

Barnicke Gallery to represent Canada at Venice Biennale

BY ELAINE SMITH

The Justina M. Barnicke

Gallery at U of T's Hart House has been chosen by the Canada Council for the Arts to represent Canada in the Canadian Pavilion at the prestigious 2009 Venice Biennale of Visual Art. The exhibition is the world's oldest venue for the display of contemporary art and is part of an institution that promotes new artistic trends in a variety of artistic disciplines.

Gallery director **Barbara Fischer** will serve as curator of work by Hamilton-born artist Mark Lewis, Research Professor at London's Central St. Martins College of Art and Design, University of the Arts. Lewis' project for the Biennale is a short silent film titled *Romance* that uses the classic film technique of rear projection combined with state of the art digital technology.

The Barnicke Gallery submitted a Biennale proposal featuring Lewis' work to the Canada Council and it was

selected by a jury made up of three experts in Canadian and international contemporary art: Greg Bellerby, director-curator of the Charles H. Scott Gallery at the Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design; Paulette Gagnon, chief curator of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal; and Francine Périnet, director of the Oakville Galleries.

"We are deeply proud and thrilled to be able to present Mark Lewis' new project at the Venice Biennale," Fischer said. "His quietly majestic works offer a cinematic experience of time while remarking on the ruptures of history. They combine, in a new way, pictorial traditions with the genres and techniques of film to analyse both and thereby offer poignant perspectives on the displacements that characterize modern life."

Jason Van Eyk, director of U of T's ArtsZone, noted "For Barbara Fischer and the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery to seize this remarkable opportunity to represent

Canada at the Venice Biennale — the oldest and perhaps most prestigious international platform for contemporary art — is an obvious coup. It is also a clear testament to the exceptional talent we have contributing to excellence in the creative and performing arts here at U of T."

Fischer will be involved with all the exhibition's logistics, everything from fundraising to promotion to installation and creating an accompany publication. She is delighted by the opportunity.

"It will be exciting to work with Mark Lewis, and to be able to represent Canada in that international context, amongst artists and curators from around the world," she said. "The Biennale is one of the most important exhibitions of contemporary art in the world, and I am proud to see the Barnicke Gallery, Hart House and the University of Toronto represented there for the first time."



IN BRIEF

ALUMNI CIRCLE ROLLS OUT

U of T's new Alumni Circle — an interactive website (<http://alumni.utoronto.ca/s/731/index.aspx>) — is fast becoming the trusted place to network with fellow alumni. The web page went live May 29 and already has 4,000 registered users. It offers its members events listings, networking opportunities, photo galleries and blogs. Alumni Circle is also a career networking tool for graduates to make valuable professional contacts. But it's not all business. The LGBTQ alumni group recently used the site to help promote a Pride Week reunion event. **Brendan Dellandrea**, manager of the Alumni and Friends web space, said it will also assist the university in serving its alumni better. The Alumni Circle is also now looking for faculty members with blogs to contribute.

NEW LOOK FOR U OF T MAGAZINE

The 275,000 alumni and friends of the university who receive the *U of T Magazine* are in for a treat this fall with the redesign of the magazine. Editor **Scott Anderson** says the changes are past due. "The current design was introduced seven years ago and reflected the Great Minds for a Great Future campaign. The university has moved away from that and we felt the university's primary magazine should too," he said. So what does that mean on paper? The tri-colour block-letter logo on the front cover is gone. The interior will have a cleaner, more contemporary look, with more white space, more legible fonts and more graphic elements to illustrate smaller items. Overall, the newly designed magazine is aiming for a clever, elegant tone. The magazine website, www.magazine.utoronto.ca, will be completely revamped.

INTERIM LEADERSHIP CHOSEN FOR FOOTBALL TEAM
Bob Howes and **Greg DeLaval** will lead the 2008 Varsity Blues