

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Emerging Vancouver artists featured in conjunction with A Modern Life: Art and Design in British Columbia 1945-1960

until October 11, 2004



Image: **Omer Arbel**, *chair 2.4*, 2003
Photo: Shannon Loewen

Vancouver, BC – The Vancouver Art Gallery is featuring two new works by painter Arabella Campbell and architect/designer Omer Arbel, both young Vancouver artists, until October 11th in conjunction with the exhibition *A Modern Life: Art and Design in British Columbia 1945-1960*. Continuing the Gallery's strong commitment to exhibit emerging, local artists, the work of Campbell and Arbel are showcased not only as part of the legacy of modernism in Vancouver but as examples of the growing intersection between art and design in contemporary culture.

A recent graduate of the Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design, Arabella Campbell is one of Vancouver's promising young painters. She has exhibited in Vancouver and Toronto, including the exhibition *Specific Objects*, mounted at the Charles H. Scott Gallery in 2002. Campbell works with building materials and creates work that reveals the hidden beauty of ubiquitous design tools which are often considered peripheral to art. Her *Painter's Tape Light* (2004), currently on view at the Vancouver Art Gallery, is a meticulously constructed monochrome made of over 60 thin layers of acrylic paint based on the colour of generic painter's tape.

Omer Arbel is a local architect, who is quickly gaining recognition within the international design community through SOME—a small, experimental furniture design and manufacturing company that he established in Vancouver in 2002. On view at the Gallery is the award-winning polyester resin cast lounge chair developed by Arbel in 2003. The design maximizes painterly properties by introducing unique dye combinations for each of the twenty chairs produced. *Chair 2.4* has been awarded the Chicago Athenaeum's 2003 Good Design Award, the 2003 ID Magazine Design Review Honorable Mention and was a finalist for the prestigious D & AD Yellow Pencil in 2003. Arbel is currently completing his registration as an architect at Busby + Associates in Vancouver.

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Both artist and designer have developed processes that transform the traditional function of materials and share a modernist perspective on abstraction and precise craftsmanship. Their work is exhibited in conjunction with *A Modern Life: Art and Design in British Columbia, 1945-1960* to explore how modernist sensibilities link to developments in contemporary art and design in Vancouver today.

A Modern Life: Art and Design in British Columbia, 1945-1960 explores the evolution of art and design during a time when Vancouver and Victoria were nationally recognized as Canadian leaders for their interdisciplinary approaches to the fine and applied arts. The exhibition brings together the work of 46 artists, architects and designers and features over 100 objects—furniture, paintings and ceramics—all created in British Columbia between 1945 and 1960. *A Modern Life: Art and Design in British Columbia, 1945-1960* is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and co-curated by Ian Thom and Alan C. Elder. A new publication, *A Modern Life*, co-published with Arsenal Pulp Press in fall 2004, will explore the collaborative spirit of fine and applied arts in post-war British Columbia.

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- When:** until October 11, 2004
- Where:** Vancouver Art Gallery
750 Hornby Street
Vancouver BC V6Z 2H7
www.vanartgallery.bc.ca
- Hours:** Open every day
Monday to Sunday & Holidays 10am to 5.30pm
Open Thursdays 10am to 9pm
- Admission:** Adults \$15.00, Seniors \$11.00, Students \$10.00, Children (12 & under) Free
Family \$40 (2 adults, 2 children, 13 years +), Thursday evening suggested donation \$5.00
- Media contact:** Julie-Ann Backhouse
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- Images:** Digital images for professional media use only are available at the Vancouver Art Gallery's FTP site <ftp://ftp.vanartgallery.bc.ca>. Contact 604 662 4722 for password access.