

See It

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Will Kwan: Art with a Global Currency

JUSTINA M. BARNICKE GALLERY, TORONTO NOV 12 TO DEC 20 2009

Will Kwan *Flame Test* 2009 Installation view Courtesy of the artistWill Kwan *Flame Test* 2009 Installation view Courtesy of the artist

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If the recession of the past few years has taught us anything, it's that the great matrix of capitalist modernity is indeed global. From Sarnia to Shanghai, Dubai to Delft, none was spared—and capitalism's endgame continues on. In his first major solo exhibition "Multi-lateral," curated by [Barbara Fischer](#) at the [Justina M. Barnicke Gallery](#), Toronto artist [Will Kwan](#) attempts to probe these complex underpinnings of the modern world. In *Clocks That Do Not Tell the Time*, Kwan diverts our gaze from the financial hubs of New York, London, Tokyo and Paris to map out lesser-known sites of significance to the global economy. *Endless Prosperity, Eternal Accumulation* consists of 80 photographs of *hongbao* (red envelopes used for gifting money in the Chinese tradition) encrusted with corporate insignia, evoking the multinational banking system. *Canaries (The Bank and the Treasury)* brings together Taoist notions of the afterlife and the colonial legacies of HSBC bank. The rest of the exhibition features works in photography, earth art, performance and video, with a couple of Kwan's featured pieces also opening this week in an exhibition with international media collective Cinema Suitcase at [Western Front](#) in Vancouver. Whatever his media or location, Kwan's mapping of the contemporary world promises to be both disquieting and

compelling. (7 Hart House Circ, Toronto ON)

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Will Kwan *Endless Prosperity, Eternal Accumulation* 2009 Courtesy of the artist

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Reparations

Beyond the tall, mullioned window of Barbara Fischer's office, a cold grey sky threatens rain and makes April seem more like March, but Fischer is already thinking ahead to May, when she leaves to oversee the installation of works by Mark Lewis in the Canada Pavilion at this year's Venice Biennale.

Reverse Pedagogy

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