



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## *The NeXt Desk Explores 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning* *The NeXt Desk on display as part of Scotiabank's Nuit Blanche*

John Notten's creation of *The NeXt Desk* will make its way to Nuit Blanche on September 29, 2012 as part of *Thom Sokolosky's Exhibit 'Dada Reboot'*. A teacher at Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School, John Notten's *The NeXt Desk* installation is part of the Toronto Catholic District School Board's "Project NeXt," an initiative to explore the possibilities of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fluencies.

John describes *The NeXt Desk*, as an alternative model to the common school desk which has been at the centre of the traditional classroom since its invention during the Industrial Revolution. While serving as an appropriate symbol for education characterized by the delivery of information, it falls short of representing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century learner in our current digital age. *The NeXt Desk* attempts to capture the spirit of a new era of learning. Rising from the classroom floor, the 13 foot tall wheel is composed of twenty typical 20th century desks. It stands and rolls as a new symbol for interconnected, collaborative and experiential learning.



"This sculpture offers a view of the desk in which it serves as a true launch pad for discovery. It moves. It connects. It is mobile," says John Notten, teacher at Mary Ward. "*The NeXt Desk* attempts to offer an image of education that meets the needs of the kind of student who embraces interconnected and collaborative learning."

The surfaces of each of the 20 desks will soon present a QR code that provides a doorway into 20 schools from the Toronto Catholic District School Board. The viewer is invited to engage in this artwork by using a smart phone to scan the code and explore the dynamic and creative culture of some of Toronto's innovative and vibrant communities.

*The NeXt Desk* is currently on display at the Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Avenue East until September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**What:** The NeXt Desk (a project of TCDSB's Project NeXt) at Nuit Blanche  
**When:** Saturday, September 29, 2012  
7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.  
**Where:** Distillery District, Part of the Tom Sokolosky's Project "Dada Reboot"  
55 Mill Street, Toronto (Parliament and Mill Street)

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*The Toronto Catholic District School Board educates more than 92,000 students from diverse cultures and language backgrounds in its 200 Catholic elementary and secondary schools and serves approximately 470,000 Catholic school supporters across the City of Toronto.*

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