

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Vancouver's reputation as a vital centre for contemporary photographic art shines in *Pictures From Here*



Image: Jeff Wall, *Monologue*, 2013, chromogenic print, Collection of Andrea and Brian Hill

Media is invited to an exhibition preview of *Pictures From Here* on **Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 9:00 a.m.** at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Media attending please RSVP to Justin Mah ([jmah@vanartgallery.bc.ca](mailto:jmah@vanartgallery.bc.ca))

**May 3, 2017, Vancouver, BC** – Opening on **May 19, 2017**, the Vancouver Art Gallery is pleased to present *Pictures From Here*. Featuring photographs and video works from the early 1960s to the present that capture the urban environment of the Greater Vancouver region, its citizens and the vast “natural” landscape of the province, *Pictures From Here* engages with the histories that shape our different perceptions of this place. A number of the works, including Jeff Wall's *Monologue* (2013), Rodney Graham's *Paddler at the Mouth of the Seymour* (2012-2013), Sandra Semchuk and James Nicholas' *Taking Off Skins* (1994) and *26 Street Scan Photographs* (1969-1996) by Christos Dikeakos will be on display for the first time in Vancouver. Artists in the exhibition include Roy Arden, Karin Bubaš, Stan Douglas, Christos Dikeakos, Greg Girard, Rodney Graham, Mike Grill, Arni

Haraldsson, Fred Herzog, Barrie Jones, Evan Lee, N.E. Thing Co., Marian Penner Bancroft, Henri Robideau, Sandra Semchuk and James Nicholas, Althea Thauberger, Jeff Wall, Ian Wallace, Paul Wong and Corneila Wyngaarden/Andrea Fantona.

*Pictures From Here* reflects the decisive shift away from the lyrical landscape tradition that dominated art making and collecting in Vancouver well into the 1970s and the emerging, pictorially imaginative lens-based art practices that both articulated an affinity with the avant-garde projects of early modernism and acknowledged the specific place and historical time in which they were working. The term “photo-conceptualism,” which emerged out of this moment, has become closely associated with art making in Vancouver over the past four decades—so much so, that this image-making practice has now become intrinsically linked with the rise of Vancouver as an internationally known centre for the production of contemporary art.

However, while “photo-conceptualism” may be useful in describing approaches to photography that draw upon the critiques of the image mounted by Conceptual Art and post-modernism, it can also efface significant differences in the practices of artists whose work might be associated with the label. “While *Pictures From Here* acknowledges the legacy of the innovative approaches to photography developed in Vancouver, it also emphasizes the diverse range of socially engaged practices and interests that have informed photo-based art in the city over the past four decades,” says Grant Arnold, Audain Curator of British Columbia Art.

“The Vancouver Art Gallery’s permanent collection is remarkably rich in contemporary photo-based work from the region, and we are fortunate to have significant works by renowned artists like Ian Wallace, Jeff Wall, Rodney Graham and Stan Douglas, among others, who are represented in *Pictures From Here*,” says Kathleen S. Bartels, Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. “It is valuable to shine a spotlight on these works—images that brought a new, intellectually rigorous approach to photography. These artists have transformed Vancouver into a global hub for contemporary art production, with our artists not only shaping contemporary art practices here in Canada, but around the world.”

Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery.

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#### 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](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.