*, by photographer and sculptor [Steven Beckly](#), is a three-dimensional, intimate, mythical botanical world, amid a rapidly changing landscape. co-presented by [Bunker 2](#).
- [Wally Dion](#)'s (Yellow Quill First Nation) 4' X 42' wampum belt, made of discarded computer circuit boards explores environmental concerns, cultural identity and technological impulses.
- *Shift*, a collaboration by multidisciplinary artists [Mani Mazinani](#) & [Sanaz Mazinani](#), is a sound installation enabling audiences to perceive movement and motion in the absence of visual information using audio synthesized from original recordings of lakeside waves, rolling thunder and celestial surroundings.
- *Green Hills Discovery* by Toronto-based digital artist [Alex McLeod](#) is a double-sided vinyl print mounted on the pivoting panels of the new Strachan Gate representing a place between two worlds, time and space.
- An international art practice via Calgary, [Sans façon](#)'s *Iconic Site (#5)*, a large-scale neon sign reading 'iconic site', sits atop Strachan Green in response to the new consumerist lexicon that has resulted from massive urban development in cities around the world.
- [Jon Sasaki](#)'s installation *Every Building From A Defunct Liberty Village Factory, Rotated Vertically*, reimagines the once-mighty John Inglis and Company factory in its heyday of the 1940s, now the of dense and populous location of Liberty Village.

The Bentway reimagines the forgotten lands under the Gardiner Expressway as a unique new artist canvas, cultural attraction, and gathering place for Toronto with accessible, participatory and responsive programming at the intersection of art and urbanism. Through art in the public realm—rotating, site-specific, and thoughtfully-curated—The Bentway explores Toronto's changing urban landscape as well as the opportunities and issues that unite cities across the globe. "*If, But, What If?*" runs until November 30, 2018.

Once a week in October special guests; artists, designers, planners, community members and active urbanists, will guide art tours, reflecting on the artworks, on The Bentway's layered histories and potential futures, as well as on the city itself. The tour leaders will lead participants throughout The Bentway and interpret the site and works based on their own expertise and interests.

Tours take place each week in October, from 6-7pm:

- **Thursday, October 4**

[Exhibition Tour led by Crazy Dames](#), an interdisciplinary art, education, urban planning and designing collaboration

- **Wednesday, October 10**

[Exhibition Tour led by Philip Cote](#) (Moose Deer Point First Nation), Young spiritual Elder, Indigenous artist, educator, historian and Traditional Wisdom Keeper

- **Thursday, October 18**

[Exhibition Tour led by Carrie Denning Jackson and Jesse Shapins](#), Sidewalk Labs

- **Thursday, October 25**

[Exhibition tour led by Deborah Wang](#), Artistic Director of the Toronto Design Offsite Festival

THE BENTWAY presents
If, But, What If?
Fall Public Art Exhibition

[Studio Roosegaarde](#) is the social design lab of Dutch artist and innovator Daan Roosegaarde. Together with his team of designers and engineers Roosegaarde creates landscapes of the future for a better world. The studio connects people, technology and space to improve daily life in urban environments and spark imagination. Roosegaarde's mantra 'Schoonheid' is a Dutch word which has two meanings: 'beauty' and 'clean' as in clean air, clean energy and clean water. For Roosegaarde this should be a fundamental condition in daily life.

Internationally acclaimed works include WATERLICHT (a virtual flood which shows the power of water), SMOG FREE PROJECT (the largest outdoor air purifier which turns smog into jewellery) and SMART HIGHWAY (roads that charge throughout the day and glow at night).

Studio Roosegaarde is located in a former glass factory in the harbour of Rotterdam NL, also known as the Dream Factory. Here new innovations are developed into smart prototypes for the landscapes of tomorrow. It has a vast experience in public space commissions for the cities of Rotterdam, Beijing, Paris, Eindhoven and Stockholm. The Studio also initiates its own projects to research new social innovations, gives lectures and has a pop-up studio in Shanghai, China.

Roosegaarde has exhibited at the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Design Museum in London, Tate Modern, the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo, the Musee des Arts Decoratifs in Paris, Google Zeitgeist and the Victoria & Albert Museum, and won numerous international innovation awards.

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>.