

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Vancouver Art Gallery announces its fall exhibition lineup,
spotlighting acclaimed artists from the contemporary to the historical**



Image: (left) Sir Joshua Reynolds, *A Self-Portrait*, c. 1788, oil on panel, Royal Collection Trust, Photo: © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2017, featured in *Portrait of the Artist: An Exhibition from the Royal Collection*; (middle) Sandra Meigs, *pile by furnace* (from *The Basement Piles* series), 2013, acrylic on canvas, Courtesy Susan Hobbs Gallery, Toronto, featured in *Entangled: Two Views on Contemporary Canadian Painting*; (right) Gordon Smith, *Tanu*, 1995, acrylic on canvas, Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Acquisition Fund, VAG 96.13, Photo: Vancouver Art Gallery, featured in *Gordon Smith: The Black Paintings*

September 5, 2017, Vancouver, BC – This fall, the Vancouver Art Gallery is thrilled to present a series of major exhibitions that feature acclaimed work from both around the world and across the centuries.

Portrait of the Artist: An Exhibition from the Royal Collection presents a remarkable group of works from the Royal Collection—one of the most important art collections in the world. Encompassing ninety-two works, the exhibition looks at the origins of the ‘artist as subject’ through self-portraits, portraits of artists and artists at work, showcasing world-renowned artists including Rembrandt, Peter Paul Rubens, Artemisia Gentileschi, Lucien Freud and David Hockney, among many others. Providing a contemporary perspective on the artist as subject, *Carol Sawyer: The Natalie Bretttschneider Archive* reconstructs the life and work of the genre-defying, fictional artist Bretttschneider.

Carrying the conversation into the present, *Entangled: Two Views on Contemporary Canadian Painting* will unravel the hotly debated, constantly evolving story of Canadian painting. The exhibition will highlight thirty-one artists from Halifax to Victoria and many places in-between, key artists who have been largely responsible for the strong revival that painting now enjoys in this country.

Exploring past memory, the expressive possibilities of paint will be illuminated in *Gordon Smith: The Black Paintings*, a series of paintings that refer explicitly to Smith’s wartime experience. In these contemplative works, painting becomes a visceral, physical process of remembering the world.

Adding to the Gallery’s diverse fall program, *True Nordic: How Scandinavia Influenced Design in Canada* will explore the profound influence of Scandinavian aesthetics on Canadian design, and will feature over a hundred objects from the popular to the rarefied.

At our outdoor public art space located at 1100 West Georgia Street, a new work by New Delhi-based artist **Asim Waqif**, which combines architecture with a strong contextual reference to contemporary urban design, will also debut as part of the Vancouver Art Gallery's ongoing Offsite series.

These six new exhibitions bring exciting diversity to this year's fall program while placing artists and their work front and centre.

Fall Exhibitions

September 30, 2017 to January 1, 2018 -

Entangled: Two Views on Contemporary Canadian Painting

Media preview: 9:00 a.m., September 28, 2017



Entangled: Two Views on Contemporary Canadian Painting offers an insight into two distinctly different modes of painting. The origins of both can be traced back to the 1970s when the continued existence of painting was hotly debated. This exhibition traces the legacy of that debate and presents the work of thirty-one artists who have been active participants in the strong revival that painting now enjoys in this country.

[Image: Sarah Cale, *Idle Ecstasy*, 2016, painting fragments and oil on panel, Private Collection]

October 28, 2017 to February 4, 2018

Portrait of the Artist: An Exhibition from the Royal Collection

Media preview: 9:00 a.m., October 26, 2017



Portrait of the Artist brings together the Royal Collection's paintings depicting artist self-portraits, portraits of artists and artists at work, in this exclusive exhibition. Encompassing ninety-two paintings, drawings, prints, photographs and sculptures, *Portrait of the Artist* is a rich survey of how artists have seen themselves and the role of the artist within society.

[Image: Artemisia Gentileschi, *Self-Portrait as the Allegory of Painting (La Pittura)*, c. 1638-39, oil on canvas, Royal Collection Trust, Photo: © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2017]

October 28, 2017 to February 4, 2018

Carol Sawyer: The Natalie Brettschneider Archive

Media preview: 9:00 a.m., October 26, 2017



Carol Sawyer: The Natalie Brettschneider Archive presents Sawyer's ongoing project that reconstructs the life and work of the genre-defying, fictional singer and artist Natalie Brettschneider. The works on view will connect Brettschneider to a community of mid-twentieth century artists and musicians in British Columbia.

This exhibition offers a contemporary perspective on *Portrait of the Artist: An Exhibition from the Royal Collection*.

[Image: Unknown Photographer, Natalie Brettschneider performs *Profile Mask*, c. 1952, archival ink jet print from original negative, Carol Sawyer/Natalie Brettschneider Archive. Acquired with the assistance of Kathleen Taylor, 2015]

October 21, 2017 to February 4, 2018

Gordon Smith: The Black Paintings

Media preview: 9:00 a.m., October 26, 2017



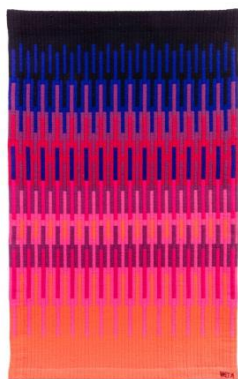
Gordon Smith is one of Canada's most influential and compelling painters with a practice that spans over seven decades. Beginning in 1990, Smith started to produce a body of work that has been characterized as dark or black paintings. These highly accomplished and subtle abstractions with collaged elements refer explicitly to his wartime experience. Complex and layered, the paintings in this exhibition reveal his ongoing interest in how pain looks and feels, and how gesture reverberates when expressed in paint.

[Image: Gordon Smith, *Tanu*, 1995, acrylic on canvas, Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Acquisition Fund]

October 28, 2017 to January 28, 2018

True Nordic: How Scandinavia Influenced Design in Canada/Nordique: L'Influence du design scandinave au Canada

Media preview: 9:00 a.m., October 26, 2017



True Nordic: How Scandinavia Influenced Design in Canada examines the significant influence of Scandinavian craft and industrial design on the development of Canadian culture. Spanning more than seven decades, this exhibition reveals how Scandinavian design was introduced to Canada and how its aesthetics and material forms were adopted and transformed. Featured designers include Karen Bulow, Kjeld and Erica Deichmann, Thor Hansen, Niels Bendtsen, molo, Bocci, among many others.

True Nordic is part of a touring exhibition organized by the Gardiner Museum and curated by Rachel Gotlieb and Michael Prokopow.

[Image: Velta Vilsons, Wall hanging, 1965–70, wool, Collection of Gail and Gerry Crawford, Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid]

November 9, 2017 to April 15, 2018

Offsite: Asim Waqif



New Delhi-based artist Asim Waqif's site-specific installation combines architecture with a strong contextual reference to contemporary urban design and the politics of occupying, intervening and using public space. Waqif will repurpose debris generated from demolition sites in Vancouver's urban areas, employing materials from abandoned and derelict buildings anticipated for new and re-development.

[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 innovative ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on the historical and contemporary art of British Columbia and international centres, with special attention to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists and the art of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art 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

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.