

## Group Exhibitions

2010      *The Burning Buddha*, Performance, Nuit Blanche, Toronto ON, Canada



### Nuit Blanche

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#### Event Information

**Name:** Nuit Blanche  
**Headline:** The Burning Buddha at the Distillery  
**Start time:** Saturday, October 2, 2010 - 6:55PM  
**End time:** Sunday, October 3, 2010 - 6:55AM  
**Type:** Exhibitions > Art Shows > Local Artists  
**Audience:** All Ages  
**Price:** Free

#### Description:

Nuit Blanche is the first time The Burning Buddha will burn in public display, beginning at 6:57 p.m. and continuing each hour until dawn, for 7 minutes. Visually elegiac video promoting human rights and heat that is generated by the art will drive home the message of The Buddha. Passersby, expected rights activists and invited victims of abuse are planning to attend in order to reveal their personal experiences. A crew will film and edit all night for the large screen and, at dawn, in documentary form, the intentional art of The Burning Buddha will have accomplished its mandate for constructive social engagement.

scotiabank nuit blanche toronto

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**Zone B Independent Project**

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Blake, *Burning Buddha*, 2010, Sculpture/Video

Distillery Market Patio,  
55 Mill Street

View Location

Distillery District - Kehrig Fine Art & Blake

***Burning Buddha***

Blake - Yellowknife, Canada  
Sculpture, Video Installation

The *Burning Buddha* asks us to contemplate our human rights and those who gave their lives to bring human rights abuses to our attention.

The *Burning Buddha* symbolizes hope for Human Rights and remains a beacon representing the sanctity of life and the value of our beliefs.

The sculptor Blake has created a bronze sculpture of a female nun in one quarter life size. This sculpture in flames is the central image in this video installation.

Blake is a world-renowned bronze and marble sculptor with work in a number of important public and private collections. As an Art-Activist, Blake is well known for using his sculptures as "intentional art". That is, he uses his métier to express his views on the large social issues of our time in an attempt to provoke raised awareness, dialogue and positive responses.

[www.blake-rethink.com](http://www.blake-rethink.com)  
Parental guidance advised

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23 SEP 2010

**The Buddha Burns Live for the First Time at Scotiabank's Nuit Blanche in Toronto**

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Performed as a successful video installation in Phnom Penh, Nuit Blanche marks the first time *The Burning Buddha* will burn in public display, beginning at 6:57 p.m. and continuing each hour until dawn, for 7 minutes. Visually elegant video promoting human rights and heat that is generated by the art will drive home the message of *The Buddha*.

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(1888PressRelease) September 23, 2010 - THE BURNING BUDDHA demonstrates the pure power of artists Blake's performance art to bring oppression closer to public consciousness at NUIT BLANCHE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2010 at THE DISTILLERY MARKET PATIO, 55 MILL ST. at PARLIAMENT, TORONTO.

BLAKE employs haunting figurative sculpture in the form of a 1/4 scale Tibetan nun to focus the dialogue of rights issues and remind us that progress comes from individuals recognizing their rights and sacrificing all for their beliefs. The *Burning Buddha* demands contemplation of human rights and those who gave their lives to bring abuses to our attention. From the *Buddhist monks* to the handful of Americans who set themselves aflame to protest the *Vietnam War*, self-annihilation is a form of illegitimate political action that becomes legitimate by its execution. The artist does not encourage such actions. His work evokes consideration for the scale and solitude of this form of protest, paying tribute to those who died and touching both the political aspect of human culture as well as the spiritual side of humanity.

"My objective is to use these beautiful forms and powerful images to bring attention to the need for us to claim our human rights," says Blake about the often controversial, sometime censored work.

"I'd like people to see the Buddha as a beacon of hope."

The artist Blake was born Blake William Ward in Yellowknife, North West Territories in 1956 and raised in Edmonton. With an Honours Degree in Fine Art from the University of Alberta, he moved to Paris to study figurative sculpture. In 1991, he moved to Monaco and opened the Monte-Carlo studio. Blake works in clay to produce bronze and marble sculpture that are cast or carved in Italy. There are more than 60 different sculptures that are grouped under three themes. Traditional Figurative sculpture explores notions of idealized beauty. The Fragments series of work is dedicated to landmine clearance in several post-war nations. The Re-Think collection is dedicated to the promotion of human rights. Blake's contribution of 30% of the proceeds from shows, has, since 2007, raised more than \$ 200,000.00 for landmine clearance and survivor support through the UN Association's Adopt-A-Minefield. Ward has also funded mine clearance in Vietnam, Kosovo and Angola through No More Landmines Trust and funded Mine Rise Education in Afghanistan through the Canadian Landmine Foundation.

