

MUSEUM OF MODERN ICE WINTER CELEBRATION IN CHICAGO'S MILLENNIUM PARK THIS FEBRUARY

**U.S. debut of *Paintings Below Zero* by acclaimed Artist Gordon Halloran
Will Feature
Monumental Outdoor Ice Wall and Ice Rink Painting**

(Chicago, IL) A colossal, site-specific installation of *Paintings Below Zero* : boldly colored, abstract paintings in ice by Canadian artist Gordon Halloran, will be the centerpiece of a new winter celebration in Millennium Park, *Museum of Modern Ice*, February 1-29, 2008. The installation which marks the U.S. debut of Halloran's innovative work, will incorporate a brilliantly colored ice wall – 95 feet long and nearly 12 feet tall – into Millennium Park's dramatic art and architecture. Situated on Chase Promenade behind *Cloud Gate*, the project will be the artist's largest and most spectacular installation to date. To complement the majestic structure, Halloran will also embed an abstract ice painting within the Park's McCormick Tribune Ice Rink, allowing visitors to skate on its multicolored surface. The installation and ice rink will be available for all to enjoy free of charge.

By combining color and light with the ever-changing nature of ice, Halloran will create an engaging visual spectacle in Millennium Park, one of Chicago's most popular public spaces. Inspired by a glacial wall in its final stages of movement toward the ocean, the monumental installation will highlight the intricate detail of the moving patterns created by pigment interacting with the crystal structure of the ice. The wall of paintings will be composed of multiple panels of brilliantly colored vertical ice sheets. *Cloud Gate*, the iconic stainless steel sculpture by Anish Kapoor, will reflect the color and luminosity of the ice. The wall will evolve over time with natural and planned changes, encouraging visitors to return frequently to observe the activity.

"Millennium Park is the perfect place for this groundbreaking work that will provide both visitors and residents with an unprecedented, must-see experience this winter," said Mayor Richard M. Daley. "We are proud to be the first city in the United States to exhibit Gordon Halloran's *Paintings Below Zero* which showcases, in a unique and exciting way, our city's long-standing reputation as an open-air museum for all to enjoy."

In addition to *Paintings Below Zero*, *Museum of Modern Ice* will feature free weekend family activities in the Park and in a heated tent adjacent to the ice wall. Interactive programs for all ages, such as ice games, art and science projects, dance lessons and social dancing will encourage visitors to celebrate the vibrant winter season in Chicago.

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The Chicago Cultural Center across from Millennium Park will become the *Hot Spot* for residents and visitors to warm up and enjoy weekend cooking demonstrations, knitting and crafting activities, music concerts, film screenings, and cabaret performances. To complete the ice theme, the Café at the Cultural Center will offer a special menu of ice-inspired snacks and hot drinks.

Museum of Modern Ice is presented by the Chicago Office of Tourism, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism, in collaboration with the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau. The celebration is sponsored by American Express, Dominick's, Lifeway Foods, Starbucks and U.S. Cellular.

"The State is proud to support this major initiative in Millennium Park, one of the nation's finest cultural assets," said Jack Lavin, Director, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism. "*Museum of Modern Ice* will give visitors a compelling reason to come and experience all that Chicago has to offer as a great winter destination."

For more information about *Museum of Modern Ice*, visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.millenniumpark.org"](http://www.millenniumpark.org) after November 1.

About The Artist: Gordon Halloran

After a successful career in magazine illustration and 20 years as an internationally exhibited painter, Gordon Halloran returned to a medium integral to his youth—ice. Watching a hockey practice one day, Halloran realized that as a child in rural Ontario, creating backyard ice rinks had been his first artistic experiences. Inspired by the reflective and malleable surfaces, he began to experiment with color within the ice, creating a unique art form that is ever changing and ephemeral by nature. With his series *Paintings Below Zero*, he has created public events around the world and transformed ice rinks into shared community spaces where everyone can experience the joy of art. In 2004, Halloran was selected to create an installation for the Cultural Olympiad of the 2006 Turin Olympic Winter Games. Other ice paintings and large-scale ice sculptures have been commissioned for the World Figure Skating Championships, Calgary's Olympic Plaza, and Toronto's WinterCity Festival.

About Millennium Park

Located in downtown Chicago on Michigan Avenue between Randolph and Monroe Streets, the 24.5-acre Millennium Park is an unprecedented center for world-class art, music, architecture, and landscape design. Among the park's prominent features are the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; the contemporary Lurie Garden designed by the team of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor's Cloud Gate sculpture. Millennium Park is open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.