

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Leaving a Legacy of ARTS FOR ALL

**A selection has been made for the Major Public Artwork, to be located at the Millennium Library Park**

**WINNIPEG – April 29, 2011** – An artist team has been selected for the Major Public Artwork that will be installed as part of the legacy of Winnipeg’s Cultural Capital year. **Pechet and Robb art and architecture** were selected from over one hundred national and international applicants who responded to a Call for Artists to create a site specific work that incorporates water, light and ice.

“We are very excited about this work,” said Tricia Wasney, Public Art Manager for the Winnipeg Arts Council. “It will commemorate our Cultural Capital Year with an iconic work of art created specifically to reflect Winnipeg’s unique physical and cultural character.”

Pechet and Robb is an art and design studio based in Vancouver BC that has been creating fine art and architecture all over the world since 1991. Projects have included, plazas, exhibitions, sets and furniture and of course, public art. One such project, The Watering Garden, is a water play plaza for the City of Victoria the centre-piece of which is a gargantuan watering can, 17’ high. The can is activated by big buttons that trigger a sequence of surprising water events, regulated by a computer within the can. Their project SweaterLodge was chosen through a national juried competition to represent Canada at the 2006 Venice Biennale of Architecture. Pechet and Robb have an interest in bridging the worlds of art and imagination to everyday life, a quality that makes them ideal for this project which will be an artwork with elements of water and light located in a high pedestrian area.

“Their background designing for the theatre, urban spaces and architecture makes their work so interesting,” according to Wasney. “It means they have the technical know-how, the creativity and the perspective that is going to be a great benefit to our city.”

The Millennium Library Park public art project is being funded by the Cultural Capitals program and the Winnipeg Arts Council’s Public Art program and is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2011. This will be the largest scale public art project in Winnipeg to date.

“We are calling the work *emptyful*...it will be based on a 3D drawing of a large liquid container which will periodically be filled with water, fog, lights and even snow,” says Bill Pechet of Pechet and Robb. “It is a meditation on the idea that Winnipeg and the prairies which surround it are simultaneously full and empty, depending on the ephemera of weather, seasons, and human endeavour.”

Bill Pechet from Pechet and Robb will be in Winnipeg and available for interviews today (Friday, April 29) between 1:30 and 4:00 pm at the Winnipeg Arts Council.

The Cultural Capitals program is a federally funded program through Canadian Heritage. This public art project was proposed as part of the winning application made by the Winnipeg Arts Council on behalf of the City of Winnipeg. The artwork will be a legacy project, a permanent record of the commitment to art in the City of Winnipeg.

For more information about the artists visit [www.pechetandrobb.com](http://www.pechetandrobb.com).

For more information about visit [www.artsforall.ca](http://www.artsforall.ca).

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