

For Immediate Release: January 8th, 2007

## **PAINTINGS BELOW ZERO**

**By Gordon Halloran**

Artist and crew arrive at Toronto City Hall to begin work on extensive installation of frozen paintings

### **Toronto Winter City Festival**

One-of-a-kind installation & interactive rink painting  
at Nathan Phillips Square  
January 26 - Feb 4, 2007

**&**

### **The Niagara Ice Wine Festival**

One-of-a-kind outdoor installation at Shaw Festival Theatre  
&

Premiere exhibition of limited edition works from the Turin installation  
Jan. 20th-28th, 2007

Toronto, ON - International artist **Gordon Halloran** arrived this week in Toronto to begin work on **Paintings Below Zero**, an installation of frozen paintings at Nathan Phillips Square at City Hall, a focal part of the **Toronto WinterCity Festival**. Recently, Halloran's work at the Cultural Olympiad at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin, Italy was an 'homage to Canada' as the next host of the Olympic Winter Games.

For the City of Toronto, **Halloran** will design and create a huge installation, which will be displayed in The American Express Ice Gallery alongside the ice rink at Nathan Phillips Square. A specially designed system of aluminum freezer plates allows the artist to work with this unique art form regardless of the weather. The work will range in size and form, and will be displayed vertically and horizontally. The installation will also include a painting on the ice rink at Nathan Phillips Square, where the public will have the opportunity to skate on the painting.

For the installation, the artist will create a number of three dimensional ice pieces with embedded layers. These frozen paintings suggest ice cores that could have been drilled from the depths of the arctic ice field. They will be subject to the elements and evaporate, melt and freeze naturally in a continuous transformation of their original form.

The natural qualities of paintings-in-ice reflect current global climate change, the melting of the ice caps and the precious nature of ice in our landscape as we face its disappearance from our world. Impermanence and the transient nature of existence are also reflected in Halloran's frozen paintings, which eventually thaw, melt and disappear.

With each installation of frozen paintings, Halloran develops the art form he invented further. For the month of December he worked in an outside courtyard (The Charles and Marilyn Baillie Courtyard) at the Shaw Festival Theatre to create an installation of **Paintings Below Zero** for **The Niagara Icewine Festival**. Here, in addition to frozen paintings on the refrigeration plates, circular copper piping will display colour and light, inspired by the grape vines of Ontario's many wineries. The natural process of these paintings is the movement of the crystal structure of the ice -- freezing, melting, evaporating and re-freezing. About his work, Halloran says, "Everything is in motion."

**The Icewine Festival** is host to the **premiere exhibition of the limited edition works from the Turin installation**. This series of images has been layered, cropped and enhanced from close up photography of the Fenestrelle paintings created for the Cultural Olympiad of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

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Here, Halloran focuses on the migration of colour pigments through the crystal structure of ice crystals -- ice within the ice. Each work is individually proofed and printed by the artist on Epson archival paper using Epson archival inks and transmounted on acrylic with Sintra ground. **The works will be displayed for the first time in The Donald and Elaine Triggs Production Centre at The Shaw Festival buildings, opening on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.** A smaller exhibit will be displayed at **Inniskillin Winery** in Niagara on the Lake.

**Halloran** is originally from Niagara Falls and currently resides in Vancouver. His inspiration for these paintings came from his childhood experience flooding backyard hockey rinks in sub zero temperatures, where the roughness of the snow packed earth became smooth and shiny. Later, he realized that this visceral experience with ice and snow was his first real taste of art.

**Paintings Below Zero** in Toronto is sponsored by Toronto's WinterCity Festival, American Express and The Sprott Foundation. In Niagara on the Lake, sponsors of the installation and exhibition of limited edition works are: Niagara Icewine Festival, Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, Inniskillin Wines, The Grape Growers of Ontario, and The Sprott Foundation.

### **Toronto WinterCity Festival**

\*Installation of frozen paintings & interactive rink painting\*  
on Nathan Philips Square

100 Queen Street West  
January 26 - Feb 4, 2007

&

### **The Niagara Ice Wine Festival**

\*Outdoor Installation of frozen paintings at The Shaw Festival\*  
at The Charles and Marilyn Baillie Courtyard

&

\*First exhibition of limited edition works from the Turin paintings\*  
at the Donald & Elaine Triggs Production Centre  
Shaw Festival Theatre

10 Queen's Parade, Niagara on the Lake  
Jan. 20th-28th, 2007

Daily 12:00 noon till 8:00 pm -- \$5.00\*

Tickets on arrival at the door at the Shaw Box Office or Niagara Wine Festival  
905-688-0212.

\*Complimentary for Icewine Discovery Pass holders  
and Shaw Film Festival ticket holders.

More information [www.paintingsbelowzero.com](http://www.paintingsbelowzero.com)

Current progress <http://www.paintingsbelowzeroinontario.blogspot.com>

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