

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The Vancouver Art Gallery Receives \$1 Million Gift from Jessica Yan Macintosh and George Macintosh to Support Educational Programming



***April 10, 2024, VANCOUVER, BC // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh) and Tsleil-Waututh (səlil'wətaʔ) Nations.***

The Vancouver Art Gallery is thrilled to announce that it is the recipient of a \$1 million gift from philanthropists **Jessica Yan Macintosh** and **George Macintosh**. Their generous donation will support the Gallery's extensive educational initiatives, with a particular focus on breaking down barriers and ensuring that art is accessible to newcomers and underserved children and youth from diverse backgrounds. A portion of the Macintosh's gift will also support building the new Vancouver Art Gallery at the Chan Centre for the Visual Arts, which is expected to open in 2028.

"We are so grateful to the Macintosh family for this transformational gift and for their ongoing support of the Gallery," says **Anthony Kiendl, Vancouver Art Gallery CEO & Executive Director**. "This donation will help to bolster the tremendous educational programming that directly impacts our community every day and that is integral to our future. Every donation helps us to deliver our vision of the Gallery as a cultural hub and a space where communities can meet, learn and shape our collective futures."

At a special reception last night, the Macintosh family announced their donation and spoke about the importance of supporting the Gallery as a place of learning and belonging. Currently serving over 130 schools throughout the Lower Mainland each year, in addition to ongoing programs for youth and teens, the Gallery fosters self-expression, creative thinking and problem-solving for all ages.

“The Vancouver Art Gallery has shown it knows how to connect underserved kids to the magic of art. That’s why we donated,” explain **Jessica and George Macintosh**. “If just five children a year sense what art can do to enrich the rest of their lives, our gift will have been worthwhile.”

As part of last night’s event, there was a presentation by **Sirish Rao, the Gallery’s Senior Director of Public Engagement & Learning**, who is part of the senior leadership team that Kiendl has built over the past year. Since joining the Gallery, Rao has fostered innovative programming and public events while strengthening ties with educational institutions and local community associations.

“We envision the Vancouver Art Gallery as a place of possibility for individuals and communities. A welcoming space where people of all ages can gather, spark curiosity, catalyze connections, experience great art and great ideas and be storytellers themselves,” says **Sirish Rao**, Senior Director of Public Engagement & Learning at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

A longtime supporter of the Vancouver Art Gallery, **Jessica Yan Macintosh** is a soprano from Mainland China who studied music at the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music. She first joined the Gallery’s Board of Trustees in 2019. Together with her husband George, Jessica is especially active philanthropically in the art and health sectors.

**George Macintosh** was a Judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia and has served on various committees addressing legislative reform in matters of evidence and civil procedure. He was appointed King’s Counsel in 1987, elected as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1991, and a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers in 2001.

As dedicated community leaders committed to fostering the growth of the arts in Vancouver, the Macintosh family is part of a group of patrons who are pivotal to the ongoing transformation of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

For more information or to make a donation to the Gallery, please visit our [website here](#).

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**IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.**

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Image: (from left to right) Anthony Kiendl, CEO & Executive Director; philanthropists Jessica Yan Macintosh and George Macintosh; and Sirish Rao, Senior Director of Public Engagement & Learning, with works by Teen Art Group students at the Vancouver Art Gallery, April 2024, Photo: Sheng Ho

### **ABOUT THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY**

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is given to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to those of the Asia Pacific region. The Gallery's exhibitions also explore the impact of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a charitable 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.

*The Vancouver Art Gallery is situated on the ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations and is respectful of the Indigenous stewards of the land it occupies, whose rich cultures are fundamental to artistic life in Vancouver and the work of the Gallery.*

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