

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, October 12, 2005

Vancouver Artist to Light-Up Georgia Street
Neil Campbell: *BASE*
October 15, 2005 to January 15, 2006

Vancouver, BC – An installation by Vancouver artist Neil Campbell will illuminate a portion of Georgia Street beginning October 15, 2005, as the artist’s massive light-based work pulsates from the windows of the Vancouver Art Gallery’s Georgia Street façade. Commissioned by the Gallery specifically for the site, Campbell’s installation, *BASE*, will use programmed lights to transform the exterior of the Gallery into an abstract perceptual field every night after dusk until January 15, 2006. *BASE* is the latest installation created for *NEXT: a Series of Artist Projects from the Pacific Rim*.

To take on the challenge of addressing the relationship between the Gallery, the city and its inhabitants, Campbell strayed from his traditional medium of paint to work with light for the first time. As a painter, Campbell explores ideas of human perception through abstract compositions that use intense colours and non-representational shapes to stimulate viewers’ vision and elicit somatic responses. His works are often painted directly on the surface of walls and incorporate architectural environments. Using this experience to inform his installation at the Gallery, Campbell will utilize the incandescent qualities of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) to explore the optical effects produced by the juxtaposition of colour and form.

“This installation will invite passersby to consider not only their relationship to the building, but the nature of the institution it houses,” said chief curator Daina Augaitis. “The sheer visual power of the work operates in wonderful contrast to the grand façade of the Gallery’s historic building.”

Campbell, an instructor in the painting department at the Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design in Vancouver, returned to the city after 15 years of living and exhibiting in New York City. His work was most recently on display in Canada as a part of the spring 2005 exhibition *After Poverty* at the Catriona Jeffries Gallery in Vancouver and in the 2004 two-person exhibition *Supernatural: Neil Campbell & Beau Dick* at Vancouver’s Contemporary Art Gallery. Campbell’s work is currently on exhibition at the Franco Noero Gallery in Turin, Italy.

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BASE was made possible by a generous in-kind donation of materials and expertise by Vancouver-based TIR Systems Ltd. A world leader in LED lighting technology, TIR Systems Ltd. has worked with a variety of museums and was recently involved with Los Angeles-based artist Diane Thater's light installation on the exterior of Vancouver's new Shaw Tower.

Campbell is the fifth artist presented in *NEXT: a Series of Artist Projects from the Pacific Rim*, a laboratory for new art that focuses on previously unseen work in Vancouver and engages various art practices of the Pacific Rim.

NEXT: Neil Campbell, BASE is curated by Daina Augaitis, Chief Curator/Associate Director and will be on display until January 15, 2006.

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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 and Gaming Revenues, the Government of Canada through the Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage Museums Assistance Program and Cultural Spaces Canada.