
Town of Oakville and Oakville Galleries

OAKVILLE MAKES ITS MARK WITH ART OF GRAFFITI WORKSHOP *Internationally Renowned Graffiti Artist Cruz1 Shares his Passion for Street Art*

Oakville, March 5, 2008 – For Immediate Release

In partnership with the Town of Oakville, Oakville Galleries is launching *Make Your Mark*: a series of events for youth aged 13 and over. Spearheaded by the Oakville Youth Advisory Committee and the Oakville Youth Development Centre, *Make Your Mark* is designed to raise awareness about graffiti and other modes of interventionist art practice.

To kick-off the *Make Your Mark* series of events, Oakville Galleries organized a workshop with Toronto-based artist Cruz1, a respected graffiti artist who has been featured on such shows as MTV and CNN.

“This is an innovative workshop targeting the youth of Oakville,” Oakville Mayor Rob Burton said. “*Make Your Mark* provides a creative outlet for teens and discusses graffiti as art, not as an act of vandalism.”

During his workshop, Cruz1 discussed his passion for art and shared his graffiti technique with the youth that attended the event. “He’s committed to engaging the community through his art,” Oakville Galleries Director Francine Périnet said. “Cruz1 has been involved in many local community beautification projects including *Style in Progress*, a Toronto-based initiative that has been successful in providing an outlet for graffiti artists.”

Through workshops, artist talks and site-specific projects in Oakville, *Make Your Mark* will invite visual artists, graffiti artists and writers to lead creative discussion and experimentation on graffiti’s related issues of urban intervention, activism, political identity, and local and cultural history.

Make Your Mark events from March to May include:

- ⊙ An art workshop at Oakville Place led by Toronto/Vancouver artist collective Instant Coffee on Saturday, March 8, 2008 from 1:30 to 4 p.m.
- ⊙ A two-day intensive print-making and silk-screening workshop on March 12 and 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Queen Elizabeth Park Community Centre.
- ⊙ A series of four artist workshops on Wednesday nights starting in March 19 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Oakville Youth Development Centre, 177 Cross Avenue.
- ⊙ A Saturday afternoon Graffiti and Gallery Hop field trip to Toronto in April.

For more information on dates, times and how to register for *Make Your Mark*, please visit www.oakvillegalleries.com.

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For more information:

Tracey Shepherd
Communications, Oakville Galleries
905-844-4402 ext. 28

Janine Ivings
Senior Communications Advisor, Town of
Oakville
905-845-6601 ext. 3005