



Media Release #9-09

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Downtown St. Catharines Wraps Up Art City 2009**

St. Catharines, Ontario, September 29, 2009 – On the first Friday night of each month since May 1 Downtown St. Catharines has become **Art City!**. From 6 to 9 pm each evening, Downtown galleries, restaurants and merchants are enlivened through art by hosting an exhibition or performance on their premises. **Art City!** wraps up for 2009 on Friday October 2.

Friday's **Art City!** wrap-up includes the final installation of artist **Elizabeth Chitty**'s *Want*. For three Art City evenings, Chitty asked St. Catharines' residents what they want, and 90 people entered her ivory silk tent and recorded their answers. On October 2, the voices of these people will float from the tent and we will hear just what St. Catharines people want!

**Art City!** featured artists on October 2 also include: musician **Rick Rose** at the Red Hot Chili Pepper, ceramic artist **Magdolene Dykstra** at Coffee Culture, textile artist **Alison Ruth** at The Boot Shop, artist and arts educator **Laurie Boese** doing sidewalk chalk murals at 136 St. Paul Street and, as part of an exchange with Cuban artists, CRAM Gallery presents work by artists **Taller Cultural** of Santiago de Cuba at The Office Tap & Grill. More work by the visiting Cuban artists is on display at CRAM Gallery at 24 James Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

The Niagara Artists Centre is exhibiting their **Seth-designed Wine King of Dominion City** float, last seen in the Niagara Wine Festival's Grande Parade, in the Show Room Gallery, as well as **Chad MacDonald** in the Dennis Tourbin Members Gallery. St. Catharines and Area Arts Council at 31 James Street features an exhibition of work by members of the **St. Catharines Art Association**.

**Art City!** is a celebration of original artwork, installations, exhibitions, and performances presented through a partnership of the **Niagara Artists' Centre**, the **St. Catharines & Area Arts Council** and the **St. Catharines Downtown Association**. **Art City!** features all forms of art, from the eclectic to the sublime. Event maps are distributed through participating venues and are also available for download on all partner websites: [www.nac.org](http://www.nac.org), [www.startscouncil.ca](http://www.startscouncil.ca) and [www.stcathdowntown.com](http://www.stcathdowntown.com). The events are family-friendly and admission is free.

St. Catharines is Ontario's original **Art City!** In 1975, art exhibitions and performances were held throughout the Downtown. Now thirty-four years later, engaging art experiences are popping up in the core.

Participating galleries and businesses include: The Boot Shop, Coffee Culture, CRAM Gallery, Elliott & Co., Fine Grind Café, Golden Horseshoe Tattoo, Hollywood Hair, Mad Cap Hats, The Office Tap & Grill, The Red Hot Chili Pepper, Strega Café and many more.

**Art City!** is a celebration of the transformation of Downtown St. Catharines through arts and culture. Arts and culture are essential to building lively communities where people want to live, work and visit. In a new creative economy, arts and culture are essential to our community's sustainable future. An exciting part of that future is the partnership of Brock University and the City of St. Catharines in the relocation of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts and the creation of an associated public arts facility in the urban centre of Niagara. **Art City!** demonstrates how that future is already taking shape in a revitalized Downtown, where arts lovers, families and visitors can spend an exciting, fun and safe Friday evening.

**Art City!** will resume in May 2010. Artists interested in participating are invited to contact the St. Catharines and Area Arts Council at 905-988-1888 or [submissions@stcartsCouncil.ca](mailto:submissions@stcartsCouncil.ca) or the Niagara Artists Centre at 905-641-0331 or [director@nac.org](mailto:director@nac.org). Businesses interested in participating should contact the St. Catharines Downtown Association at 905-685-8424 or [elizabeth@stcathdowntown.com](mailto:elizabeth@stcathdowntown.com).

The Niagara Artists' Centre gratefully acknowledges funding by **Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, City of St. Catharines,** and **Delta** bingo players.

The St. Catharines and Area Arts Council gratefully acknowledges funding by the **City of St. Catharines, Ontario Trillium Foundation** and **Ontario Arts Council.**

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For more information, members of the media may contact:

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