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NEW YORK SHOW-CASE FOR CANADIAN ARTISTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced today that Canada will soon have a show-case for its contemporary artists in New York. The Canadian Consul General in New York, Mr. Ken Taylor, signed on February 6 the lease for an art gallery to be called 49th Parallel: Centre for Contemporary Canadian Art, located at 420 West Broadway, in the heart of the thriving art district of Soho in downtown Manhattan, a busy location that attracts thousands of New Yorkers every week.

The Minister indicated that 49th Parallel is a pilot project of the Department's Bureau of International Cultural Relations aiming at the establishment of permanent Canadian cultural facilities in New York, thus complementing the existing network of Canadian cultural centres in Paris, Brussels and London.

49th Parallel is intended to respond to the unique conditions in New York City, now widely regarded as the visual arts capital of the world. About two-thirds of the gallery's 7,500 square feet, on the fourth floor of the five-storey building which also houses four other well-known New York galleries, will be devoted to exhibitions of contemporary Canadian art, film and video screenings and studio performances.