

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## FUSE at the Vancouver Art Gallery May 29<sup>th</sup> Come for the Art, Stay for the (Hair) Do!

**Gallery will stay open until 2AM**

**VANCOUVER, BC – FUSE**, Vancouver’s coolest art happening, returns to the **Vancouver Art Gallery** this Friday, providing a sneak preview of the Gallery’s three newest exhibitions – **Andreas Gursky: Werke/Works 80-08**, **Anthony Hernandez** and **Stan Douglas Klatsassin** – all officially opening to the public **May 30<sup>th</sup>**. Mingled with the art is a non-stop line up of music, dance, performance and interactive art fun, including on-site stylists doing classic period hairdos, cello performances by a musician who has backed Kanye West, a karaoke lounge for the decidedly ironic, on-demand dance performances where audience members call the shots, and improv comedy by one of Vancouver’s funniest comedians. Add one of the city’s hottest DJs spinning records in the FUSE lounge, and the Gallery will once again host the most eclectic night of artful adventure Vancouver has to offer.

Already known as a night for the fashion forward, *FUSE* is taking things one step further and providing on-site styling in the **Ought Salon**. Inspired by Reece Terris’s *Ought Apartment*, a 60-foot “apartment tower” in the Gallery’s rotunda dedicated to home décor between 1950 and 2000, stylists from **Gloss Salon** will be providing decade-specific hair makeovers. FUSE-goers can try anything from beehives and page-boys to metal hair and mullets, giving them the chance to do the do with a new do!

Classically trained Canadian cellist Cris Derksen will perform entrancing melodies and baselines that have captured the attention of audiences around the world. Playing in Gallery spaces throughout the night, the young musician will use looping techniques and effects pedals to create a multi-dimensional auditory experience uncharted for most classical players. A seasoned performer, the young cellist toured internationally with renowned Inuit throat singer Tanya Tagaq and has backed the likes of hip-hop superstar Kanye West.

Vancouver comedy collective **Weekend Leisure** will host a Karaoke Lounge with ironic flare. Inspired by the 1990s laserdisc era of karaoke videos, Erich Gerl, Curtis Grahauer, Christy Nyiri and Pietro Sammarco will present their tongue-in-cheek karaoke videos that have become a staple at Vancouver’s hipster den Pat’s Pub. FUSE-goers will be able to sing along with all of their favourites, from Phil Collins to Abba, with the added bonus of not suffering through the visual wallpaper of golden sunsets and gazing lovers that populate traditional karaoke videos.

Vancouver dance troupe **the response**. will present its unique audience directed performance, **MENU** throughout the Gallery. Choreographed and directed by renowned Vancouver dancer Amber Funk Barton, the group uses set choreography and scored improvisations as a foundation for a performance that allows audience members to decide everything from music to movement. Also dancing at FUSE will be the performance collective **The House of La Douche**, which combines waack, vogue, hip hop, jazz, contemporary, house, ballet, lindy, swing, salsa and circus to create theatrical dance pieces with creative ferocity.

Vancouver improv comedian **Riel Hahn** will provide “tours” of the Gallery’s current exhibitions throughout the night. As a fake Gallery tour guide, the renowned improviser will call upon the comedic skills that won her second place in Vancouver’s Funniest New Female Comic competition at the 2008 Vancouver International Comedy Festival.

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. Tickets to the May 29<sup>th</sup> *FUSE* are \$20.50 for adults. Members of the Vancouver Art Gallery receive free admission.

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