Vancouver Artgallery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vancouver Art Gallery Salutes Those About to Rock at Next FUSE

VANCOUVER, BC – The **Vancouver Art Gallery** will reverberate with the sounds of some of the city's most artful indie bands at **FUSE** on **Friday, March 12** from **6pm to midnight**. FUSE-ers will rock to live music, while taking in the rest of the urban adventure that includes a chance to hang out in a fort made of sweaters, an offbeat pen pal program, a Yaletown-inspired dance number and an iPod-friendly audio guide tour played for laughs. With drinks and a DJ in the FUSE Lounge, it's no wonder that FUSE has become Vancouver's favourite mash-up of art, music, performance, fashion and fun.

Garage rock? The Gallery's got it. Beginning at 9pm, live lo-fi pop and punk will emanate from the Emily Carr corner of the exhibition *Vision of British Columbia: A Landscape Manual*. This mini-festival of indie scene stalwarts includes **NO KIDS**, **Kick Evrything**, and **Hello, Blue Roses**, featuring Dan Bejar, formerly of the New Pornographers. Earlier in the evening, master improvisers **ion Zoo** will take inspiration from Vancouver artist Brian Jungen's massive sculpture *Cetology*, a twenty five-foot whale skeleton constructed from plastic patio furniture suspended from the Gallery's ceiling, to create a world of whale music.

Remember the forts you use to make on lazy rainy afternoons out of a couple of chairs and an afghan or two? Add a blanket made of more than 100 knitted sweaters, dozens of pieces of Gallery furniture, and you've got **Natalie Purschwitz**'s *Sweater Fort*. Visitors will be invited to chill out in this woolly wonderland along with the artist, who will be giving out free handmade gifts beginning at 8pm.

FUSE is well reputed as a great place to meet new people. Now the Gallery is giving FUSE-ers a whole new way to communicate by providing the opportunity to write anonymous sweet nothings to each other. FUSE-goers will be given unaddressed postcards on which they can profess whatever lies in their heart to a mystery recipient. At a separate location, visitors will write their addresses on labels. The Gallery will randomly stick the labels on the postcards, slap on some stamps, stick them in the mail and presto – let the disjointed communication begin!

In the Gallery's historic rotunda, Vancouver choreographer **Jojo Zolina** and his crack team of dancers will explore what it means to be alone while surrounded by people. Taking inspiration from the glass towers that populate Yaletown, the group's performance, *Passionate Rejection*, reflects on the strange coexistence of high-rise neighbours who witness each other's domestic lives, but never get the chance speak.

Uber-funny comedian **Riel Hahn** returns to FUSE to provide another humourous, art world-skewering exhibition tour. This time, Hahn takes on *Visceral Bodies*. Ironically, the comedian's body won't be present to lead the tour of this exhibition of contemporary art focused on the human form. Instead, she is creating an audio guide for MP3 players that can be downloaded from the Gallery's web and Facebook sites on March 12.

Held three times annually, the Vancouver Art Gallery's FUSE puts the city's leading visual arts destination in an entirely new light—at night. FUSE tickets are $19.50 for adults. Members of the Vancouver Art Gallery receive free admission.

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*Please see the attached PDF for a formatted version of the media release

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