

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, April 10, 2003

Local donor tops \$5-million in gifts to Gallery



Images: **Richard Hamilton**, *Adonis in Y Fronts*, 1963, screenprint, Vancouver Art Gallery Photo: Tim Bonham

Vancouver, BC – The Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Vancouver Art Gallery, George Killy, announced today that the Gallery has received several outstanding new gifts of Canadian and international art, a total of 75 works, generously donated by J. Ron and Jacqueline Longstaffe. Long-term supporters of the Gallery, the Longstaffes have donated over 800 works valued at over \$5-million dollars during the past two decades.

Among the recent Longstaffe gift are works by established British Columbian artists Maxwell Bates, Robert Davidson, Gathie Falk and Ann Kipling; ten works by Québécois artist Betty Goodwin; and, 20 Inuit works, including several by Simon Tookoome, that contextualize other holdings of First Nations material. Exceptional works on paper by international artists Chuck Close, Richard Hamilton and Pablo Picasso—as well as the Gallery’s first works by Alexander Calder—are also welcome additions to the Gallery’s international graphics collection.

“The Longstaffes level of generosity, unprecedented in the history of the Gallery, has fundamentally transformed the collection and we are most grateful for their enduring support,” said George Killy, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

The Director of the Gallery, Kathleen Bartels, added, “One of the Gallery’s primary roles is to continue to develop the collection with particular emphasis on outstanding works of Canadian art and international works that contextualize Canadian identity and aesthetic. Thanks to the generous support of many individuals we are able to continue to build one of the best collections in Canada.”

The Longstaffes recent donation builds on two decades of giving to the Vancouver Art Gallery. Since 1980, the Gallery's permanent collection has been substantially enriched by the Longstaffes generosity in several areas—Québécois painting, British Columbian art and international graphics. The Longstaffes major gifts of Québécois painting have made the Gallery's holding one of the finest in western Canada. Prominent examples include works by Paul-Emile Borduas, Charles Gagnon, Yves Gaucher, Betty Goodwin, Jean McEwen, Guido Molinari, Alfred Pellan and Claude Tousignant.

Beyond the significant contribution of J. Ron and Jacqueline Longstaffe, other individuals have also played a role in enhancing the Gallery's collection for the benefit of future generations. Over 20 donors have given lifetime gifts of art valued at over \$250,000. Notable amongst recent gifts to the Gallery is an important Bill Reid sculpture titled *Killer Whale* of 1982 which was donated by John Nichol in memory of Elizabeth Fellowes Nichol.

It is through such generosity that visitors, both local and international, gain an insight into the diverse and rich talent of artists from this region. It is also due to the vision of such individuals that the Vancouver Art Gallery's permanent collection will continue to flourish.

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The Vancouver Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council, the Government of Canada through the Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage Museums Assistance Program, the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the Vancouver Arts Stabilization Program (VAST) and the Gerald and Sheahan McGavin Capital Grants to the Arts.