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## Laurier Toronto to host interactive Nuit Blanche art event that explores the human need for access to nature

TORONTO – Wilfrid Laurier University is hosting an interactive and thought-provoking art performance for Toronto’s [Nuit Blanche](#) festival on **Sept. 30** that explores the possible impact on human health if we are denied regular access to the natural environment.

Called The [Nature Deficit Disorder Clinic](#), this experiential event is set in the year 2067 and invites visitors to contemplate what might happen if climate change eliminates our routine access to nature. As “patients” to the clinic, visitors experience an interactive choreography of visual, lighting and sound elements that bring the futuristic plot to life.

“The Nature Deficit Disorder Clinic explores a number of compelling ideas about our relationship with the environment, which is a perfect fit for this year’s Nuit Blanche theme of ‘Many Possible Futures,’” said **Carolyn Hawthorn**, university relations manager for Laurier Toronto. “As a part of Nuit Blanche, Laurier is encouraging conversation, thought and action as we explore a possible future for some, but a current reality for others. Laurier is proud to be a member of the arts community in Toronto.”

The team behind The Nature Deficit Disorder Clinic includes **Bergur Ebbe, Nourhan Hegazy, Prateeksha Singh** and Laurier alumna **Jennifer McDougall**.

The four “futurists” collaborated previously on a project called [NaturePod](#) in which they designed a portable wellness unit for the workplace that brings nature into the corporate environment by exposing users to sounds, imagery, and smells of various natural environments. The intent was to provoke a conversation about the changing relationship between humans and nature within an urban environment.

Nuit Blanche is an all-night art festival that takes place across Toronto from the evening of Sept. 30 to early morning on Oct. 1. The installation at Laurier’s Toronto office will be open from **7 p.m. Sept. 30 to 2 a.m. Oct. 1**. Laurier’s Toronto office is located on the main floor of the Exchange Tower at **130 King St. W.**

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