

Mr. Chancellor, Iain Baxter& is one of Canada's most celebrated artists. Considered by peers to be this country's first conceptual artist, he has defined the Canadian modern art scene for almost fifty years. His imaginings make us think, his philosophical reflections give us pause; his wit makes us laugh and think again.

He earned his Bachelor of Science and Master in Education at the University of Idaho. After completing a Master of Fine Arts at Washington State University, he travelled to Japan to study art and aesthetic theory. With the appearance of his first large canvases in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the public was introduced to an artist whose creativity would soon inspire, captivate, and inform a generation of artists, critics, and audiences.

Subsequently, he assumed the anonymous name IT and began to produce work that boldly challenged our cherished assumptions about art. From the beginning, his art was recognized for its insights into our cultural, social, ecological, and political condition. In the 1960s, he formed N.E. Thing Co., and through this assumed corporate persona, he has produced thought-provoking creations in a variety of mediums, from photography and painting to publishing and multimedia. His prodigious output has garnered international acclaim and paved the way for many conceptual artists in Canada. His work graces many collections, including those of the National Gallery of Canada, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Detroit Institute of Art, and the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts.

A magnetic and inspiring teacher, he has generously encouraged young artists to pursue their own vision. He has taught at several institutions including York University, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Windsor, where he is Professor Emeritus. From 1966 to 1971, we were fortunate to have him on our campus as an Associate Professor and University Resident in Visual Arts. Our original logo, a "toothpaste" strip of SFU's three letters, was designed by Iain Baxter& in the 1960s. Baxter&'s design also inspired the university's latest visual identity.

He has received many honours for his contributions to Canadian art and culture. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a member of the Royal Canadian Academy, and a recipient of the Order of Ontario and the Order of British Columbia. In 2004, he received the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts.

Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this University, I ask that you now confer upon Iain Baxter& the degree Doctor of Fine Arts, *honoris causa*.