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For Immediate Release: August 29, 2018 • Please include in your listings/announcements

THE BENTWAY presents
WATERLICHT
A Site-Wide Large-Scale Light Installation
by Acclaimed Dutch Artist and Innovator Daan Roosegaarde
October 12-14, 2018
Plus “If, But, What If?” the Fall Art Exhibition at The Bentway

The Bentway is very pleased to present its first site-wide artistic endeavour, the monumental public art intervention **WATERLICHT**, designed by acclaimed Dutch artist **Daan Roosegaarde**.

This large-scale light installation illustrates the universal power, poetry, and danger of water and will have its Canadian public premiere in Toronto from **Friday October 12 to Sunday October 14, 2018**. **WATERLICHT** is a dream landscape created through the imaginative use of LEDs, special software, and lenses. Larger-than-life, cascading waves of blue light will soar underneath the Gardiner Expressway, simulating a virtual flood and calling attention to rising water levels along Toronto’s shoreline.

Originally, **WATERLICHT** was created for the Dutch District Water Board. As a travelling exhibition, site-responsive versions have been staged in Amsterdam’s Museumplein, London’s Granary Square, and Paris’ Parc Clichy-Batignolle. The work will have its Canadian premiere at The Bentway and will embrace the unique physical features of the site while acknowledging its past as the original shoreline of Lake Ontario.

To foster a city-wide conversation about the importance of clean water, the environment, and climate change, The Bentway is working with numerous partners. This additional programming includes: a panel discussion with the Art Gallery of Ontario; a youth ambassador program with Ryerson University’s School of Professional Communication and Ryerson University’s Urban Water Centre, and Waterlution; and a two-part educational workshop with the Ontario Climate Consortium and OCAD University.

Additionally, a customized soundscape accompanies **WATERLICHT**, including local stories about Toronto’s waterfront by prominent civic figures, historians, artists and others. **WATERLICHT RADIO** will focus on pressing issues and personal memories related to Toronto’s waterfront. The stories will live on as an enduring legacy of **WATERLICHT**’s appearance in Toronto and serve as a stirring call-to-action for a city-wide conversation around clean water initiatives and climate change.

Due the unique nature of the installation, **WATERLICHT** can only be viewed after sunset, 7:00pm-11pm.

WATERLICHT is the signature piece within The Bentway’s fall public art exhibition, “*If, But, What If?*” The exhibition explores what could be, what perhaps should be, and what may never be in the ever-evolving city of Toronto, while positioning The Bentway as a leader for innovation in art and public practice. “*If, But, What If?*” runs September 14 through November 30, 2018.

“Looking back, what disruptions have historically allowed for substantial changes to Toronto’s trajectory? Moving forward, what radical acts can contribute to an improved or unexpected future for the city’s people and places.” asks Ilana Altman, Director of Programming at The Bentway. “Using the open-ended tools of community conversation, collaborative incubation, and imaginative projection, the works in this exhibit behave like *The Bentway* itself. They identify possibilities and boldly pose alternatives to the accepted, or seemingly inevitable, future of Toronto as a growing metropolis.”

“*If, But, What If?*” includes works from **Michael Awad** (Toronto), **Steven Beckly** (Toronto), **Wally Dion** (Upstate New York / Haudenosaunee territory), **Mani Mazinani and Sanaz Mazinani** (Toronto and San Francisco), **Alex McLeod** (Toronto), **Sans façon** (Calgary), and **Jon Sasaki** (Toronto).

Artist and architect [Michael Awad](#) brings his *Entire City Project* to The Bentway with an artwork specifically commissioned for the “*If, But, What If?*” exhibition. The *Entire City Project* is Awad’s two decade-long documentation project of his beloved hometown Toronto. Awad’s photograph for the Bentway site captures the entire length of the elevated Gardiner Expressway from Dufferin Street to the DVP, and Lakeshore Boulevard beneath the elevated expressway. The singular, and unprecedented, view of the highway and the surrounding cityscape is both an urban-scaled selfie, and a visual record of a dynamic changing city. This 90 metre continuous photograph will be installed on The Wharf in front of the Fort York Visitor Centre.

[Steven Beckly](#), a Toronto-based artist working in photography, publications, sculpture and installation, and [Bunker 2 Contemporary Art Container](#) present *Earthbound*, an image installation on The Bentway deck. Human figures are entwined in a mythic botanical world amid a rapidly changing landscape as a means of regenerating an intimacy with nature and the environment.

[Wally Dion](#), a member of the Yellow Quill First Nation, first established himself as a painter before turning to discarded computer circuit boards as a medium through which to explore environmental concerns, cultural identity, and technological impulses. Wally Dion’s *Wampum Belt* recalls the Toronto Purchase and the ongoing frictions as lands grow and change and new digital settlements emerge. The 4’ X 40’ wampum belt, made of painted circuit boards, will be hung on Bent 59.

Shift, a collaboration by multidisciplinary artists [Mani Mazinani](#) & [Sanaz Mazinani](#), is a sound installation that takes the form of a large-scale stereo system on The Bentway deck. The audience perceives movement and motion with the absence of a visual component. Its sound composition challenges notions of place and space to create a series of Doppler effects. *Shift* addresses the history and future of this particular location, exploring lakeside waves, rolling thunder, and celestial surroundings through original recordings, all set against the city’s soundscape.

For The Bentway, Toronto-based digital artist [Alex McLeod](#), best known for his oversized 3D rendered landscapes, has created *Green Hills Discovery*. A double-sided vinyl print to be mounted on the pivoting panels of the new Strachan Gate, *Green Hills Discovery* represents a place between two worlds, time and space. Is this the past and present as one, or a proposition for future city dwelling?

An international art practice via Calgary, [Sans façon](#), responds to the language of development. *Iconic Site (#5)*, a large-scale neon sign reading ‘iconic site’ sits atop Strachan Green. *Iconic Site (#5)* is a response to the new consumerist lexicon that has resulted from the massive wave of urban development in cities across the world. Originally developed as a commission for the Centre for the Urban Built Environment, in Manchester, the sign, has been re-imagined for its new context, with the iconography and typography of signs found on North American road sides.

[Jon Sasaki](#)’s installation *Every Building From A Defunct Liberty Village Factory, Rotated Vertically*, installed along the Skate Trail, reimagines the once-mighty John Inglis and Company factory in its heyday of the 1940s,

now the location of Liberty Village. Evoking the dense and populous verticality that has transformed the neighbourhood, the low long Inglis buildings are flipped onto their ends, also alluding to a gravestone-like memorial for the area's past industrial life.

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.

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

The Bentway fall season is supported by the City of Toronto and the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Waterlicht is also supported by Partners in Art, McLean Foundation, Ports Toronto, Consulate of the Netherlands, and Bullfrog Power, along with donors Maxine Granovsky Gluskin & Ira Gluskin, Donald K. Johnson, O.C. & Anna McCowan-Johnson, and Diamond Corp.

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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.

The Bentway Skate Trail, the first part of Phase 1 of The Bentway construction, officially opened on Saturday, January 6, 2018. The completion of Phase 1, featuring the opening of the Strachan Gate, officially opened on Saturday, August 25, 2018.

About Studio Roosegaarde

[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](http://www.toronto.ca/fortyork) 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>.