

VISUAL ARTS » HELP YOUR DESCENDANTS RAISE A GLASS TO A HAPPY 2109

BY PETER COHEN-GALLEY

While all those around him were raising a glass to health and happiness on New Year's Eve, it's pretty likely that Toronto artist Dave Dymont turned his thoughts to a toast that still lies a whole century off — in 2108.

A few months ago, Dymont was invited by famed whisky maker Glenfiddich to visit their distilleries in Dufftown, Scotland, and to make some sort of artwork there. While he had never been a connoisseur of fine Scotch whiskeys, he says, he got progressively absorbed by the complexities of the distilling process.

"After learning about concepts like the 'angel's share' [the lyrically named 2 per cent of distilled whisky that will evaporate in one year], I toyed with the idea of producing bottles of nothing," he says, "but I got less cynical as I went along."

In the end, what started as a conceptual art "prank" turned into a darkly funny but also genuinely affecting piece about, as Dymont puts it, "trust, history, patience, investment and mortality."

The work is called *A Drink To Us (When We're Both Dead)*. It consists of a barrel of whisky buried in Glenfiddich's Warehouse B for the next 100 years — but presold now. Dymont's toast to the future is available in an edition of 25 bottles, and includes a beautifully wrought sapele-wood box (to eventually hold your once and future bottle), a signed contract with Glenfiddich, a map of the warehouse, a coloured postcard and a small journal — in which a purchaser can track the journey to 2108.

Each box of his whisky-of-the-future will cost you \$2,000 — now. Cash on the barrelhead. And you can be sure that Dymont — who clearly possesses a long view of things — has already mused upon the fact that this season's New Year's toasts leave only 99 more of them to go.

» For more information — or to purchase a bottle of the artist's archaeological whisky — go to davedymont.com/100.html.

» Gary Michael Dault



Toronto artist Dave Dymont has buried a barrel of whisky at famed Scottish distiller Glenfiddich. A limited edition of 25 bottles, costing \$2,000 each, will be ready in a century and are on sale now. JOHN PAUL

