

September 10, 2009

## **City on the Move: A Festival of Young Artists in Transit** New performance platform on the TTC launches September 11 to 13

The City of Toronto transfers and connects underground cultures with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) by creating a new artistic and audience platform for urban dance and music, visual art and performance art. From September 2009 through summer 2010, this program will regularly feature emerging and more seasoned young artists performing at subway stations, on subway cars, buses and streetcars.

Part of Toronto's 175th anniversary celebrations, this Toronto Cultural Services initiative offers artists ages 18 to 32 an expanded public audience and the opportunity to make money through their art by providing an honorarium and the ability to receive donations from the public like regular TTC performers. This will also be the first time that dancers and visual artists will be regularly showcased on the TTC.

Artists performing Friday, September 11 through Sunday, September 13 include:

**Rated "X" for Xcitement** dance crew specializes in popping and krumping and has won competitions at Manifesto 2007 and MuchMusic's *MuchOnDemand* best dance crew competition in 2008. This group will perform at five subway stations on Friday, September 11: Downsview (7 to 7:15 p.m.), Wilson (7:30 to 7:45 p.m.), Eglinton West (8 to 8:15 p.m.), Spadina (8:30 to 8:45 p.m.) and Dundas (9 to 9:15 p.m.).

**Diana Viselli** is a respected Toronto choreographer, performer and instructor who will be joined by other dancers in a fusion of hip-hop, contemporary, jazz, African and bollywood styles. This group will perform at three stations on Saturday, September 12: Downsview (1 to 1:15 p.m.), Eglinton West (1:45 to 2 p.m.) and Spadina (2:30 to 2:45 p.m.).

**Tova Kardonne** is a Toronto vocalist, composer and choreographer and violist who was featured at Nuit Blanche last year. She regularly performs in groups The Thing Is and The Element Choir. Tova will bring together six singers and position them on bus platforms and mezzanines for performances Sunday, September 13: Kipling (noon to 12:15 p.m.), Islington (12:25 to 12:40 p.m.), Royal York (12:50 to 1:10 p.m.) and Spadina (1:15 to 1:30 p.m.).

Visual artists presenting original works throughout September include Ayesha Stewart and Xiaojing Yan.

**Ayesha Stewart** is a Toronto photographer whose exhibit *Faceless and Nameless* features a series of black and white photographs revealing the sculptural beauty of Toronto landscapes. Her photographs and are being shown at Don Mills station (lower level near the escalator leading to/from the buses) until September 23.

**Xiaojing Yan** is a Toronto-based artist whose sculptures have been exhibited in galleries and museums in China, Canada and the United States. Her exhibit *Mutation* is a series of bright textile sculptures molded from the contours of her face. *Mutation* can be found at Kennedy Station (bus level) until September 24.

The *City on the Move* program also features the photography of the 10 Toronto winners of *The Mobile City Toronto/Milan project* -- a 2008 joint initiative of the Italian Chamber of Commerce, Toronto Culture and Economic Development that engaged youth in community-building through photography in the twin cities of Toronto and Milan. The Mobile City Project offered urban youth in both cities a platform for sharing their dreams and insights about urban life through the creation of digital photographs and a photography contest. The winners in each city traveled to the other city for a cultural exchange.

Toronto Cultural Services continues to invite new submissions from emerging artists for its *City on the Move: A Festival of Young Artists in Transit* program. For more information about submission guidelines, performer schedules and biographies, visit [www.toronto.ca/culture/arts-services/cityonthemove/](http://www.toronto.ca/culture/arts-services/cityonthemove/).

The public can also view and share in this ongoing project experience by visiting the City on the Move Flickr group at [www.flickr.com/photos/cityonthemove/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/cityonthemove/).

Toronto is Canada's largest city and sixth largest government, and home to a diverse population of about 2.6 million people. It is the economic engine of Canada and one of the greenest and most creative cities in North America. Toronto has won numerous awards for quality, innovation and efficiency in delivering public services. 2009 marks the 175th anniversary of Toronto's incorporation as a city. Toronto's government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and liveability for all its residents.

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