

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# MAKE IT NEW

**OPENING RECEPTION:** NOVEMBER 30, 6-8 PM - Free and Open to All  
**OPENING HOURS:** NOVEMBER 30, 2009 - JANUARY 30, 2010, M-F 10-4  
**LOCATION:** Ryerson University, 111 Gerrard Street East (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
Modern Literature & Culture Research Centre  
(416-979-5000 x 4771)

**Toronto, November 17, 2009.** *Make It New: Salon Portraits from New York to Toronto* is an exhibition of modern interpretations and recreations of modernist, avant-garde and Dada art originating in early 20th century New York salon culture.

This collaborative exhibition focuses on the modernist salons of New York including the Arensbergs, the Stettheimers, the *Little Review* circle, A'lelia Walker, and Carl Van Vechten. This exhibit takes inspiration from the ways in which the habitués expanded the definition of art by breaking through boundaries of gender, race, class, politics, and artistic tradition using scatological humour, linguistic puns, and anti-bourgeois taunts. The organizers of this exhibit deliberately reinsert themselves into the salon portraiture of early twentieth century, reimagining salon culture by forming one of their own. The New York salons of the early twentieth-century produced artistic portraiture; the organizers position themselves into the salon portraiture as a way of paying homage and simultaneously transferring the salon from 1919 New York to 2009 Toronto. Following Ezra Pound's direction to "make it new," this exhibit reenacts some of the creative, artistic, and social processes that shaped dadaist and anarchist art.

Meet the artists, engage with early twentieth-century New York, explore salon culture through contemporary Toronto.

**Vernissage: November 30, 2009, 6:00-8:00 PM. Free and open to all.** Refreshments provided. One complimentary drink per person.

Presented by the graduate students of the York/Ryerson University CC8829: Modernist Literary Circles Seminar. Installations by Dana Svistovich, Nicola Waugh, David Kerr,

Daniel Joseph, Laura Shaw, Dayna Jones, Kimon Kaketsis, under the guidance of Dr. Irene Gammel.

Sponsored by The Modern Literature and Culture Centre.

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*Ryerson student Nicola Waugh poses as the Dada artist Baroness von Freytag-Loringhoven. Photograph by Kimon Kaketsi. Concept by Laura Shaw. Ossington Avenue, Toronto, November 2009.*