

Visitors Contribute to Art Installation at the Vancouver Art Gallery

October 15, 2005 to January 2, 2006

Vancouver, BC – Vancouver artist Jayce Salloum is making Gallery visitors the focus of a new evolving installation at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Based solely on Gallery-goers' input in various forms, the installation is a dynamic and ever-changing reflection of all those who pass and share a piece of themselves. The work, *(un)classified materials – a public archive: present histories/history of the present* is part of the exhibition *Classified Materials: Accumulations, Archives, Artists* on display from October 15, 2005 to January 2, 2006.

Salloum urges visitors to leave “stories, notes, thoughts, sketches, drawings, diagrams, copies of maps, newspaper clippings, letters, photographs, documents, diary pages and mementos” – anything that reveals a part of who the visitor believes him or herself to be. The artist provides index cards as a medium for visitors to share and classify their stories in such categories as how to make it better/what is missing, private stories, and collections I keep. Small plastic bags and envelopes in which visitors can leave personal tokens are also supplied. Materials left behind are pinned to massive boards affixed to the Gallery walls and sorted into various classifications, allowing future visitors to peruse and be inspired by the accumulating work.

Beginning Friday, October 28 at the Gallery's monthly Fuse event – a night of art, music and performance – and continuing every Thursday evening between 6 and 9 p.m., visitors can be interviewed on camera to add their stories to a video archive available for viewing in the installation space. To further the reach of the work, index cards from the installation will be placed in various public locations in Vancouver, which can be returned and pinned on the installation wall. Others interested in taking part online can email text and images for the artwork to unclassified@vanartgallery.bc.ca.

Born in Kelowna, British Columbia, Salloum has been working in installation, photography, video, mixed and new media since 1975. He has lectured worldwide and exhibited at such institutions as the National Gallery of Canada; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Centre Pompidou, Paris; the

8th Havana Biennial; and the 7th Sharjah Biennial. After 22 years living and working in San Francisco, Banff, Toronto, San Diego, Beirut and New York, he now makes his home in Vancouver.

Salloum is one of 44 internationally renowned artists from Canada, the United States, Asia, Europe and the Middle East included in *Classified Materials: Accumulations, Archives, Artists*. Spanning two floors of the Gallery, the exhibition examines the creative methods artists use to produce meaning through the processes of collection and classification.

Classified Materials: Accumulations, Archives, Artists is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Grant Arnold, Audain Curator of British Columbia Art; Daina Augaitis, Chief Curator/Associate Director; Bruce Grenville, Senior Curator; and Monika Szewczyk, Assistant Curator.

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