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## COMING SOON

### A new look, a new name, a new exhibition

(Toronto, December 7, 2015) **The recently federated Justina M. Barnicke Gallery / University of Toronto Art Centre** located just steps apart in adjacent buildings on the University of Toronto's beautiful St. George campus will launch as one institution with a new look and a new name, at the opening of its new exhibition, *Showroom*, on January 21, 2016.

Under the leadership of **Barbara Fischer**, Executive Director and Chief Curator, and building on the established reputations of the University of Toronto Art Centre (UTAC) and Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, the new institution will be a lively interdisciplinary arts hub that offers new encounters with diverse artistic and cultural perspectives.

Fischer is enthusiastic about the future: "We are excited to bring the galleries together under one name and launch a new institution that has an important role to play in the cultural life of Toronto and in campus life at U of T. Dedicated to the visual arts and their histories, we foster research intensive exhibitions and events in forward-looking programs that will reach out to connect more deeply with the university, the city, and the world."

The inaugural exhibition *Showroom*, curated by **Sarah Robayo Sheridan**, considers how changes in the built environment have filtered through the work of Toronto artists in a decade marked by rapid urban development. The exhibition asks: how do artists perceive these new social and visual orders?

The exhibition features a rich range of works including critical urban designer **Adrian Blackwell's** testament to eviction, **Annie MacDonell's** interest in the mutability of digital images, **John Massey's** representations of the psychological aspects of space, **Laurel Woodcock's** evocation of urban renewal in a neon installation, **Jon Sasaki's** at once playful and antagonistic approach to the live/work situation, performance art duo **Life of a Craphead's** irreverent artistic strategies, and an extensive new installation by the seven-member collective **VSVSVS**. For the complete list of artists and associated programs, please visit [www.jmbgallery.ca](http://www.jmbgallery.ca).

We gratefully acknowledge the operating support of the **Canada Council for the Arts** and the **Ontario Arts Council**. The exhibition *Showroom* would not have been possible without the additional project support of the **Toronto Arts Council**, **Manulife**, **Hal Jackman Foundation**, **Partners in Art**, and the **Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts**.

**Planned developments for the new institution to be announced at the opening reception: Thursday, January 21, 2016, 7-9pm.**

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