

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 18, 2008

FUSE Goes KRAZY! All Night at the Vancouver Art Galley
DJs and Hip-Hop Performances, Shadow Puppetry and 50-Foot Digital Graffiti
June 27 from 6pm to 6am

VANCOUVER, BC — The **Vancouver Art Gallery** is gearing up for another all-night art affair. The second annual all-night **FUSE** on **June 27th** will feature a non-stop line-up of music, performance, activities and art from **6pm to 6am**. Canadian hip-hopper **Arowbe** will take centre stage in the Gallery's rotunda with his crew of AV improvisers, Vancouver's **Gamelan Madu Sari** will present a new take on Indonesian shadow puppetry complete with a traditional Javanese musical ensemble, a 12-hour Gallery-wide mystery will unfold in the exhibition spaces and internationally renowned Canadian artist **Rebecca Belmore** will perform a new work in the exhibition **Rebecca Belmore: Rising to the Occasion**. Add drinks in the **FUSE Lounge**, a roster of Vancouver's hottest DJs presented by event sponsor **Aritzia** and raucous performances by indie rockers **July Fourth Toilet** in the Gallery's historic courtrooms and the next **FUSE** promises to be the most daring night of art and entertainment yet.

"Last summer's all-night **FUSE** was an incredible success that brought in nearly 3,000 visitors to the Gallery," said Dana Sullivant, the Gallery's director of marketing and communications. "This year, with an expanded program of music, performance and art drawn from some of Vancouver's most exciting creative communities, we expect an even bigger crowd ready to stay up for art."

Vancouver rapper **Arowbe** will take centre stage in the Gallery's rotunda for performances between 10pm and 2:30am. Using the exhibition **KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Comics + Video Games + Art** as inspiration, the hip-hop artist will create a live comic environment rapping to the beats of **Alexander Punzalan Junior** and graphic novel visuals projected on the gallery walls by **Eric Chan**. Arowbe will also be joined by **DJ Warm It Up Chris** on the turntables and **Candelario Andrade** on visuals for a performance of their new form dance music described as "Nintendo-punk-rap," incorporating 8-bit beats from video game systems. Arowbe is taking the Canadian hip-hop world by storm, performing with recording artists such as Clipse, K'naan, Blackalicious, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony and Saukrates.

The elegant figures of Indonesia's wayang shadow puppetry will grace Robson Square Plaza beginning at 8:45pm, supported by the music of the traditional Javanese ensemble **Gamelan Madu Sari**. A unique experiment in cross-cultural theatre, the performance is a contemporary multi-media, multi-screen shadow play, featuring Javanese puppetry, video and computer generated visuals and an new musical score. The elegant cast of cut out characters will perform the original shadow play *Semar's Journey*, a tale focused on the beloved god-clown of Java and his misadventures in the human realm. Gamelan Madu Sari has been active in Vancouver since 1986 presenting concerts of traditional and new gamelan music, shadow plays, dance, multi-media performances and public workshops.

Vancouver's most audacious thespians, **Felix Culpa Theatre**, will stage an artful mystery throughout the Gallery between 8pm and 5am. **FUSE**-goers will encounter role players scattered throughout the exhibition spaces over the night, each providing a unique performance experience and a cryptic piece of the mystery's puzzle. Visitors will collect clues and investigate the diabolical plot that is afoot in the Gallery. Vancouver's Felix Culpa Theatre produces provocative plays focused on the power of language and its ability to explore morality, beauty and the subjective nature of truth. The group's

critically acclaimed productions include *The Monument*, *The Designated Mourner*, *Salman Rushdie and Me...a love story* and *The Complete Works of Love*.

Between 9pm and 1am, internationally renowned Vancouver artist **Rebecca Belmore** will perform a new work in the current exhibition **Rebecca Belmore: Rising to the Occasion**. Belmore is known for creating multi-disciplinary works that reveal a long-standing commitment to the politics of identity and representation. The durational performance presented at *FUSE* will draw on the large-scale survey of the artist's work comprising key examples of her practice from the past two decades.

On the Robson Square Plaza Between 10pm and midnight, **New Forms Media Society** will present **Wild Style 2.0: New Forms of Graffiti**, a laser lightshow that will allow graffiti artists to make their massive digital mark on the west wall of the Sears building using non-destructive graffiti technologies. Throughout the evening, artists will "paint" the enormous canvas with light in real-time through the use of image and light projection and interactive drawing technologies. New Forms Media Society is a media arts organization that connects local and international arts, science and grassroots communities through the annual New Forms Festival.

Beginning at 9pm in the Gallery's historic courtrooms, avant-garde rockers **July Fourth Toilet** will embark on an 8-hour odyssey of music, multimedia, dance and performance art, accompanied by a looped projection of a 16mm scratch animation film. Punctuating the ongoing mayhem, the band will treat audiences to two boisterous sets featuring the full collective playing tracks from their newly-released limited edition album *Balls Boogie*.

The Gallery is inviting aspiring comic artists at **FUSE** to join in on a **12-Hour Comic Draw**—a communal project that will see an entire comic book developed over the course of the night cell-by-cell and artist-by-artist. Inspired by 24-Hour Comics Day, an international celebration during which cartoonists create 24-page comics in 24 hours, *FUSE*-goers will be guided by some of Vancouver's finest local artists to assemble collaborative publication.

Aritzia, a sponsor partner of **FUSE**, will bring out local DJ heavyweights to perform on Robson Square Plaza and in the *FUSE* Lounge, with Vancouver's biggest names spinning a blend of dubstep, hip hop, electro and funk. On the Plaza, **Max Ullis** will kick off the night, pushing out his digital dancehall sounds from 7 to 9pm. At 10:15pm, one of the city's most in-demand DJs, **Rico Uno**, takes over, playing everything from reggae and disco to electro and funk. Inside the *FUSE* Lounge, hosted by **Aritzia**, Vancouver mainstay, **DANA D** will rule the turntables at midnight, with **RC LAIR** hitting the decks at 2am and pushing on through until the early morning light.

-30-

Media contact

Andrew Riley, Public Relations Manager, 604-662-4722,
ariley@vanartgallery.bc.ca

Dana Sullivan, Director of Marketing and Communications, 604-662-4721
dsullivan@vanartgallery.bc.ca

Sponsored by: 

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a not-for-profit organization supported by: its members; individual donors; corporate funders; foundations; 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 and the Department of Canadian Heritage. We thank everyone for their continuing generosity.