

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Vancouver Art Gallery Permanent Collection Expands with Funding
from Audain Foundation and Other Major Donors**

Vancouver, B.C. – The Vancouver Art Gallery’s permanent collection has again been expanded and enriched with works by noted BC-based and Canadian emerging artists, thanks to the generous support of the Audain Foundation and matching funds from the Canada Council for the Arts Acquisition Assistance Program. Along with gifts of art from other major donors, the Gallery’s collection now numbers 10, 321 works.

“We’re very grateful to the Audain Emerging Artists Acquisition Fund,” said Gallery director Kathleen Bartels, “With its help, we continue to make significant additions to our collection of British Columbia art. Showcasing emerging BC artists is integral to the mission of the Gallery. Both in our permanent collection and our exhibition program, we champion the work of artists in our community. The Gallery’s permanent collection is a legacy for this city and province and includes not only the work of internationally established BC artists such as Jeff Wall and Ian Wallace, but also the work of these important emerging artists.”

The Audain Emerging Artists Acquisition Fund and the Canada Council for the Arts Acquisition Assistance Program enabled the purchase of a dozen new works for the Gallery’s permanent collection this fall. This included paintings by **Rebecca Brewer, Heather Passmore and Etienne Zack**, and sculptures by **Sonny Assu, Corin Sworn and Brendan Tang**. Brewer is a multidisciplinary artist who won last year’s RBC Canadian Painting Competition. Passmore is noted for her work with mixed media, and has exhibited at galleries across Canada. Etienne Zack’s work is collected extensively by major Canadian institutions and museums including the National Gallery of Canada, the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Montreal and other noted galleries. Both Sonny Assu and Corin Sworn were nominated for the Sobey Art Award this year, and these new acquisitions add to the Gallery’s holdings of their works. Brendan Tang has exhibited at the Seattle Art Museum, the Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal (as a Sobey Finalist 2010), and Art Labor in Shanghai, and is this year’s winner of the RBC Emerging Artists People’s Choice Award. The Gallery was also very pleased to be able to add to its collection a series of ink jet prints by **Raymond Boisjoly** which were presented in the Gallery’s recent exhibition ***Beat Nation: Art, Hip Hop and Aboriginal Culture***. This is the first time the Gallery has acquired works by Boisjoly, Brewer, Passmore and Tang.

Since 2008, the Audain Emerging Artists Acquisition Fund has provided funding for the purchase of eighteen works of art by young and mid-career BC artists for the Vancouver Art Gallery. These additions to the permanent collection are part of the longstanding and ongoing generosity of Michael Audain to the Gallery, which also includes gifts of major works of art from his personal collection. The Emerging Artists fund is one among many important initiatives and programs that the Audain Foundation for the Visual Arts has created and funded since 1997. Other major Foundation initiatives include an endowment for the Critical and Curatorial Studies Program at the University of British Columbia, and the recently announced Audain gift that will create the Audain Art Centre, an important new facility for UBC’s Department of Art History, Visual Arts and Theory. Together with his wife Yoshiko Karasawa, Michael Audain has given tirelessly of his time and resources in support of the visual arts, in turn benefitting and enriching the lives of countless British Columbians.

Additionally, the Gallery received generous donations of the following artworks this fall:

- a recent painting by **Damian Moppett**, which is the foundational work for a new **OFFSITE** installation by Moppett which opens on November 8th;
- a light sculpture by Victoria-based artist **Robert Youds**;
- *Northern*, a single-channel video by **Althea Thauberger**, donated by Claudia Beck and Andrew Gruft;
- *Man with Red Sash* by **Stephen Waddell**, donated by Ann and Harry Malcolmson;
- a work from **Ian Wallace's** *In the Street* set in New York City, donated by Don Vukson;
- four watercolours by **George Campbell Tinning**, donated by Robert and Elizabeth Bowes;
- a collage by **Paul de Guzman**, donated by Coleen and Howard Nemtim;
- two paintings by **Pierre Coupey**, donated by Patti Kernaghan;
- a ceramic sculpture by **Gathie Falk**, donated by Evelyn Springer;
- anonymous gifts included historical works by **Maurice Cullen, Thomas Mower Martin, William Raphael and Horatio Walker**;
- woven money works donated by artist **Maximo Gonzalez**;
- and a suite of prints kindly gifted by artist **Takao Tanabe**.

The Vancouver Art Gallery's permanent collection is the most significant public art collection in Western Canada and we remain grateful to the donors, artists, and collectors who contribute to its growth.

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Photos of selected works are available upon request.

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