

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Extraordinary, a contemporary design event

Vancouver, BC - The Vancouver Art Gallery presents *Extraordinary*, a contemporary design event to be held at Canada Place Cruise Ship Terminal, Friday, October 24, 2003, 7pm. The Terminal will be transformed for the Gallery's major fundraising event of the year and its first ever celebration of contemporary design.

Extraordinary will be worthy of its name with 150 exceptional design items offered in both live and silent auctions, foods served by some of the best Vancouver restaurants and live entertainment – from pop vocalist Jessie Farrell to local deejays – for over 400 guests.

Proudly featuring renowned international and leading Canadian designers, live auction highlights include a **Martha Sturdy** dining room suite, a dramatic limited edition **Ralph Lauren** carbon fibre chair, a garden designed by **Arthur Erickson** and dinner for eight at his home, an original sweater designed by British artist **David Hockney**, a red leather Wavelength sofa by Canadian designer **Karim Rashid** and a Tibetan handwoven carpet designed by **Niels Bendtsen** especially for this event.

The diversity of items range from two rare **Frank Gehry** prints of the new Disney Concert Hall, to a tea table by Seattle artist and designer **Roy McMakin**, to a bathroom designed by architect **Bing Thom** (architect of the internationally acclaimed Chan Centre for the Performing Arts) and a Marettimo bed by Italian industrial designer **Rodolfo Dordoni**. Acknowledging the spirit of Vancouver, a snowboard decorated by local contemporary artist **Graham Gillmore** will also be auctioned, as will a rare collection of **Mouton Rothschild** art label wines. These items, and more, will be auctioned by Master Auctioneer Barry Scott of Maynards during the evening. The silent auction, comprised of over 80 items, will feature distinctive jewellery by Canadian designers, fashion, travel packages and home accessories.

“We wanted to create a unique fundraising event that would feature the extraordinary talent of contemporary designers in Vancouver and internationally,” said Kathleen Bartels, Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. “This event, as with all our exhibitions and programs, reaffirms our commitment to presenting the best in contemporary culture while also bringing fresh, international perspectives to our city.”

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Honourary Chair Martha Sturdy said, “The response from the design community has been phenomenal and, along with co-chairs, Lesley Stowe and Monte Clarke, we are delighted with the enthusiasm of all who agreed to participate. We anticipate a wonderful evening and hope this event raises both the profile of design and funds for the Vancouver Art Gallery.”

In a move away from the Gallery’s traditional fundraising sit-down dinners, guests at this remarkable event will sample a pallet of food by 18 of Vancouver’s best restaurants - Bin 941 and 942, Bis Moreno, Blue Water Café, C Restaurant, Cin Cin, Diva at the Met, Le Gavroche, Lesley Stowe Fine Foods, Lumiere, Memphis Blues, Pastis, Provence Mediterranean Grill, Raincity Grill, Rodney’s Oyster House, Shabusen Yakiniku House, Vij’s, and West. Coffee from Illy Espresso Bar, desserts from the Four Seasons Hotel and Chocolate Arts, and ice cream creations by Mondo Gelato will top off the evening.

The **Bombay Sapphire Blue Lounge** will make its West Coast debut at **Extraordinary** as part of its tour across Canada. Designed by Roy Banse of Fluid Living in Toronto, the **Blue Lounge** will serve complimentary martinis throughout the evening. Local musician Sean Bayten will play a 9-foot Steinway & Sons Rhapsody piano shimmering with hundreds of mother-of-pearl stars inlaid on a midnight blue cabinet. The grand concert piano has been generously loaned by Tom Lee Music.

Auction highlights may be viewed at <http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca>

Individual tickets \$150.

Premium lounge ticket for 8 people \$3,000 includes exclusive preview reception, complimentary valet parking, hors d’oeuvres and live performance by pop vocalist Jessie Farrell. Proceeds from this event will support the Vancouver Art Gallery’s exhibitions and public programs.

Tickets 604 662 4747.

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Working media welcome. Media contact: Communications Specialist, 604 662 4722.

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