



National Gallery of Canada

Pierre Théberge, O.C., C.Q., - Director
Annual Public Meeting – December 1, 2008

Thank you Mr. Sobey. Good evening.

We are pleased to welcome you this evening in order to present our program. It is a great opportunity for me to publicly thank the many people and organizations whose generous contributions of all kinds form the bedrock of both the Gallery and the Museum of Photography. For their continued support I extend my thanks to the Department of Canadian Heritage and to the newly appointed Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honorable James Moore and his team. I would also like to thank each member of the Gallery’s board of trustees—who collectively bear the important task of guiding every aspect of the Gallery’s governance—for their invaluable contributions to the ongoing success of this institution.

Now in its 11th year of existence, the National Gallery of Canada Foundation chaired by Mr. Thomas D’Aquino and overseen by Ms Marie Claire Morin, the foundation is dedicated to finding financial support from the private sector for our programs.

The Foundation also seeks valuable corporate sponsorship for programming, and oversees services for the Gallery’s 30,000 members who participate actively and enthusiastically in our programs. I congratulate the Foundation on its marvelous work, and thank its team for its ongoing efforts and dedication.

Equally notable for their contributions are the members of the Volunteer Circle. In 2008, the Circle celebrated its 50th anniversary. In honour of this occasion the Gallery hosted an anniversary event on October 5 and opened the Gallery to the public. The Circle launched In the Company of Friends, a commemorative book full of memories from the Circle’s five-decade history. We extend our warmest thanks for all their time and energy.

Of course, none of these impressive efforts would mean much without our visitors: curious, intrepid, lifelong learners who come to us from across this country and well beyond its borders. It is with all of you in mind that we proudly grow our collection, organize our exhibitions and



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consistently seek ways to improve our educational activities and our online resources. We thank you with utmost sincerity for your keen interest, your presence, and your participation.

I would now like to thank our Senior Management Team for their leadership and dedication in bringing the best possible programming to our varied audiences.

The achievements and accomplishments you will learn about in the presentations to follow have come to fruition due to the skill and dedication of our Management team and our 276.4 talented staff. It is through their daily contributions that the National Gallery of Canada and the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography have become what they are: two institutions that rank amongst the finest art museums in the world, and that can be a source of pride for all Canadians.

Good evening and thank you for being here.