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**JANET CARDIFF**  
**A SURVEY OF WORKS, INCLUDING COLLABORATIONS**  
**WITH GEORGE BURES MILLER**  
**At the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal**

Montréal, May 24, 2002. The Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal presents *Janet Cardiff: A Survey of Works, Including Collaborations with George Bures Miller*, the first mid-career survey of the work of Canadian artist Janet Cardiff from May 25 to September 8, 2002. This exhibition offers a unique opportunity to see the works of the artist who represented us at the 2001 Venice Biennale. The only stops on its tour are New York, Montréal and Turin.

The exhibition includes a selection of the artist's most significant installations, such as *To Touch*, 1993, *The Dark Pool*, 1995, *Playhouse*, 1997, *The Muriel Lake Incident*, 1999, and *Forty-Part Motet*, 2001. It also presents a survey of her renowned audio and video Walks, and a new Walk specifically designed for the Musée.

Cardiff has gained international recognition for her audio and video "Walks" in which visitors, while listening to a CD walkman or watching the screen of a camcorder, follow the artist's directions through a site, and become involved in the stories embedded in her recorded instructions and suggestions. Voices, footsteps, music, sounds of cars and gunshots make up a fictional soundtrack to an actual walk through real indoor and outdoor spaces. Cardiff's works involve the conventions of cinema and science fiction and explore the complexity of subjectivity in today's highly technological world, where the distinction between sensation and imagination continuously collapses. In Cardiff's Walks, characters narrate dreamlike recollections of particular events, and refer to the participants' physical surroundings. Shifting between past and present, memory and reality, her stories shape the participants' projections, fantasies and desires.

Janet Cardiff was born in Brussels, Ontario, in 1957. She lives and works in Lethbridge, Alberta and Berlin in Germany. She has created site-specific audio and video works for a number of group exhibitions, such as *NowHere*, Louisiana Museum, Humlebaek, Denmark, 1996, *Skulptur Projekte*, Münster, 1997; São Paulo Biennial, 1998; *La Ville, Le Jardin, La Mémoire*, Villa Medici, Rome, 1998;

The Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, 1999; *The Museum as Muse*, MoMA, New York, 1999; and 010101, SFMOMA, San Francisco, 2001, among others. In 1999, she was also commissioned by Artangel to create a walk in London, titled *The Missing Voice* (Case Study B). Janet Cardiff recently won the Millennium Prize awarded in 2001 by the National Gallery of Canada, as well as the Special Jury Award at the Venice Biennale for *The Paradise Institute*, 2001, a work created with artist George Bures Miller.

## **Catalogue**

A comprehensive monograph on Cardiff's work has been published by P.S.1. It contains a survey essay by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, curator of the show, focused chapters on individual works, and black-and-white and colour images of works and scripts. The catalogue also includes a detailed chronology with an ample anthology of critical essays by an array of international authors, as well as a complete bibliography.

The exhibition will complete its tour in Italy, at the Castello di Rivoli, Turin.

The opening will take place on Friday, May 24, 2002, at 6 p.m. The Montréal presentation of the show has been coordinated by Réal Lussier, curator at the Musée.

*Janet Cardiff: A Survey of Works Including Collaborations with Georges Bures Miller* was organized by P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York, an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art. The exhibition is curated by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev.

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