

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, July 12, 2004

Gallery awarded \$50,000 from prestigious Andy Warhol Foundation



Image: **Brian Jungen**, *Prototype for New Understanding #2*, 1998, Nike Air Jordans, hair, Collection of Vancouver Art Gallery Acquisition Fund and purchased with the financial support of the Canada Council for the Arts Acquisition Assistance Program, Photo: Trevor Mills / Courtesy Vancouver Art Gallery

Vancouver, BC –The Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Kathleen Bartels, announced today that the Gallery has received a \$50,000 (U.S.) grant from the prestigious Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. The grant was awarded to the Gallery for the purposes of organizing a major touring exhibition of works by Vancouver artist Brian Jungen. The grant acknowledges the Gallery’s continued participation and leadership in the international world of contemporary art.

“This is the first grant the Gallery has received from the Andy Warhol Foundation and only the sixth grant they have awarded to a Canadian institution in seventeen years,” said Gallery Director, Kathleen Bartels. “I’m thrilled that through this grant the Gallery can expose international audiences to the work of a young, and exceptional, Canadian artist.”

Brian Jungen is scheduled to open at the Vancouver Art Gallery in October 2005 and will tour from 2006 to 2008 to five international venues. The Vancouver Art Gallery is producing a major catalogue to accompany the exhibition, co-published with Douglas & McIntyre.

According to exhibition curator, Daina Augaitis, “Brian Jungen is one of the rising stars of the international art scene.” He won the inaugural \$50,000 Sobey Art Award in 2002 (the most lucrative award in Canada for emerging artists) and has had solo exhibitions at Triple Candie, New York, 2004; California College of Arts Wattis Institute, San Francisco, 2004; Vienna Secession, 2003; Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, 2003; and at the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, 2001.

Jungen's work reflects his interest in altering the meaning of objects, especially consumer commodities. Jungen transforms common, prefabricated materials into symbolic sculptures and installations. His most recognized works are enormous, suspended whale-like sculptures made from plastic patio chairs and disassembled Nike Air Jordan training shoes reconfigured into startling simulations of Northwest Coast Native masks. Four of these are currently featured at the Vancouver Art Gallery as part of *Baja to Vancouver: The West Coast and Contemporary Art* until August 29.

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts was established in 1987. In accordance with Andy Warhol's will, its mission is the advancement of the visual arts. The Foundation's objective is to foster innovative artistic expression and the creative process by encouraging and supporting cultural organizations that support artists and their work. During his lifetime, Warhol was a great champion of other artists and their work. The foundation continues this legacy through its strong defense of challenging and experimental art and its makers.

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