

The Encampment Launches with Luminato Next Week
June 8-24, 2012 at Fort York

**Commissioned by the City of Toronto and Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts
and Creativity, for the
Bicentennial Commemoration of the War of 1812**

Toronto, May 30, 2012 - **The Encampment**, by art duo **Thomas+Guinevere** (Thom Sokoloski and Jenny-Anne McCowan) replaces "a dig for artifacts" with "a dig" into the collective memory of a public space and its history. It launches next week at **Fort York National Historic Site** as part of the **Luminato Festival and City of Toronto Bicentennial Commemoration of the War of 1812**.

From June 8-24, the grounds of **Fort York National Historic Site** will transform into a large-scale 'temporal village' and a glowing sculptural grid against the night sky as **200 tents house individual art installations** inspired by the people who shaped Toronto's past.

Thom Sokoloski and Jenny-Anne McCowan have done previous versions of **The Encampment**, on different themes, at Toronto's **Nuit Blanche** (2006), in New York City (2007), and Ottawa (2008). This incarnation of **The Encampment** focuses on the **civilian history of The War of 1812**.

A team of over 100 Creative Collaborators under **Thomas+Guinevere's** direction have been working together over the last seven weeks at Fort York to conjure what might have been the 'zeitgeist' during the War of 1812. Each of the 200 tents houses a visually expressive installation that represents a story of an individual from the war, many of which touch on themes of love, loss, survival and patriotism, as well as those of collaboration, deception, greed and betrayal.

Each installation is inspired by the story of an individual living in the Canadas during the War of 1812. Many of these individuals remain unrecognized as part of our history. They include First Nations, European immigrants, African Canadians, as well as European and Native loyalists expelled from the United States after the American Revolution. Though the majority did not play a role in the military history of the War of 1812, collectively, they defined the zeitgeist of our nation. Their stories are as varied as the people who lived them and include themes of patriotism, betrayal, treason, profiteering, pacifism and family loyalties.

Thomas+Guinevere is an art studio run by Thom Sokoloski and Jenny-Anne McCowan. Their collaboration began in 2006 when Thom was commissioned by Scotiabank **Nuit Blanche** (curated by Clara Hargittay) to create **Confinement of the Intellect** in Trinity Bellwoods Park. It was later re-titled **The Encampment** and presented in New York City on Roosevelt Island (2007) and Ottawa in Major Hills Park (2008). In 2010 they developed the first draft of **The River Peace**, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's satyagrahas, for **Nuit Blanche** in The Distillery Historic District. In 2011 they were in residence in the Aboriginal community of Mapoon in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Queensland, Australia, where they researched and developed **Ghost Net**, a large-scale installation that takes as its metaphor the massive fishing net debris drifting and entangling marine life in the Pacific. This coming August they will be in residence in **Socrates Sculpture Park** in New York City undertaking a development workshop to construct prototypes of **The Scarecrows**, a new work that blends the collective ideas of the mysteries and energies of Astoria into effigies of protection.

The Encampment - A Thomas+Guinevere Creation

Conceived by Thom Sokoloski - Produced by Sherrie Johnson Productions

June 8-24, every evening from 7:30pm-11:00pm

Fort York National Historic Site, 250 Fort York Blvd. Toronto. – Free!

Detailed Information: www.thomasandguinevere.com

To Editors: For photo downloads and background of previous versions, visit
<http://thomasandguinevere.com/media/>

**Media Ops are available next week to capture striking viz:
of the installation process on the ground during the day and
of the illuminated 200 tents during the evening from above from a condo tower.**

Media Contact: Dianne Weinrib / Sarah Mackie, DW Communications 416-703-5479
dw@dwcommunications.net for details.