

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rebirth of Drawing in the Digital Age

Opening June 28, 2003
Drawing the World: Masters to Hipsters

Vancouver, BC – This summer the Vancouver Art Gallery will explore the world through a series of drawing exhibitions, from historical to contemporary, as part of a monumental project that features over 400 works—*Drawing the World: Masters to Hipsters*. Opening on June 28, this unprecedented project will present elaborate drawings from the Italian Renaissance; exquisite miniatures from 16th to 19th century South East Asia; magical Inuit art from Canada's north; rarely seen First Nations drawings from British Columbia; and, contemporary works by some of the hottest European, Asian and North American artists.

As part of this project, the Gallery will host visiting artists from Winnipeg, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, London and British Columbia. Several site-specific works have also been commissioned by the Gallery for this major summer cultural event. The contemporary section promises to excite visitors with bold work that includes a massive 25-foot long mural and a 1983 Pontiac Trans Am with the entire Book of Revelations drawn onto the vehicle's exterior.

Drawing is an important tool that over the centuries has served a variety of artistic purposes – a quick notation, a study for a completed work or as an end in itself. *Drawing the World: Masters to Hipsters* is devoted to the art of drawing, its power to represent our world and its ability to transform our perspective on the world.

The Gallery will come alive with public events and drawing-related activities throughout the summer. Not to be missed is a public lecture on June 29 by the distinguished **Dr. Vishakha Desai**, Senior Vice President and Director of Museum and Cultural Programs, Asia Society, New York. Other public lectures in this series include *Drawing on Life*, *Drawing from the Renaissance to the Baroque*, *Power and Desire* and *What The Arts Have To Teach Our Schools*. A Learning Centre will provide insight into the impact drawing has on our lives and will encourage anyone who has ever doodled in the margins or sketched on a napkin to rediscover their ability to draw.

An in-depth study of the history and practice of drawing will also be undertaken by over 100 teachers during a week-long Teacher Institute. Developed by the Gallery and the Department of Curriculum Studies at the University of British Columbia, internationally renowned scholars and educators— notably **Dr. Elliot W. Eisner**, Professor of Education and Art at Stanford University—will conduct lectures and panel discussions during the Teacher Institute from July 6 to 11. The knowledge generated by the Teacher Institute will reach thousands of students in western Canada.

For the duration of the exhibition, the Gallery, in conjunction with Pacific Centre, Centre Estival des Arts and Opus Framing & Art Supplies, will offer local residents and tourists a chance to win a 19-day all-inclusive drawing and painting vacation for two to the Centre Estival des Arts de Montaignut-le-Blanc (Summer Centre for the Arts), located in a medieval hilltop village in Auvergne, France. The prize includes airfare and transportation from Vancouver to the Centre, accommodation, most meals, courses and four excursions while at the Centre. The prize must be redeemed by July 11-29, 2004. The secondary prize is a Deluxe Drawing Studio Package from Opus Framing & Art Supplies.

Tickets for this exhibition may be purchased in advance by phone (604-662-4700 ext.525) or by email tickets@vanartgallery.bc.ca. The exhibition closes on September 21, 2003.

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Images: Digital images for professional media use only are available on the Vancouver Art Gallery's FTP site.
For MAC's <ftp://ftp.vanartgallery.bc.ca>
For PC's <ftp://ftp1-vag@vanartgallery.bc.ca>
Contact Julie-Ann Backhouse, 604 662 4722, for password access.