

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The tranquility of Claude Monet's fabled gardens rediscovered in *Stephen Shore: The Giverny Portfolio*



Image: Stephen Shore, *Giverny, France, 1977-1982* (from *The Giverny Portfolio*), 1977-82, chromogenic print, Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Donated by Aaron Milrad in memory of Bella and Joseph Milrad, VAG 2006.26.30

Media is invited to an exhibition preview of *Stephen Shore: The Giverny Portfolio* on **Thursday, June 22, 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))

**June 14, 2017, Vancouver, BC** – Opening on **June 24, 2017**, the Vancouver Art Gallery is pleased to present ***Stephen Shore: The Giverny Portfolio***, on view until October 1, 2017.

*Stephen Shore: The Giverny Portfolio* features twenty-five photographs by contemporary American photographer Stephen Shore produced during several visits to Impressionist painter Claude Monet's famous gardens at Giverny, France. Showing concurrently with the exhibition *Claude Monet's Secret Garden* (June 24 to October 1, 2017), *Stephen Shore: The Giverny Portfolio* offers a contemporary perspective on the tranquility originally captured in Monet's iconic paintings.

"We are thrilled to be showing Stephen Shore's entire series from Giverny for the very first time, work by a photographer whose remarkable vision has shaped the evolution of the art of photography over the last several decades," says Gallery Director, Kathleen S. Bartels. "*The Giverny Portfolio* captures

with uncanny ability the gardens' manifold variations in flora, texture and light that captivated Monet nearly a century ago."

The photographs featured in *Stephen Shore: The Giverny Portfolio* were originally commissioned by New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art to document the revival of Monet's gardens following extensive restorations. Shore made several visits to the site over a five-year period between 1977 and 1982 to photograph it at various times of the day and in different seasons.

"Shore's care with composition and form in his work echoes both the form of the gardens themselves and the intense looking that occupied Monet," says Ian M. Thom, Senior Curator—Historical.

In the 1970s, Stephen Shore (b. 1947, New York, NY) came to be associated with the New Topographics, a group of photographers whose work broke with traditional representations of landscape with unromanticised, dead-pan depictions of industrial and suburban locations. Shore developed a distinctive snapshot aesthetic in his photographs of everyday scenes in America. He was also one of the first fine art photographers to champion colour film in this period, when colour photography was still confined to the domains of advertising and fashion. In 1971, at age twenty-three, Shore became the first living photographer to have a one-person exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. His work has been exhibited widely in North America and Europe and is held in the collections of major art institutions internationally.

*Stephen Shore: The Giverny Portfolio* is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Ian M. Thom, Senior Curator—Historical.

**Generously supported by:**

Chan Family Foundation

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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](http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca)

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