

Oakville Galleries surveys Ontario's brightest young artists

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OAKVILLE, ON – This summer, Oakville Galleries is pleased to present *Sobey Art Award: 2011 Ontario Long List*, a group exhibition that takes the pulse of contemporary art-making in the province. Surveying recent work by the six Ontario artists long-listed for the prestigious Sobey Art Award, the exhibition will be on view at both Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens and Oakville Galleries at Centennial Square from June 25 to September 3, 2011.

Please join Oakville Galleries for our summer exhibition opening on Sunday, June 26 from 2:30 pm-3:30 pm at Oakville Galleries at Centennial Square (120 Navy Street), followed by a performance by exhibiting artists Gareth Long and Derek Sullivan, and a reception at Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens (1306 Lakeshore Road East) from 3:30 pm-5:00 pm. Curator Marnie Fleming and the artists will be present to speak about the exhibition.

The Sobey Art Award is Canada's preeminent award for artists under the age of 40 with an annual prize of \$50,000. For this year's award, Oakville Galleries' Curator of Contemporary Art, Marnie Fleming, had the privilege of selecting the semifinalists for the Ontario region. "The Sobey Art Award is a wonderful opportunity for Canadians to take stock of our nation's up-and-coming artists," she notes. "While Ontario's talent pool certainly extends beyond the semifinalists, these six artists are at the forefront of artistic innovation in the region. It is my hope that the exhibition will generate a lively discussion about contemporary art and boost awareness of these artists' practices."

Featuring works in video, drawing, installation, and sculpture, *Sobey Art Award: 2011 Ontario Long List* has been assembled to provide a glimpse into the practice of the nominated artists, while also celebrating their achievement. This year's Ontario finalists for the 2011 Sobey Art Award are Aleesa Cohene, Gareth Long, Derek Sullivan, Josh Thorpe, and Daniel Young & Christian Giroux.

The winner of this year's award will be announced during a gala event at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in Halifax on October 13, 2011. Previous winners of this prestigious award include: Brian Jungen (2002), Jean-Pierre Gauthier (2004), Annie Pootoogook (2006), Michel de Broin (2007), Tim Lee (2008), David Altmejd (2009) and Daniel Barrow (2010).

Oakville Galleries is a not-for-profit charitable public contemporary art museum serving communities in Oakville, Halton Region and wider audiences nationally and internationally. Oakville Galleries acknowledges the ongoing support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Corporation of the Town of Oakville, along with our many individual, corporate and foundation partners.

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