

July 14, 2008



**Exhibition: *Models for Public Spaces***

**Artists:** Adrian Blackwell

**Curator:** Suzanne Carte-Blanchenot, Outreach Programmer

**Dates:** July 17 – September 7, 2008

**Location:** Art Gallery of Mississauga

**Admission:** Free

**Hours:** Weekdays 9 am to 5 pm, weekends Noon to 4 pm

**\*Call 905 896 5088 to confirm hours**

***Models for Public Spaces***

Adrian Blackwell

July 17 – September 7, 2008

**Opening reception;** Thursday, July 17th 6 pm – 9pm

**A free shuttle bus** will depart at 7 pm, Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, from the Gladstone Hotel (1214 Queen Street West, Toronto) returning at 9 pm. To reserve seats please call Suzanne Carte-Blanchenot at (905) 896-5507 or email [suzanne.carte-blanchenot@mississauga.ca](mailto:suzanne.carte-blanchenot@mississauga.ca).

Blackwell's sculptures will sit in and outside of the gallery as infrastructures for both action and contemplation. These physical constructions act as diagrams for the strategic relations between different people in social space, opening up questions about the boundaries of the "public" in a city like Mississauga.

*Models for Public Spaces* presents an archive of experiments in the relation between urban space and social practices. The exhibition will survey Blackwell's investigations, public works and collaborative structures built to produce new locations for collective action and public discourse including, *How to open a car like a book*, *Public Water Closet*, *Car Pool*, *light net* and *Monster*.

Previously unseen proposals dedicated for the City of Toronto such as *Unofficial Entry to the Dundas Square Competition* and *Two-way mirror travel* with Marcin Kedzior, for a sculpture on the Union Station Subway Platform further reflect the ongoing exploration into the alteration of existing spaces to encourage new ways of seeing and interacting.

Constructed to facilitate conversation between large numbers of people, Blackwell's *Model for a Public Space (speaker)* will be erected in the Civic Square to open discourse around the question of what constitutes a healthy city the week of July 23<sup>rd</sup>. This circular, ramping seating structure, initially built for Toronto's first Nuit Blanche, looks like a crater or a speaker facing upwards. Through this simple shape it is possible to sit looking inward towards one another or outward to the surrounding city.

**EVENTS:**

**Forum - *Heritage Complex*** Sunday July 27, 3:00 pm

The conversational forum will be reflecting on the Art Gallery of Peel's exhibition, *Heritage Complex*, curated by Atanas Bozdarov and Tejjal Ajji. Speakers include, Artist Eric Glavin and Architect Alan Tregebov.

Heritage Complex examines the built environments of cities that have recently developed adjacent to more traditionally understood urban centres. Participating artists' consider the psychological spaces of recent urbanism, biomimicry to suggest alternative planning models, conduct field studies as urban ethnographers, and test the limits of by-laws which question the use of private and public space.

**Screening - *Radiant City*** Tuesday August 12, 7:00 pm

Directors: Gary Burns and Jim Brown, Canada, 2007

Whether you call it sprawl or growth, the suburbs have been the dominant form of community planning in North America for fifty years. In this incisive study, Burns and Brown peer into the windows and lives of those who call suburbia home.

**Adrian Blackwell** is an artist and urban and architectural designer, whose work focuses on the spaces and forces of uneven development produced through processes of Post-fordist urbanization.

Blackwell has exhibited across Canada at artist run centers and public institutions including Mercer Union, The New Gallery, The Hamilton Art Gallery, The Power Plant and the Mackenzie Art Gallery, at the University of Michigan, LACE Gallery in Los Angeles, and at the 2005 Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture. Most recent exhibitions include *Heritage Complex* at the Art Gallery of Peel and *Site Visits* at Cambridge Galleries.

In 2005 Blackwell co-edited *Unboxed: Engagements in Social Space*, with Jen Budney and co-curated the exhibition *Detours: Tactical Approaches to Urbanization in China* with Pei Zhao. Since 1997 he has taught architecture and urban design at the University of Toronto, initiating the school's China Global Architecture program in 2004. He has been a visiting professor at Chongqing University and at the University of Michigan's College of Architecture and Urban Planning. In 2007 Blackwell won the competition to revitalize Nathan Phillips Square in collaboration with PLANT Architect Inc, Shore Tilbe Irwin and Partners, and Peter Lindsay Schaudt Landscape Architecture.

For more information on publications, programming and activities at the Art Gallery of Mississauga, please call (905) 896-5088 or view the Gallery's website at [www.artgalleryofmississauga.com](http://www.artgalleryofmississauga.com)  
Got something to say about Mississauga's cultural scene? Comment at [www.905arttalk.blogspot.com](http://www.905arttalk.blogspot.com)

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A public art gallery sponsored by the City of Mississauga, the Ontario Arts Council, The Canada Council, Ontario Trillium Foundation, The Pendle Fund at the Community Foundations of Mississauga, Corporations, Private Citizens and its Membership