

# Exhibitions + Festivals

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**Justina M. Barnicke Gallery**  
**Hart House, University of Toronto**

Presents

## Mark Lewis: In a City

Curated by Barbara Fischer

September 8 - October 26, 2009

**Opening Events: Tuesday September 8, 2009**

6-7 pm: Mark Lewis Lecture

7-930 pm: Opening Reception

9-12 am: Dance Party



Image: Mark Lewis, Nathan Philips Square, *A Winter's Night*, Skating, 2009.

Courtesy the artists / Monte Clark Gallery (Vancouver) / Clark & Faria (Toronto) / galerie serge le borgne (Paris)

The Justina M. Barnicke Gallery is pleased to announce the first major public exhibition of Mark Lewis in Toronto, *In a City*. Featuring the North American premiere of the critically acclaimed trilogy *Cold Morning*, the three new works were originally commissioned by the JMB Gallery and co-produced by the National Film Board of Canada, for Mark Lewis's presentation as the official Canadian representative at the Venice Biennale (53rd International Art Exhibition -

La Biennale di Venezia), the world's oldest and most prestigious Biennale of contemporary art.

Distinguished by their extraordinary capacity to express and explore place, Lewis's films have often been described as pure temporal experiences. His visually evocative, predominantly silent films focus on incidental places encountered in everyday life. His nuanced depictions of the contemporary city transform seemingly quotidian activities into profound cinematic observations.

Mark Lewis was born in Hamilton in 1958. Although he is currently based in London, England, he continues to make many of his films on location in Toronto, where he spent much of his youth and early working career. *In a City* is the first exhibition to focus exclusively on Mark Lewis's cinematic engagement with Toronto, including such iconic locations in Toronto as High Park or the railway lands near the CN Tower. The selected works highlight sets of cinematic techniques (such as the zoom, pan, or tracking shot) while focusing on the social and spatial complexities of urban modernity and its utopian aspirations. The self-reflective possibilities of filmic methods are an important feature of the new trilogy of films, *Cold Morning*, as well. They appear there in such diverse manifestations as black wipes that intervene in a vertiginous view from the 54th floor of the TD Centre onto downtown traffic, as they do in the use of the historical Hollywood technique of rear projection in *Nathan Phillips Square, A Winter's Night, Skating* (2009). The simultaneity of two temporal and spatial planes that characterizes rear projection continues to represent new possibilities for structuring the visual experience and hierarchy of background and foreground as it appears in film and in social space.

**Mark Lewis** began making films in the mid-nineties and has had numerous solo exhibitions around the world at venues including the Hamburger Kunstverein, Musée d'Art Moderne (Luxembourg), BFI Southbank (London), P.S.1 (New York), Mamco (Geneva), Le Grand-Café (Saint-Nazaire, France), and the Vancouver Art Gallery. His group exhibitions include *The American Effect* at the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the 3rd Berlin Biennale of Contemporary Art. His work is represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada, the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and the Centre Pompidou (Paris). He is co-founder of Afterall, a research and publishing organization based at Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design, University of the Arts London, where he is also a research professor.

Curated by Barbara Fischer, Mark Lewis's exhibition *Cold Morning* is on view from June 7 to November 22, 2009 at the Canada Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Venice Italy. Visit [www.canadapavilionvenicebiennale.com](http://www.canadapavilionvenicebiennale.com) for more information.

### **Credits:**

*In a City* is made possible by special project support from the Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts and the Toronto Arts Council.

The exhibition is presented in collaboration with the Toronto International Film Festival's Future Projections Program. *Future Projections* is generously supported by the Hal Jackman Foundation.

The films of *Cold Morning* were co-produced by Mark Lewis Studio and the National Film Board of Canada.

The Justina M. Barnicke Gallery's programs are generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.

### **Justina M. Barnicke Gallery Events:**

#### **Mark Lewis Lecture**

September 8, 6-7 pm in the Hart House Debates Room.

Mark Lewis will speak about his work at a special public lecture in conjunction with the opening of his exhibition at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery on September 8 at 6 pm.

The lecture is generously sponsored by Partners in Art. Additional support has been provided by the Ontario Association of Art Galleries through Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada, and the Canada Council for the Arts.



Photo Credit: Natalie De Vito

### **Opening Reception:**

September 8 7-9:30 pm, Justina M. Barnicke Gallery

### **...then we take Toronto**

Post-Opening Party

September 8, 9-12 midnight, Hart House Courtyard

Featuring Music by DJ Jan Lankisch (Cologne)

### **Related Events in Toronto:**

September 9 to January 3, 2010

*Three Films by Mark Lewis*

Art Gallery of Ontario

The Art Gallery of Ontario will feature three recently acquired works by Mark Lewis (paid admission). [www.ago.net](http://www.ago.net)

October 15 to 20, 2009

*Mark Lewis Presents Rear Projection's Greatest Hits*

TIFF Cinematheque will feature the best examples of rear projection in cinema, including an in-person presentation of Lewis' own acclaimed *Backstory* and Alfred Hitchcock's *Saboteur* and screenings of Otto Preminger's *River of No Return* and Ernst Lubitsch's *Ninotchka*. Details will be available as of September 22 at [www.tiff.net/cinematheque](http://www.tiff.net/cinematheque)

September 9 to October 11, 2009

Mark Lewis will present recent and new works at Clark & Faria, The Distillery Historical District in Toronto. Details will be available in September at [www.monteclarkgallery.com](http://www.monteclarkgallery.com)

**Justina M. Barnicke Gallery Hours:**

Monday through Friday, 11 to 5 pm;  
Thursday to 8 pm  
Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 pm;  
Closed on Statutory Holidays

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