

MEDIA ADVISORY

PUBLIC LECTURES BRING DISABILITY “OUT FROM UNDER”

TORONTO, April 28, 2008 --- Ryerson University’s School of Disability Studies and the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) are holding a series of free public lectures as part of the groundbreaking exhibit: *Out from Under: Disability History and Things to Remember* that will be on display at the ROM from Thursday, April 1 to July 13, 2008.

Out from Under is a powerful exhibit that explores Canadian disability history. A display of 13 diverse objects reveals a rich and nuanced history that chronicles the struggles, alliances and setbacks that disabled peoples have faced and pays tribute to the resilience, creativity, and the civic and cultural contributions of Canadians with disabilities. The first of its kind in Canada, *Out from Under* was produced in collaboration with students, scholars and alumni from Ryerson University.

Public Lecture Series:**Bringing Disability Out from Under**

Featuring Dr. David Mitchell and Dr. Sharon Snyder
May 2, 2008, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Eaton Theatre, Royal Ontario Museum
South Entrance, 100 Queen’s Park Circle

Dr. David Mitchell is Executive Director of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University in Philadelphia. Dr Sharon Snyder is Assistant Professor, Department of Disability and Human Development at University of Illinois at Chicago. Together, these scholars are a formidable presence on the new cultural landscapes of disability studies.

**Disability, Mothers and Organization: Accidental Activities
Book Launch and Discussion**

Featuring Dr. Melanie Panitch with Audrey Cole and Vida Panitch
Eaton Theatre, Royal Ontario Museum
May 9, 2008, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
South Entrance, 100 Queen’s Park Circle

Dr. Melanie Panitch is Co-Curator of “*Out From Under*” and Director of the School of Disability Studies at Ryerson University. Dr. Panitch will discuss her new book *Disability, Mothers and Organization: Accidental Activists* that chronicles the “everyday world” of

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three remarkable Canadian women – Jo Dickey, Paulette Berthiaume and Audrey Cole. Following the birth of their disabled children in the 1950s and 1960s, these women came to disability activism “accidentally, driven by the imperative of making space in the world for their children”.

Blindness at the Museum

Featuring Georgina Kleege
May 24, 2008, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m
Eaton Theatre, Royal Ontario Museum
South Entrance, 100 Queen’s Park Circle

Georgina Kleege has taught creative writing, literature and disability studies at the University of Oklahoma and Ohio State University and now teaches English at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of a novel, *Home for the Summer*, a collection of personal essays about blindness, *Sight Unseen*, and *Blind Rage: Letters to Helen Keller*, an epistolary exploration of Keller's life.

*Visitors are welcome to tour the Out from Under exhibit after the lectures.
ASL interpretation and Real-Time Captioning is provided.*

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For further information about the lectures, please contact Joyann Callender, 416 979-5000, ext. 7161, jcallend@ryerson.ca or visit the ROM’s web site at www.rom.on.ca