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2006 a Banner Year for Vancouver Art Gallery Acquisitions

VANCOUVER, BC – The **Vancouver Art Gallery's** December Board meeting saw the approval of several key acquisitions, including works by artists Robert Davidson, Brian Jungen, Cornelius Krieghoff, Mark Lewis, Arthur Lismer, Steven Shearer and Frederick Varley, representing an exceptional year for permanent collection growth. Increasing by 221 artworks in 2006, with 211 acquired through generous donations, the Gallery's permanent collection now stands at 9,112 artworks, further solidifying its status as the most significant public art collection in Western Canada. The Gallery's renowned photography collection was the largest recipient of acquisitions over the year, with the addition of 162 works by such celebrated artists as Edward Burtynsky, Stan Douglas, Larry Fink, Robert Frank, Cindy Sherman and Stephen Shore.

"The Vancouver Art Gallery is fast becoming a central player in North America for donations by collectors of photo-based artworks. Discerning donors are aware of the breadth and depth of our photography collection and are excited by the knowledge that their works will receive serious consideration and display in interesting and provocative contexts," said Vancouver Art Gallery Director Kathleen Bartels.

The Gallery's photography collection flourished in 2006 with a gift of two of Cindy Sherman's notorious *Untitled Sex Pictures*, 1992, from Toronto collector Sandra Simpson, adding to the Gallery's significant holding of Sherman's work. Toronto collectors Alison and Alan Schwartz continued their generosity with gifts of photographs by internationally renowned Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky and Dusseldorf photographer Axel Hütte. They were joined by fellow Toronto collectors Ann and Harry Malcolmson, Ann and Marshall Webb and Aaron Milrad, who also made major gifts of photo-based artworks. Historical landscapes and portraits by Samuel Bourne, John Burke, Baron Adolph de Meyer and Robert Frank's famous portraits of American culture during the 1950s were also added to the collection by Vancouver collectors Claudia Beck and Andrew Gruft, whose previous donations of photographic works helped to make the Vancouver Art Gallery one of the most reputable holders of photographic art in North America.

“Great institutional art collections are always built in partnership with others,” said Christos Dikeakos, chair of the Gallery’s acquisitions committee. “We are extremely grateful for the encouraging support that we’ve received from the community of collectors, artists and philanthropists in Vancouver and elsewhere. Together we continue to build a legacy for the province and country that we can be immensely proud of.”

The Gallery was also particularly fortunate to receive funds from the Audain Foundation towards the purchase of Brian Jungen’s *Furniture Sculpture*, 2006, a major installation created specifically for his exhibition at the Gallery, and from the Rix Family Foundation towards the purchase of *Cheakamus Canyon*, 1929, a rare Frederick Varley painting of the British Columbia landscape.

Also of great significance are the 2006 acquisitions received from artists. Key among these is a gift from artist Jayce Salloum, who provided his large installation displayed as part of the Gallery’s exhibition *Classified Materials* in 2005. Works were also donated by Gary Pearson, who contributed a painting to compliment two of his earlier artworks in the Gallery’s the collection, Larry Towell, who donated 11 recent photographs, as well as Lawrence Weiner, who continued his ongoing support of the Gallery through a donation of works on paper.

In addition to these and many other generous donations, the Gallery was successful in obtaining a matching Canada Council Acquisitions Assistance Grant, making the acquisition of recent works by Vancouver artists Karin Bubaš, Jayce Salloum and Steven Shearer possible. The Gallery also secured two films by artist Mark Lewis, adding important recent examples of Lewis’s practice to the Gallery’s collection.

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