

Contacting Toronto: Under this Ground
Exposing Toronto's Remarkable Underground Waterways

Toronto – April 18, 2013 – *Contacting Toronto: Under this Ground* transforms Toronto's subway system during Scotiabank CONTACT, offering a glimpse of the city's underground waterways to more than one million TTC commuters daily throughout May.

An official public installation of Toronto's annual photography festival, *Contacting Toronto: Under this Ground* highlights the exploration of buried waterways and sewers by artists Michael Cook and Andrew Emond. Until the last decade, these spaces were utterly invisible to most.

Ideally located throughout the TTC subway system, the most common place where people come in contact with the city's underground infrastructure, curator Sharon Switzer responds to this year's Festival theme, *Field of Vision*. Switzer utilizes the network of subway platform screens, as well as subway posters at St. Patrick subway station, to expose the concealed spaces of Toronto's sewers to the public for the first time at this scale.

"Toronto's subway platforms and posters are the perfect location for this project, allowing viewers to reflect on a layer of the city to which we are all connected, yet rarely have the opportunity to see." said Sharon Switzer, exhibition curator and Arts Programmer and Curator, Pattison Onestop.

Michael Cook's photographs take over St. Patrick subway station, turning the entire space into a site-specific, public installation - 45 compelling posters, on both levels of the station reveal for commuters the impressive physical spaces of Toronto's sewer system. Every 10-minutes on the subway LCD platform screens, Andrew Emond's stop-motion animations lead the viewer through three Toronto tunnels – Garrison Creek, Small's Creek and Black Creek tributary - highlighting their geometric features, divulge buried creeks and the rivers that flow through them.

Dedicated Pattison Onestop 'Art Zone' screens will offer uninterrupted play of Emond's videos in three downtown stations for the first week of the exhibition: Bloor Station on the north and southbound platforms, Dundas Station southbound platform near the DWA, and St. Andrew Station north and south bound platforms.

For more information visit the exhibition website: www.contactingtoreonto.ca

Contacting Toronto: Under this Ground is co-produced by Pattison Onestop and Art for Commuters (A4C) in partnership with Scotiabank Contact. Supported by the Ontario Arts Council.

About Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival - CONTACT is an annual festival of photography in Toronto, during the month of May, with over 1000 local, national and international artists exhibiting at almost 200 venues. Founded as a not-for-profit organization 16 years ago, and now a charitable organization, the festival is devoted to celebrating, and fostering the art and profession of photography. It stimulates excitement and discussion among a diverse audience that has grown to over 1.8 million. CONTACT is the largest photography event in the world, and a premiere cultural event in Canada.
www.scotiabankcontactphoto.com

About Art for Commuters - www.art4commuters.com

Art for Commuters was founded in 2007 by Sharon Switzer, and brings over 100 artworks per year to the Pattison Onestop TTC subway platform screens. Through its projects on these screens, Art for Commuters offers a wide range of contemporary artistic voices the opportunity to showcase their work in the public spaces frequented by urban travellers. Art for Commuters other collective members are Jean-Paul Kelly, Lori Newdick, and Claire Sykes.

About Pattison Onestop - www.pattisononestop.com

Pattison Outdoor Advertising is Canada's largest Out-of-Home advertising company, serving over 100 markets coast-to-coast. Pattison Onestop, a division of Pattison Outdoor, is a world leader in the development and operation of Digital Out-of-Home Media (DOOH) for mass transit, mall, retail, hospitality, residential, office, and outdoor environments. *Art in Transit* represents Pattison Onestop's ongoing arts and culture programme. www.artintransit.ca.

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