

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver Art Gallery showcases artworks from the collection in *The Poetics of Space*



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February 17, 2015, Vancouver, BC – The Vancouver Art Gallery presents *The Poetics of Space*, an exhibition that investigates the ideas of space from a conceptual, analytical and emotional perspective. On view at the Gallery until May 25, 2015, this exhibition showcases 80 historical and contemporary artworks, including several being exhibited for the first time from the Gallery's collections. Among the artists in this exhibition, many are based in Vancouver.

The Poetics of Space takes its title from French philosopher Gaston Bachelard's 1958 book of the same name, which presents a psychic interpretation of "home" and one's prototypical experiences of personal space. Using this idea as a starting point, the exhibition explores the symbolic meaning of spaces as tied to ideas of memory, intimacy and experience.

Inspired by Paul Cézanne's analytic approach to depicting space (on view concurrently at the Gallery as part of *Cezanne and the Modern*, Feb. 14 – May 18, 2015), another section of the exhibition examines the ways artists have historically contended with conveying three-dimensional space on a two-dimensional plane.

A final section features works in which artists have conceptualized space in non-traditional ways, mapping it according to their own purposes or acknowledging its layered socio-cultural histories. As a totality, the exhibition reveals the expansive and subjective ways in which artists have grappled with depicting and defining space.

Highlights from the exhibition include photographs by Karin Bubaš, James Nizam and Thomas Ruff, in which simple domestic objects reveal the intimate details of human presence; Myfanwy MacLeod's eerie images of domestic decay and disrepair suggest a dark, haunting narrative, as does Carole Itter's charged pink room—a legacy for her deceased daughter; Rebecca Belmore's four-poster bed suggests a colonial bedroom and an equally powerful reclamation of that space; Shelagh Keeley's new site-specific installation of drawings sits between abstraction and representation, exploring our physical presence in the world; Elizabeth McIntosh creates a resonant depth in her painting by combining formal construction with visible brush strokes, resulting in a vibrant and energetic work; and Recce Terris' photographs of stripped, uninhabited homes convey a sense of abandonment.

Participating Artists in *The Poetics of Space*

Maxwell Bates, Rebecca Belmore, B.C. Binning, Lee Bontecou, Roland Brener, Bertram Brooker, Karin Bubaš,

Arabella Campbell, Emily Carr, James E. Casebere, Share Corsaut, Max Dean, Christos Dikeakos, Michael Drebert, Marten Elder, Lionel LeMoine FitzGerald, Terry Frost, Renee Van Halm, Lawren Harris, Carole Itter, Don Jarvis, Holger Kalberg, Shelagh Keeley, Douglas Kirton, Roy Kiyooka, Owen Kydd, Beatrice Lennie, Glenn Lewis, Landon Mackenzie, Myfanwy MacLeod, Scott McFarland, Elizabeth McIntosh, Jason McLean, Alex Morrison, Ben Nicholson, James Nizam, Dennis Oppenheim, Annie Pootoogook, Christopher Pratt, Pudlo Pudlat, Abraham Rattner, Thomas Ruff, Kyohei Sakaguchi, Jack Shadbolt, Robert Smithson, Ron Terada, Reece Terris, Ron Tran, Howard Ursuliak, Bill Vazan, and Robert Young.

This exhibition is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Daina Augaitis, Chief Curator/Associate Director and Assistant Curator Emmy Lee Wall.

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Michael O'Brian Family Foundation

About the Vancouver Art Gallery

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of the most respected and innovative visual arts institutions in Canada and is committed to strengthening ties between artists and diverse communities throughout the city, province and beyond. As the largest public art museum in Western Canada, the Gallery features the work of ground-breaking contemporary artists from around the world and presents historical art of international significance, is committed to exploring the art of Asia, and provides a global platform for British Columbia's dynamic artistic community, including the work of First Nations artists. Its growing collection represents the most comprehensive resource for art in British Columbia and is the principal repository for visual art produced in the region, as well as related works by other notable Canadian and international artists. The Gallery also places an emphasis on advancing scholarship through major publications and presents a multitude of public programs that offer new ways to consider art for visitors who come from throughout the region and internationally.

Following an in-depth master planning process that was in response to the significant growth in collection, exhibitions and attendance, the Gallery announced in 2014 the selection of Herzog & de Meuron for the design of a new and expanded home in downtown Vancouver. Double the Gallery's current size, the future facility will be a vital catalyst in enhancing Vancouver's cultural community, and will serve as a centre for cross-cultural dialogue and exchange in the visual arts.

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.

Image credits: (left) Karin Bubaš, *Photographs and Red Car*, 2003, chromogenic print, Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Gift of Anne Morse and Jeremy Caddy in Memory of John and Elizabeth Caddy; (middle) Rebecca Belmore, *Wild*, 2001, textile, fur, hair, wood, Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Gifted by the Artist through the Action "Worth (Statement of Defense)" on September 11, 2010 at the Entrance of the Vancouver Art Gallery; (right) Reece Terris, *Interior Views #5: Skyline Drive - North Vancouver (1970s)*, 2007, chromogenic print, Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Purchased with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts Acquisition Assistance program and funds provided by the Acquisitions Committee: David Aisenstat, Claudia Beck, Laing Brown, Sherry Killam, Karen Killy, Della McLaughlin and Lesley Stowe.

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Images and interviews are available upon request.

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