

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 27, 2010**

## **Next *Family FUSE Weekend* Gives Children the Chance to Envision a New Home for the Vancouver Art Gallery**

**VANCOUVER, BC – *Family FUSE Weekend***, the **Vancouver Art Gallery's** mega art event for kids and their parents, is back on **May 29th and 30th**, offering an action-packed line-up of 13 performances and interactive activities specially designed to engage and entertain families. The fourth in this three-times-yearly series, May's instalment of the event investigates "Before Now" using artists, musicians, filmmakers and performers to create a program that explores the idea of "the past." Families will also look to the future, taking part in a weekend-long collaborative drawing project envisioning what a new Vancouver Art Gallery will look like. Stretching out to every corner of the building, *Family FUSE Weekend* offers children and their parents a whole new way of exploring art.

"As the Vancouver Art Gallery plans for the future, families are at the forefront," said **Kathleen Bartels**, director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. "This is why the Gallery dramatically increased our family programming over the past two years to offer activities in gallery spaces every weekend, in addition to our large-scale *Family FUSE Weekend* series. When considering the facility program for a new Vancouver Art Gallery, families will again be a major priority. A new building will allow us to create spaces tailor-made for young people, giving us the tools we need to continue growing our program for some of our most important audiences – children, families and young adults."

Taking its inspiration from *FUSE* – the Gallery's extremely popular late-night event of art, music and performance for young adults – *Family FUSE Weekend* creates immersive and active art experiences for children and their parents. Featuring an electro-pop band comprised of musicians with birthdates ranging from 1967 to 2002, a cumulative film project where kids are the directors, the construction of a large-scale collaborative model of a new downtown Vancouver, and a comic drawing workshop led by a cartoonist whose strips are featured in newspapers across Europe, May's *Family FUSE Weekend* is a creative art mash-up that kids will leave thinking, "Art rocks!"

"In keeping with our Foundation's mandate to support the mentorship of young people, we are honoured to support the *Family Fuse Weekend*, which provides young people with unparalleled art experiences," says Carolyn Torhjem, executive director of The Keg Spirit Foundation.

Programming for the upcoming event responds to the Gallery's recently opened exhibitions, *Fiona Tan: Rise and Fall*, which presents eloquent large-scale video installations addressing the passage of time, *Kerry James Marshall*, which presents massive and vibrant paintings by the renowned artist, who is celebrated for his work focused on the African American experience, and *Bearing Witness: Works from the Collection*, which presents a selection of works from the Gallery's collection that reflect a number of social and political concerns, from the effects of war to industrial exploitation.

"BMO Financial Group is delighted to step forward as the corporate sponsor of the Family FUSE Weekend as this special event aligns so well with our past and ongoing support of the Vancouver Art Gallery's vibrant place within the visual arts community," said **Rob Serraglio**, senior vice president, BC& Yukon, BMO Bank of Montreal.

**The following is a complete schedule of events for the Family FUSE Weekend:**

**Build the Future: A Wish Tree for a New Gallery**

**Lobby – 10.00am to 5pm**

Parents and their children will be invited to help imagine a new Vancouver Art Gallery, in a collaborative drawing project that will grow throughout the weekend.

**Music from the Past**

**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Rotunda – 2pm, 3pm and 4pm**

Duplex!, an ensemble of orchestral pop music maestros made up of musicians with birth dates ranging from 1967 to 2002, will take families on a trip to the past playing unique sets of old time favourites exploring indie music roots and folk history.

**Sketch Stations**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – 10am to 5pm**

Sketch stations will be available for hands-on art experiences in the Gallery on both the second and third floors. Leaders will be on hand with supplies and to help children and their parents create their own works of art.

**Sing the Sounds of History**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Galleries – 12:20, 1:30 and 2:30pm**

Vocalist Vanessa Richards and her band Radiant Sound will be getting folksy with families, playing folk tunes from the 1960s to the present.

**Art Agents**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Galleries – 10.30am to 4.30pm**

Art Agents, the Gallery's team of bold, whimsical, funny and informed liaisons for families, will introduce visitors to the work of artist Kerry James Marshall and the exhibition *Bearing Witness: Works from the Collection*.

**Hot Spots**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Galleries – 12, 1, 2 and 3pm**

Gallery guides will help families explore the work of Kerry James Marshall and the exhibition *Bearing Witness: Works from the Collection* in Hot Spot talks, which spotlight a specific artworks or artists.

**Inside the Walls, Outside the Gallery**

**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Galleries – 10am to 5pm**

Erin Boniferro, founder of the innovated Collage Collage Art School and Shop, which takes a contemporary approach to art education for kids, will present an interactive installation that “reveals the history behind the walls.”

**Before Now Films**

**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Galleries – 10am to 5pm**

Through elegant watercolours, strange surreal worlds and montage imagery, this series of short animated films explores canonical tales and figures from history, from the *Tale of Bonaparte* to the story of *The Very Very Old Man*.

**Scratch Animation Films: Draw Your History**

**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Galleries – 10am to 4:30pm**

Children and parents will contribute to a unique film installation by media artist Alex MacKenzie, drawing their own personal histories and witnessing them projected in the Gallery as part of an ongoing cumulative film project.

**The Making Place****4<sup>th</sup> Floor Galleries – 10am to 4pm**

The Making Place, one of the Gallery's popular Weekly Family Programs, will be open for business for families to explore new ways of producing creative objects.

**Back to the Future****The Workshop – 10:30am to 4:30pm**

Using a large-scale city model, architect and educator Katie Henderson will invite visitors to collaborate and re-imagine a new downtown for Vancouver.

**A Graphic Journey Workshop****Courtroom 302 – 12 and 2:30pm**

Renowned cartoonist, Jesse van Muijlwijk will lead families in a hands-on storytelling and drawing workshop, allowing parents and their children to bring their own comics to life.

**Family Fuse Chill Out Lounge and Reading Room****Room 100 – 10am to 4:30pm**

When parents and their children need a break they can relax, have a snack and enjoy a little quiet time in the Gallery's kid-friendly chill-out lounge complete with cache of books on hand.

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**Corporate Sponsor:****Foundation Support:**

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

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