

Kathleen S. Bartels

Passion, keen artistic sense and a visionary eye are the cornerstones Director Kathleen Bartels is using to guide the Vancouver Art Gallery through one of the most dynamic and productive periods in its 79-year history. With an eye towards the future, Bartels is leading an initiative that will result in a new Vancouver Art Gallery with plans to construct a building of more than double the existing facility's size. In early 2008, Premier Gordon Campbell announced \$50 million in lead funding from the Province of British Columbia in support of building a new Gallery, the single largest donation to an arts institution ever given by the Province.

The Vancouver Art Gallery has experienced unprecedented growth during Kathleen Bartels' tenure. Since 2001, the institutional endowment has increased from \$200,000 to more than \$8.7 million and membership has grown from 5,000 to a high of 50,000 loyal Gallery members. The Gallery's permanent collection now numbers nearly 10,000 artworks, approximately 4,000 of which have been acquired under Bartels' leadership.

Bartels' artistic direction has led the Vancouver Art Gallery to strategically blend major historic with cutting-edge contemporary exhibitions. In 2009, this thoughtful melding of historic and contemporary exhibitions included **Vermeer, Rembrandt and the Golden Age of Dutch Art: Masterpieces from the Rijksmuseum**, organized and presented in collaboration with the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, and **Andreas Gursky: Werke/Works, 80-08**, a groundbreaking exhibition presenting a remarkable overview of the work of the celebrated German photographer. The Gallery will continue to escalate its program in 2010 with the organization and presentation of such exhibitions as **Imagining the Modern Woman: Drawings by Degas, Renoir, Toulouse-Latrec and Other 19th Century Masters from the Musée d'Orsay, Paris**. Bartels' passion for presenting Gallery originated exhibitions to a worldwide audience has also led to the creation of numerous internationally-touring exhibitions, including **Brian Jungen, Massive Change: The Future of Global Design**, and **KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Video + Video Games + Art**, an unprecedented achievement for a Canadian arts institution.

Born and raised in Chicago, Kathleen Bartels earned a BA in Photography at Columbia College, undertook graduate research in Pacific Art History at the University of Hawaii and later interned and studied at the University of Arizona's Center for Creative Photography. Prior to joining the Vancouver Art Gallery, Bartels was on staff with the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Los Angeles for thirteen years, serving as the museum's assistant director from 1997-2001.

Bartels has received many awards during her distinguished career. She has been named one of Vancouver Magazine's "Power 50" most influential leaders for the past seven consecutive years and was honoured with the prestigious Hadassah-WIZO "Women of Achievement" award. She has served on numerous art panels and committees and is also a member of the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) and currently sits on the organization's Membership Committee. In 2010, Bartels proudly carried the Olympic Torch for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.