

# Call for Public Participation

for

## The Encampment

A Thomas+Guinevere Creation

A commission by Luminato and City of Toronto  
for the War of 1812 Commemoration

Conceived by Thom Sokoloski

Produced by Sherrie Johnson Productions



(Photo: Ryan Mallard)

Artists Thom Sokoloski and Jenny-Anne McCowan (Thomas+Guinevere) are inviting you to participate in the creation of a new version of The Encampment, a large-scale public participatory art installation that proposes the archaeological encampment as its metaphor. A dig for artifacts is replaced by a dig into the collective memory of a public space and its history.

The Encampment is created over a two-month Installation Creation Process. Like archaeologists, selected Creative Collaborators will commit to “getting their hands dirty” in unearthing and transposing civilian stories from the War of 1812 into art installations that will be set up within each tent. Each installation is meant to evoke an imagistic experience of the story it represents. 200 civilian stories of love, loss, survival and patriotism will be explored, as well as those of collaboration, deception, greed and betrayal.

If you are interested in becoming a Creative Collaborator, please visit [www.thomasandguinevere.com](http://www.thomasandguinevere.com) for more information and to access the FAQ on The Encampment. Then, send us an e-mail with your contact information, a short statement about your background and why you want to participate (no more than 100 words for each and no attachments please) to [collaborate@thomasandguinevere.com](mailto:collaborate@thomasandguinevere.com). **The deadline to apply is March 26, 2012.**

**Please note** that we are not asking for a submission of a concept. The creation of your work evolves out of your full participation in the Installation Creation Process which begins April 14<sup>th</sup>. We ask everyone to commit to one workshop per week for 7 weeks, as well as the final set-up of your installation in one of the **200 tents** on the grounds of Fort York on June 7<sup>th</sup> for the opening on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

At its inaugural presentation (then entitled Confinement of the Intellect) commissioned by Scotiabank’s Nuit Blanche 2006, The Encampment looked at the history of mental health on Queen St. West between 1870 and 1940 and was set up in the gully of Trinity Bellwoods Park. In 2007, The Encampment was presented in New York City on the southern tip of Roosevelt Island opposite the United Nations and looked at the island’s history of quarantine from 1800 to 1970. In 2008, it was presented in Ottawa in Major Hills Park across from the Parliament and looked at the history of intellectual disability from 1820 to 2008.

In 2006, Thom Sokoloski and Jenny McCowan, both with significant backgrounds in the theatre and dance arts, built a collective aimed at developing site-specific public participatory art installations in a studio partnership Thomas+Guinevere. Last year they completed their first stage of Ghost Net in a residency in the Aboriginal community of Mapoon on the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland, Australia, and this coming August they will be at Socrates Sculpture Park in NYC undertaking a development workshop of The Scarecrows.



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**Apply Now!**

