

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Vancouver Art Gallery presents an interactive installation immersed in local issue of environmental sustainability at *Offsite*



**On View: November 9, 2017 to April 15, 2018**

**October 23, 2017, Vancouver, BC** –This fall the Vancouver Art Gallery presents an engaging public artwork by New Delhi-based artist Asim Waqif, at the Gallery’s Offsite location in the heart of downtown Vancouver.

Inspired by environmental concerns and the pace of human consumption, Waqif will construct an immersive architectural experience from materials collected at repurpose stores, transfer stations and landfills in the metro Vancouver area. The structure will be assembled using timber, roofing, doors, window frames and sections of walls salvaged from recent demolitions sites in addition to electronics, cabinets, bails of recycled cardboard and containers discarded from local residential, business and institutional buildings. Waqif’s architectural structure will also incorporate an interactive acoustic system using microphones, effects pedals and speakers. Visitors are encouraged to move through the installation maze allowing them to actively experience the architecture instead of passively observing it.

“We are very pleased to present the first exhibition in Canada of work by Asim Waqif, an emerging artist whose use of unconventional materials and unique approach to interactive design entice viewers to be more curious and adventurous with art,” says Kathleen S. Bartels, Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. “Through an engaging encounter with issues of sustainability, industrial manufacturing systems and the imprint of human activity, Waqif’s work compels us to observe and reflect on the world in which we live today.”

*Offsite: Asim Waqif* is presented as part of the Vancouver Art Gallery’s Institute of Asian Art and is curated by Diana Freundl, Associate Curator, Asian Art. This project will be accompanied by a brochure.

## About the artist

Asim Waqif (born 1978, Hyderabad, India) studied architecture at the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, but after graduation turned his focus to a dedicated art-practice. He has worked in sculpture, site-specific public installation, video, photography, and with large-scale interactive installations that combine traditional and new media technologies.

For additional artist info, visit: [asimwaqif.com](http://asimwaqif.com)

## About Offsite

Offsite is the Vancouver Art Gallery's outdoor public art space located at 1100 West Georgia Street between Thurlow and Bute Streets, west of the Shangri-La Hotel, in downtown Vancouver. Presenting an innovative program of temporary projects, it is a site for local and international contemporary artists to exhibit works related to the surrounding urban context. Featured artists consider the site-specific potential of art within the public realm and respond to the changing social and cultural conditions of our contemporary world. New projects are installed in the spring and fall of each year. *Offsite: Asim Waqif* is the sixteenth installation in the Gallery's Offsite series, curated by Diana Freundl, Associate Curator, Asian Art.



Offsite is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and funded by the City of Vancouver through the Public Art Program. The Gallery recognizes Ian Gillespie, President, Westbank; Ben Yeung, President, Peterson Investment Group; and Residents of the Shangri-La for their support of this space.

## About The Institute of Asian Art

Responding to the city's geographic location on the eastern edge of the Pacific Rim, the Vancouver Art Gallery has been committed to presenting contemporary art of the Asia Pacific region for more than two decades. Launched in 2014, the Gallery's Institute of Asian Art (IAA) is a comprehensive initiative committed to advancing scholarship and public appreciation of Asian art.

## Founding Corporate Visionary Partner for the Institute of Asian Art:



### Visionary Partners:

Liu Bao, Wang Ying and Liu Manzhao

### Additional support from the IAA Development Committee:

Angela Bi, Gary Chen, Mei Deng, Amelia Gao, Shawn He, Liu Junjun, Yin Qing, Fiona Yang, Vivian Zhang, Cathy Zuo

Image:

Asim Waqif, *b a n s*, 2005, site-specific installation at KHOJ, Delhi, bamboo, rope and mango-wood, Courtesy of the Artist

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IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

### MEDIA CONTACT

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## About the Vancouver Art Gallery

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most respected and innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs, and emphasis on advancing scholarship focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is paid to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to the arts of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art that the Gallery founded in 2014. The Gallery's programs also explore the impacts of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture. [www.vanartgallery.bc.ca](http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca)

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts.