

Justina M. Barnicke Gallery

Apprenticeship Opportunity with the Canadian Pavilion at the 2009 Venice Biennale

The Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, in partnership with Hart House and Aeroplan, is accepting applications for the Venice Apprentice: U of T at la Biennale di Venezia 2009.

The Venice Biennale is the world's oldest and most exciting venue for the international display of contemporary art, receiving over 300,000 visitors from around the world and offering participating institutions the highest profile of all international art events.

Barbara Fischer, Executive Director/Chief Curator of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, was selected in a nationwide competition to represent Canada at the 53rd International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, from June 7 to November 22, 2009. Barbara is the Commissioner for the Canada Pavilion, which will feature a new film-based project by internationally acclaimed Canadian artist Mark Lewis. The Justina M. Barnicke Gallery is the first U of T gallery and only the third museum in Ontario to ever be selected in the competition.

In response to this rare and extraordinary opportunity, the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, with Hart House and Aeroplan, is launching a competition for a Venice Apprentice. Four University of Toronto students will be selected through an online application process to compete for the one Venice Apprentice position.

The Top Four selected candidates will:

- Work one afternoon per week at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery with Commissioner Barbara Fischer and Deputy Commissioner Natalie De Vito from April 3 to 30, 2009, helping to coordinate the final touches on this major project.
- Maintain a blog about their unique work experiences on the official Canada Pavilion website.

One Winner will:

- Travel to Venice for the opening of the 2009 Biennale di Venezia, courtesy of Aeroplan.
- Accommodation in Venice will be provided courtesy of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery.
- Upon arrival in Venice (tentatively June 1-8, 2009), the apprentice will work closely with gallery staff for the set-up and duration of the Biennale's exclusive VIP press vernissage (June 3-6, 2009). The vernissage is attended by 30,000 of the world's most important museum directors, gallery curators, art collectors, journalists, politicians, artists, providing an amazing opportunity to form international networks, explore job opportunities abroad, and experience the world's premiere contemporary art event among Canada's art world.

This distinctive opportunity is open to all students at any University of Toronto campus.

“As a long-standing patron of the Arts, Aeroplan is pleased to support such an exciting, hands-on opportunity for one very deserving student,” said Sylvie Bourget, Senior Vice President Marketing, Aeroplan. “I’m certain the summer internship at the 53rd Biennale will be an exhilarating and memorable experience and we are thrilled we could help make it happen.”

The top four selected candidates will be introduced at the Venice Send-Off Party at Hart House on April 30, 2009. One winner will be announced on May 4, 2009.

What: Apprentice Application Now Open for the Venice Apprentice: U of T at la Biennale di Venezia 2009

When: Applications will be accepted until March 30th 2009