

press release!

10 International and local artists occupy garden sheds in the City Centre: *Nature in the Garage*

June 29 – August 6, 2006

Public Launch: June 29, 2006 beginning at 6 pm at Gallery 1313

Toronto - *Nature in the Garage*, an exhibition carried out by Gallery 1313, in association with liveARTs, and in partnership with the City of Toronto, will run from **June 29 to August 6, 2006**. This project houses ten artists from Canada and abroad, each using a Royal Outdoor garden shed which will be placed in several primary locations in downtown Toronto to provide viewers with an in-depth and stimulating learning experience about contemporary art in a non-traditional site. *Nature in the Garage* is a presentation of the City of Toronto's Live with Culture campaign.

Curated by Janet Bellotto, *Nature in the Garage* features artists who utilize the space of the shed to investigate and interpret conditions of the natural environment within an urban reality, while exploring the paradigm between art and environment. Artists include Mary Anne Barkhouse (Minden, Ontario), Catherine Bodmer (Montreal/ Switzerland), Maria Fernanda Cardoso (Australia), John Dickson (Toronto), Noel Harding (Toronto), Yvonne Lammerich (Toronto), Gwen MacGregor (Toronto), Rod Strickland (Windsor, Ontario), Noboru Tsubaki (Japan), and Diing-Wuu Wu Walis (Taiwan). In *Nature in the Garage*, the use of the shed counterpoints a common cultural icon, found in many backyards, transforming it into a dream sphere where visitors can experience the narratives and representations constructed by the artists. The downtown locations of City Hall, Harbourfront, Fort York, Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, Drake Hotel and Gallery 1313 will aide to promote the interactive nature of the exhibition, made accessible to a large and varied audience.

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In addition, Gallery 1313 exhibition rooms will be transformed into a central information hub where visitors will be able to view documentation of the artists' work and the construction of the exhibition, as well as obtain their "passport" to visit all the locations. In the gallery, Janet Bellotto curates the exhibition, *No Such Place*, containing work that stems from similar ideas of the exhibition in relation to nature and environment, as well the Progress Gallery contains documentation from the artists in *Nature in the Garage*. Also in conjunction with the exhibition is a strong outreach program in the form of various lectures and tours.

Nature in the Garage will serve as a unique encounter for visitors and tourists to the various locations, and further appeals to a public that values contemporary art and culture. For more information and updates on this exhibition consult www.ccca.ca/naturegarage.

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Live With Culture is a 16-month celebration of Toronto's extraordinary arts and cultural communities, shining a spotlight on the vibrant and diverse activities happening in the city each and every day. From September 2005 until the end of 2006, **Live With Culture** showcases the vast scope of the city's culture of creativity and inspires culture in Toronto to become a daily part of everyone's life. How do you live with culture?

Visit www.livewithculture.ca, the ultimate guide to Toronto's culture scene.

Nature in the Garage

A Chirp, Noel Harding 2006

"Bird Feeder Enlightenment - for whatever reason, I've taken to watching my birds, and the glances are turning into minutes of complete fascination."

Sean Twist, The Globe and Mail, May 29, 2006.

The Royal Cambridge Storage Building maximizes interior space and flexibility so you get the most for your investment. Optionally inverted, it doubles as a unique urban wildlife feeder with 80 square feet of enclosed space for bird seed and vegetation. The unit (as illustrated) is equipped with additional bird feeders that protrude from the top with suet access areas via the side windows. Made of maintenance free vinyl panels with heritage window shutters, the storage building comes equipped with two 71" x 35" steel doors that are customized to fold outward, acting as an avian perch and allowing wildlife access. Steel doors require painting allowing an artist to add a splash of colour to the unit.

