

Art Museum
University of Toronto
—
Justina M. Barnicke Gallery
University of Toronto Art Centre

7 Hart House Circle
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H3
artmuseum.utoronto.ca

Art Museum

For Immediate Release: April 24, 2018 • Please add to your listings/announcements

**The Art Museum at the University of Toronto
Presents
Robert Fones
Signs | Forms | Narratives
May 16 – July 21, 2018**

The **Art Museum at the University of Toronto** will present **Signs | Forms | Narratives**, a major retrospective exhibition of work by Governor General Award-winning artist and writer Robert Fones from **May 16 - July 21, 2018**. The exhibition will also include the launch of the accompanying catalogue, which is richly illustrated and features newly commissioned essays.

Originally from London, Ontario, **Robert Fones** is widely celebrated for his exquisitely rendered paintings and hybrid photographic sculptures that puzzle over the forms and shapes found in everyday life, zeroing in on the most engaging paradoxes of visual perception.

Signs | Forms | Narratives is the most extensive survey to date of the artist's work, highlighting his most influential artworks ranging from monumental letter forms, to lightboxes, to two-dimensional works that create the illusion of three dimensions.

1 of 4



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

HartHouse



UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE

Robert Fones is an important observer of the human imprint on landscape, with pieces including *House Viruses*, a highly intimate record of domestic architecture as told through the many layers of wallpaper encountered in his Toronto home, and his multi-part installation *Butter Models*, offering an elaborate mapping of wrappers produced by various Ontario creameries.

Signs | Forms | Narratives will include **Fones'** perspective on histories of industrial production, land use, and ornamentation. *Insert/Press/Deposit* takes the prompt symbols of an ATM machine and transposes these against archival images of the massive geometric forms of the ancient Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks.

Recording his observations through highly compelling pictorial illusionism and finely crafted sculptural forms, **Robert Fones** engages themes as wide ranging as agricultural production, geologic time, commercial sign systems, the anthropomorphic, and the sculptural form of the alphabet. His iconoclastic approach to this dynamic range of familiar forms invites the common and familiar to be made strange, all the better to observe how to make meaning of things.

Signs | Forms | Narratives was originated by Museum London with the support of the Museums Assistance Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage

Art Museum
University of Toronto
—
Justina M. Barnicke Gallery
University of Toronto Art Centre

Robert Fones

Signs | Forms | Narratives

May 16 – July 21, 2018

Public Opening and Exhibition Catalogue Launch:
Wednesday, May 16, 6 - 8 pm Art Museum at the University of
Toronto
University of Toronto Art Centre
15 King's College Circle, Toronto, Ontario

Programs

Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 6pm
Artist Tour, Robert Fones in Conversation
with Art Museum Curator, Sarah Robayo Sheridan
University of Toronto Art Centre

Saturday, June 9, 2018, 1pm
Robert Fones's 3d Lettering Workshop
University of Toronto Art Centre

facebook.com/ArtMuseumUofT • @artmuseumuoft • In:
artmuseumuoft

Media Contact: FLIP PUBLICITY, 416.533.7710, Damien Nelson,
damien@flip-publicity.com

About the Art Museum at the University of Toronto

The Art Museum is comprised of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery (Hart House) and the University of Toronto Art Centre (University College). Located just a few steps apart, the two

galleries were federated in 2014 and began operating under a new visual identity as the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, one of the largest gallery spaces for visual art exhibitions and programming in Toronto. Building on the two galleries' distinguished histories, the Art Museum originates and organizes an intensive year-round program of exhibitions and events that foster — at a local, regional, and international level — innovative research, interdisciplinary scholarship, and knowledge of art and its histories befitting Canada's leading university and the country's largest city.