

Media Release
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(© Thaddeus Holownia)

Firms partner to sponsor exhibit by renowned N.B. photographer

(Moncton, New Brunswick, March 10, 2007) – Three Atlantic Canadian firms are partnering to sponsor a tri-city exhibition of images by renowned New Brunswick photographer Thaddeus Holownia.

Gaspereau Press, Office Interiors and Tristar Mercedes Benz are bringing Holownia's works to Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John. The internationally respected Jolicure artist, who is also a photography professor and head of the Fine Arts Department at Mount Allison University, has previously been featured in exhibitions and galleries around the world and in numerous publications.

“We feel it's important to support arts and culture in the communities where we operate,” says David Hawkins, spokesperson for Office Interiors and Tristar. “We welcome the opportunity to work with Thaddeus Holownia and to enable more New Brunswickers to enjoy his outstanding photographs.”

The title of the exhibition is *Laminae*, the Latin word for ‘layers.’ Peter Sanger, the distinguished Nova Scotia poet and essayist, curated the show and has written an insightful essay for the catalogue in which he explores the many layers of Holownia's art.

LAMINAE will open in Fredericton on March 16 at Ingrid Mueller Art and Concepts, 117 York St. The show's third stop will be Saint John, from April 13 to 28 at the Peter Buckland Gallery, 80 Prince William St. (*Laminae* opened on February 16 at Galerie 12 in Moncton's Aberdeen Cultural Centre, 140 Botsford St., where it ran until March 7)

“There is no doubt that this show possesses both the quality and the momentum to travel much further,” observed Mr. Hawkins. “We're presently consulting with friends and associates about other possible venues across the Maritimes and New England.”

Holownia makes his distinctive, information-rich pictures using large-format view-cameras. One of his primary interests, the ways people shape and reshape the natural world, is evident in images such as *Highway 102, Exit 11* (shown atop release and attached), a landscape featuring the well-known fiberglass mastodon that overlooks the Trans-Canada Highway between Halifax and Truro. Other photographs examine minute details with fierce intensity. One such is *Tree Study #1*, a six-foot tall, close-up of a tree trunk at Walden Pond, near Concord, Massachusetts, where he was visiting as recipient of a prestigious Fulbright Fellowship.

Laminae was originally planned solely for the Moncton venue, until the corporate sponsors stepped forward.

“I’m tremendously grateful for the generous support of Gaspereau Press, Office Interiors and Tristar Mercedes Benz,” says Holownia. “Their action represents a return to the hugely important role that community leaders have played as patrons of the arts. If artists had to depend solely on public sector support, many exciting ventures would never be undertaken. I sincerely hope that the example of this show will encourage others in the private sector to step forward and support the arts in Atlantic Canada.”

Born in 1949, in Bury Saint Edmunds, England, Holownia moved to Canada at an early age and grew up in Ontario. In 1972, he graduated from the University of Windsor with a degree in Communications and Fine Arts. Since 1977, he has been a faculty member at Mount Allison University where he currently heads the Department of Fine Arts.

His most recent prior exhibition, *Thaddeus Holownia: the Terra Nova Suite*, appeared last fall in St. John’s, Newfoundland. He has also had solo shows at the Centro de la Imagen (Mexico City), McCord Museum (Montreal), the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (Halifax), the Owens Art Gallery (Sackville), the Dunlop Art Gallery (Regina), the Confederation Art Gallery (Charlottetown), the Jane Corkin Gallery (Toronto), the Art Gallery of Hamilton, and the McMichael Canadian Collection, (Kleinburg, Ont.) among others. His photographs have also been included in group exhibitions such as *Monet's Legacy: Series, Order and Obsession* (Hamburger Kunsthalle), *Before the Land, Behind the Camera* (Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography), *The Landscape: Eight Canadian Photographers* (McMichael Canadian Collection), *Exposure* (The Art Gallery of Ontario), and *Photo Perspectives* (Presentation House, Vancouver).

He has received awards from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Crake Foundation and the Marjorie Young Bell Foundation. In 2000, Holownia was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. He received a Fulbright Fellowship in 2001 and the Paul Paré Medal by Mount Allison University in 1998 and 2006 in recognition of excellence in teaching, creative activity, research and community service.

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