Blake is represented worldwide by Kehrig Fine Arts, Toronto.

Contact Information  
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## Burning Buddha

### **Burning Buddha**

#23 - Zone B  
Distillery Market Patio,  
55 Mill Street  
Distillery District - Kehrig Fine Art & Blake

Blake - Yellowknife, Canada

Sculpture, Video Installation

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The Burning Buddha symbolizes hope for Human Rights and remains a beacon representing the sanctity of life and the value of our beliefs.

The sculptor Blake has created a bronze sculpture of a female nun in one quarter life size. This sculpture in flames is the central image in this video installation.

Blake is a world-renowned bronze and marble sculptor with work in a number of important public and private collections. As an Art-Activist, Blake is well known for using his sculptures as "intentional art". That is, he uses his métier to express his views on the large social issues of our time in an attempt to provoke raised awareness, dialogue and positive responses.

[www.scotiabanknuitblanche.ca/Projects.aspx?zone=B&ro...](http://www.scotiabanknuitblanche.ca/Projects.aspx?zone=B&ro...)

[www.blake-rethink.com](http://www.blake-rethink.com)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2010

**The Buddha: "All is Burning!"**



"Burning Buddha," Kehrig Fine Art, Blake Installation, Distillery Market Patio, 55 Mill St., Toronto, Canada (Little Ms Laura/Flickr). See the "Fire Sermon" below.

The Burning Buddha asks us to contemplate human rights and those who have given their lives to bring abuses to our attention. It symbolizes hope standing as a beacon for the sanctity of life and the value of belief. The intentional-art activist and sculptor Blake (parental guidance advised) has created a bronze figure, the central image in a multimedia installation. The artist aims to raise awareness, dialogue, and a positive response on social issues.





### How is this Enlightening?

Wisdom Quarterly (OPINION)

This is not the first time fire has been used to make a statement. Self-immolation shook the world when iconic images circulated showing a Mahayana Buddhist monk (Thích Quảng Đức) poignantly protesting the treatment of Buddhists in South Vietnam. And annually the Burning Man festival erects and sets aflame a large wooden figure in another example of activism.

But the question comes up, *How could any of this be considered enlightening?* The connection may be to a stirring sermon the Buddha once delivered to ascetics dwelling in the forest tending to and venerating the sacred fire. The Buddha set out to enlighten them by pointing out what was really burning. So successful was he that he repeated what came to be known as the Fire Sermon.

### The Fire Sermon

Ñanamoli Thera, edited by Wisdom Quarterly (*Adittapariyaya Sutra*, SN 35.28)



Thus have I heard. On one occasion the Buddha was living in the Gaya district, at Gayasīsa, together with a thousand Buddhist monks (*bhikkhus*). There he addressed them:

*"Bhikkhus, all is burning! And what is the all that is burning?*

*The eye is burning, visible forms are burning, eye-consciousness is*

*burning, eye-contact is burning, and whatever is felt as pleasant or painful or neither-painful-nor-pleasant which arises with eye-contact as its indispensable condition, that too is burning!*

*"Burning with what? Burning with the fire of lust, with the fire of hate, with the fire of delusion. I declare it is burning with birth [origination], aging [decay], and death [cessation], with sorrow, with lamentation, with pain, with grief, with despair.*

Press Release Burning Buddha Jim Monaco

**BLAKES, "The Burning Buddha", Nuit Blanche, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, at THE DISTILLERY MARKET PATIO, DISTILLERY LANE, 55 MILL ST., at Parliament St., in TORONTO.**

### **The Burning Buddha**

Demonstrating the power of performance art **THE BURNING BUDDHA** brings oppression closer to public consciousness. There is a lot behind the Buddha. The potent image is a powerful statement.

Performed as a successful video installation in Phnom Penh, Nuit Blanche is the first time The Burning Buddha will burn in public display, beginning at 6:57 p.m. and continuing each hour until dawn, for 7 minutes. Visually elegiac video promoting human rights and heat that is generated by the art will drive home the message of The Buddha. Passersby, expected rights activists and invited victims of abuse are planning to attend in order to reveal their personal experiences. A crew will film and edit all night for the large screen and, at dawn, in documentary form, the *intentional art* of The Burning Buddha will have accomplished its mandate for constructive social engagement.

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Presented by Kehrig Fine Arts, Toronto, representing Blake worldwide. We are presently booking interviews and coordinating demonstrations. Contact: Monaco Communications, 705 672 3599 or [jmonaco@ntl.sympatico.ca](mailto:jmonaco@ntl.sympatico.ca).

## **Blake**

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