

# Press Release

Dean Baldwin / Public Art Exhibition  
August 31 – October 31st, 2009  
*Fattening Frogs for Snakes*, 2009  
Located in Royal Bank Plaza, Concourse level,  
North of Indigo Spirit Book Store

August 25, 2009

Dean Baldwin / *Fattening Frogs for Snakes*  
120 X 216 inches  
Digital Colour Photograph duraprene wallcovering  
2009  
Curated by Andrew Davies  
Text written by Dave Dymant

No.9: Contemporary Art & the Environment is proud to present a commissioned large scale public photographic work by the celebrated Artist Dean Baldwin.

## ***Fattening Frogs for Snakes, 2009***

In 1960, Swiss artist Daniel Spoerri affixed to a table the accumulated residue of a meal, and then mounted it on the wall as the first of many 'snare paintings'. A decade later San Francisco artist Tom Marioni exhibited empty bottles with the title *The Act of Drinking Beer with Friends is the Highest Form of Art*. The work of Toronto based artist Dean Baldwin continues this tradition of food&drink-as-life-as-art, with the creation of fantastical functioning saloons and elaborate photo-installations that document all the meals he has consumed in a year, or all of the food that he has discarded.

*Fattening Frogs for Snakes* presents itself as a classic "old Dutch master" still-life, illustrating the aftermath of decadence. The visions of excess seem celebratory at first, but this is a cautionary tale - with the devil in the details. The party is over, the revellers are gone and what remains is beginning to rot.

## **No.9**

No.9: Contemporary Art & the Environment is committed to the belief that contemporary art can stimulate positive social and environmental change. We are non-for -profit art organization that provides artists who address these concerns with the opportunity to make ambitious work in the public realm. No.9 brings the power of art to bear on some of the most pressing issues of our time, using urban public space as a forum for exhilarating creativity and vital discussion.

For more information on this exhibition and No.9 contact Andrew Davies at 416-644-1019

More information on No.9 and it's projects can be found at [www.no9.ca](http://www.no9.ca)