FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**:** Monday, September 23, 2019

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**Public Energy Presents:**

***Trophy***

Witness stories of life-changing moments of transformation in this pop-up living installation at Fleming Park, built around stories by people from our community.

**When:** Oct.4th, 7pm-10pm & Oct. 5th 4pm-7pm. Drop in any time.

**Where:** Fleming Park (427 Aylmer St N, Peterborough)
**Cost:** Free
**Show sponsor:** Downtown Peterborough BIA
**Artist Talk**: *Trophy* creators Sarah Conn and Allison O’Connor will join artists from the [in]sites series for an artist talk on October 6th ,11:00am at the Art Gallery of Peterborough.

**Can you remember a moment when everything changed?** *Trophy* is a free outdoor art installation andone-on-one performance experience where Peterborough/Nogojiwanong community members share **true stories of transformation and change.** *Trophy* takes place at Fleming Park (427 Aylmer St N, Peterborough) and audiences can drop in any time between 7pm and 10pm on Friday October 4th, and between 4pm and 7pm on Saturday October 5th. *Trophy* was created by artists **Sarah Conn** and **Allison O'Connor**, and is being presented by Public Energy Performing Arts.

During *Trophy*, audience members move at their own pace through a series of illuminated green-house like tents listening to stories that capture turning points in the lives of the tellers. Over the course of the performance, the tents transform into multi-coloured translucent structures, covered in new stories brought forth by audience members. The light-filled tents become temporary beacons to a world in changing times, before they vanish off into the night.

*Trophy* has been presented at festivals across Canada and beyond, including performances at the Prague Quadrennial, (Prague, CZ) Lift Festival, (London, UK) Dublin Fringe Festival, (Dublin, IE) National Arts Centre’s Canada Scene, (Ottawa, ON) and OYR’s High Performance Rodeo, (Calgary, AB) among others.

When Sarah began work on *Trophy* she was driven by a question. "When I started working on *Trophy*, I was trying to figure out how people navigated change, and I was hungry to hear from people outside my usual circle." She discovered that, in answering this question, she was able to forge connections among people in her community that she had never interacted with. "I did an artist residency with Arts Network Ottawa, working with people in my neighbourhood who I had never spoken to until that moment. I realized that no matter our life experiences, we could find commonalities in the turning points in our lives, even if it was just how different these moments had been for us!"

Sarah says that discovering these commonalities and connections remains an important part of *Trophy*. "One of my favourite parts of *Trophy* is the moment after the story is shared - listening in from outside the tents, I hear incredible conversations and realizations being exchanged by people who just met. It's the type of community-building connection that drives me artistically and personally."

So why is it called *Trophy*? Sarah sees this exhibit as a chance to celebrate change. "I think of all the turning points in our lives as trophies that we receive. Good, bad, or somewhere in between, these are the moments that shape us, and *Trophy* is a chance to acknowledge that. Our tents are temporary monuments (or trophies!) to change, reminding us that change is possible, surmountable and inevitable."

*Trophy* is also being featured as a part of the [in]sites Series presented by Public Energy, Artspace and the Art Gallery of Peterborough. [in]sites is a series of art and performance events happening outside of traditional art and theatre spaces. The goal of [in]sites is to open up dialogues around the relationship between performance, site, and contemporary art practices.

Sarah Conn and Allison O'Connor will join artists from the [in]sites series Aylan Couchie, Chris Ironside and Anne White for an artist talk on October 6th from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the Art Gallery of Peterborough. (250 Crescent St.). [in]sites is a bi-annual site-specific art series organized by Public Energy Performing Arts, Art Gallery of Peterborough, and Artspace.

**About Sarah Conn and Allison O'Connor:**

**Sarah Conn** produces award-winning theatre and live art projects, often collaborating with people outside the theatre world. Trophy has been presented at major festivals in Canada and beyond, including the Dublin Fringe Festival and has empowered more than 2,000 people to share stories of transformation and change. Sarah is Artistic Associate for the National Arts Centre’s National Creation Fund and received the 2016 Siminovitch Protégé Prize in Directing.

**Allison O’Connor** is an Ottawa-based sculpture and installation artist, and social art practitioner. Her artistic practice encompasses immersive and interactive installations that prompt viewers to consider the power of their actions or inactions on the environment. She has a body of work rooted in ecology, which includes sculptures made of natural materials, as well as the management and study of honey bees.

*Trophy is generously supported by the City of Peterborough, Ontario Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and the Department of Canadian Heritage*

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**Public Energy Performing Arts** is a presenter and animator of contemporary dance, theatre, performance, and interdisciplinary work.  Their work is dedicated to supporting the creation, touring, and presentation of innovative contemporary performance arts, and to developing audiences that are knowledgeable and passionate.

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