

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, January 20, 2005

2005 at the Vancouver Art Gallery **Advance exhibition schedule**

The following exhibition information is current as of Thursday, January 20, 2005. Prior to publication, please confirm dates, titles and pertinent information with the Communications Specialist, Vancouver Art Gallery, at 604 662 4722.

January 29 to May 26, 2005

REAL PICTURES: PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE COLLECTION OF CLAUDIA BECK AND ANDREW GRUFT

From canonical figures in the history of photography Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Frank, André Kertész, Nadar, William Henry Fox Talbot and Edward Weston to contemporary Vancouver artists such as Roy Arden, Stephen Waddell, Scott McFarland and Karin Bubas, this exhibition presents more than 300 photographic works from the outstanding collection of Claudia Beck and Andrew Gruft. Assembled over three decades, the Beck/Gruft collection is notable for its emphasis on vintage prints and focuses on the descriptive power of photography. These images are both documents and fictions, evoking an ongoing fascination with photography's compelling position in a realm between truth and artifice. The Beck/Gruft collection was recently acquired by the Vancouver Art Gallery and is valued at \$2 million. Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery.

February 5 – May 8, 2005

RODNEY GRAHAM: A LITTLE THOUGHT

Vancouver artist Rodney Graham is one of the most celebrated artists in the international contemporary art scene. Artist, writer, musician and actor, Graham is acclaimed for inventing new approaches to landscape, literature and sound. *A Little Thought* is a mid-career retrospective that focuses on Graham's video and film work, from the projection events of the 1970s through to recent costume dramas. Bringing together more than 25 works, the exhibition also includes photographs, sculptural and audio pieces that demonstrate Graham's masterful use of genres, from minimalism to film noir, from James Bond to Charlie Chaplin. Beautifully produced and fascinatingly complex, Rodney Graham's works are among the most compelling art being made today. Exhibited in his hometown, *A Little Thought* is set to be a highlight of Vancouver's 2005 spring season. Jointly organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Vancouver Art Gallery.

May 28 – September 11, 2005

NEW BRITISH ART (working title)

Bringing together more than twelve acclaimed contemporary British artists, this exhibition highlights work that engages with the body in the contemporary world. This exhibition features works by artists that, either directly or obliquely, engage with the body and its changing relationship to the social, political and physical world. The human body remains a subject of tremendous fascination for artists and this exhibition takes as its point of departure works that relate to the body in non-traditional ways. Jointly organized by the British Arts Council and the Vancouver Art Gallery.

May 28 – September 11, 2005

THEODORE WAN

Theodore Wan is a national touring exhibition presenting the work and research of the late Vancouver artist Theodore Wan. This retrospective brings together photographs and videos, many never seen before, from the archives of the Vancouver Art Gallery. Included is his best known body of work a remarkable series of medical photographs that play on the ambivalent status of the photograph as document, art object and illustration. Theodore Wan was born in Hong Kong, moved to Vancouver at the age of thirteen and studied at the University of British Columbia and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Theodore Wan died in 1987. This nationally travelling exhibition has been organized by the Dalhousie Art Gallery with works borrowed from the Vancouver Art Gallery and generous funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Canada Council for the Arts. Curated by Christine Conley.

May 28 – September 5, 2005

FRANZ WEST

As a leading European artist, Franz West has made an important contribution to sculpture at the turn of the 20th century. West's work emerges out of the history of Viennese Actionism with its emphasis on the human body, subversive humour and the grotesque. The exhibition features more than 30 works from the past three decades and focuses on West's *Passtücke* that are central to his practice and closely linked to his furniture and sculptures. The *Passtücke* are handmade objects that exist in an uneasy space between traditional sculpture and found objects. They are presented in a variety of contexts where visitors are invited to handle and pose with the *Passtücke*. Despite his reknown in Europe, Franz West is not well known in North America and this is a rare opportunity to view the first major exhibition of his work in Canada. Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery.

May 28 – September 5, 2005

WANG DU: PARADE

The Vancouver Art Gallery will be the first venue outside Europe to present this exhibition of sculpture by Wang Du, a Chinese-born artist living and working in Paris since 1990. Wang Du is recognized as a master of manipulating and deconstructing images related to the mass media. In each work he painstakingly reproduces the original two-dimensional image in three-dimensional form, often utilizing the extreme foreshortening and cropping that are part of media representation. Wang Du creates a new kind of 'reality', so that our experience of images is no longer one of unmediated consumption. This exhibition is collaboratively organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery in collaboration with Le Rectangle, Lyon and Palais de Tokyo, Paris and supported, in part, by AFAA (the French Ministère des Affaires Etrangères) and the Vancouver French Consulate.

June 18 – September 18, 2005

RODIN: A MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION

Sculpture from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Rodin: A Magnificent Obsession is the first presentation in Vancouver in almost thirty years of work by the major 19th century European sculptor, Auguste Rodin. This major exhibition, drawn from one of the world's most comprehensive Rodin collections, offers a complete retrospective of the artist's career and includes more than 60 bronzes, from small studies to monumental works. The exhibition spans the length of Rodin's career from his earliest bust of his father, Jean Baptiste Rodin, to his later studies of dancing figures. In addition to major bronzes, such as *The Gates of Hell* and *The Burghers of Calais*, the exhibition includes works on paper, photographs and portraits of the artist. Developed and toured by the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation.

October 15, 2005 – January 8, 2006

PICASSO (working title)

An artist with mythical status, Picasso is recognized as a leading figure in the history of western art for his prolific creativity. This exhibition addresses his main subjects, the figure and still life, and presents Picasso as both a gifted painter and an outstanding graphic artist. The exhibition offers viewers insights into Picasso's artistic language as he progressed from romantic realism through Cubism, Classicism and Surrealism. *Picasso (working title)* will feature the most significant body of Picasso paintings ever assembled in British Columbia as well as works on paper from Picasso's Blue Period, the Spanish Civil War period and his famous Vollard Suite. Organized by the National Gallery of Canada and the Vancouver Art Gallery.

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