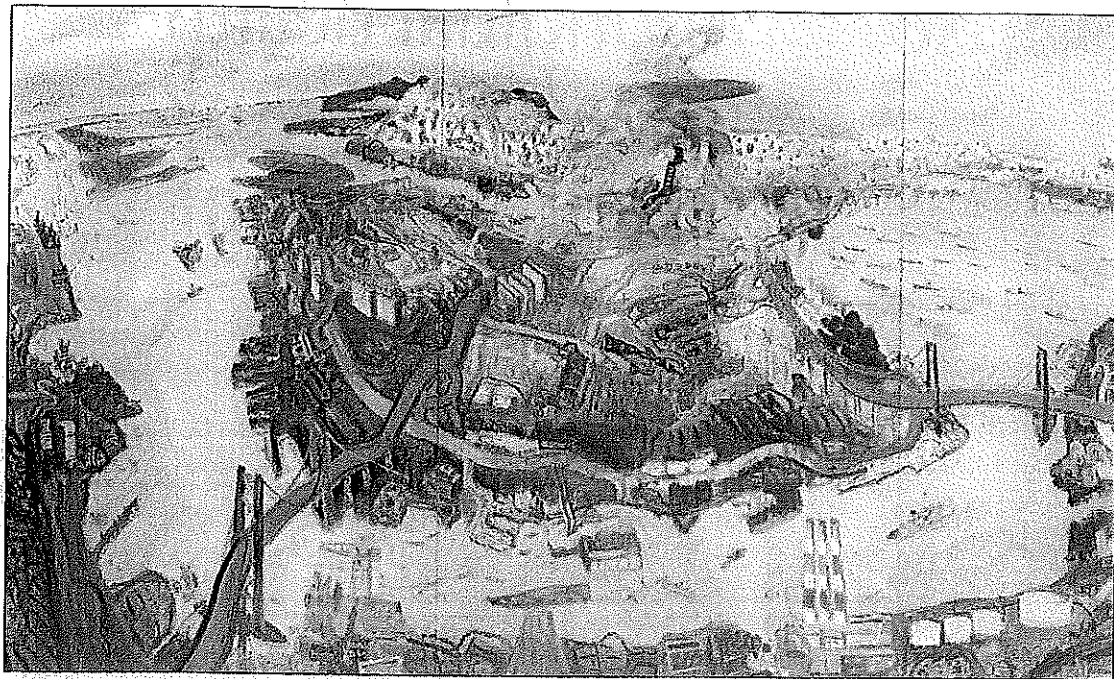


COURTESY OF U OF T ART CENTRE



Beginning Feb. 13, the U of T Art Centre will feature **Cities: John Hartman**, a collection of paintings that uses the urban landscapes as a starting point, including Halifax, pictured here.

Artist finds density beautiful

BY MAUREEN SMITH

Cities: John Hartman

opens Feb. 13 at the University of Toronto Art Centre and will be on view until March 15.

As one of Canada's leading contemporary painters, Hartman is known for his large-scale expressionistic landscape paintings animated with the imagery of local historic events and personal narratives.

For *Cities*, Hartman has painted cities both large and small, from Parry Sound, Port Severn and Owen Sound on shores of Georgian Bay, to London, New York, Toronto, Montreal and Glasgow, demonstrating a particular interest in cities that are also ports. His paintings of imagined aerial perspectives look down on the intricate contours of the urban space

where towers, cranes and docks meet the open blue of an ocean, lake or river.

"The water reflects the sun and creates an intensity of light above these places. This light in the sky is so different in feeling from the material density of the cities themselves, but both are full of possibilities for painting," Hartman explained.

Hartman sets out to combine his own memories of cities with a collective understanding informed by many factors: history, politics, film, literature, technology and the media. What results is a multi-faceted mapping that may not be geographically exact but is immediately recognizable.

"It is particularly fascinating to see this exhibition at the University of Toronto Art Centre" said **Niamh**

O'Laoghaire, director of the Art Centre, "because juxtaposed with Hartman's paintings, in an adjacent gallery, are works by members of the Group of Seven. Hartman's paintings show how we have evolved physically, demographically, culturally, even psychically since the vision of Canada created by the Group in the 1920s and 30s."

Cities includes a major new artwork commissioned by Scotiabank. Presented to the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in March 2007, the 16.5-foot oil on linen triptych, entitled *Halifax*, will become part of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia's permanent collection.

This exhibition of 18 new Hartman works from a variety of public and private collections will tour Canada through 2009.

Faculty will Festival of

BY MARIA SAROS LEUNG

What's U of T's best kept secret? If an upcoming Festival of the Arts event is any indication, our hidden treasure is a critical mass of renowned artists.

On **March 19, from 8 to 10 p.m.**, 1 Spadina Cres. will be transformed into U of T's Best Kept Secret. Visitors will be immersed in the creative works of faculty from architecture, drama, music, film studies, visual arts and English.

"Our goal is to get the artists who are teaching at U of T together not only to showcase their own work but also to show the pedagogy behind it," said **Professor Pia Kleber** of the University College drama program and the Centre for Comparative Literature, the event's organizer.

Featured artists will each occupy a room on one of three floors and be engaged in their respective works. Music will play every 10 minutes to signal a change of artist or presentation.

"For instance, in one room you'll have **George Elliot Clarke** reading. And 10 minutes later, you'll have another poet reading," Kleber said. Visitors can also expect to find **Johanna Schall**, director of the drama program's production of *The Robbers*, performing three different versions of a composition written by her grandfather and legendary playwright Bertolt Brecht.

Other featured artists include playwright **Djanet**