

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vancouver Art Gallery to Survey What's Happening **NOW** in British Columbia Art

**Sprawling exhibition showcases the work of more than 30 of the province's
most compelling artists**

February 5 @ 9AM – Media are invited to preview the exhibition and to meet the artists

VANCOUVER, BC – After more than 120 studio visits, the **Vancouver Art Gallery** has assembled an exhibition of some of the most compelling new work being produced in the province. ***How Soon Is Now: Contemporary Art from Here***, on view from **February 7 to May 3, 2009**, brings together 34 British Columbia artists working in sculpture, painting, video, audio, architectural interventions, site-specific projects, performances and events. The exhibition puts a finger on the pulse of the province's contemporary art world to provide a fresh snapshot of its most recent developments.

"It is exciting for the Gallery to look out into British Columbia's thriving artistic communities and bring together this massive celebration of the here and now," said **Vancouver Art Gallery director, Kathleen Bartels**. "There is a tremendous level of excitement and anticipation in the Gallery for this exhibition. Almost all of the work being presented has never been exhibited in Vancouver and much of it is being created specifically for this show. We are pleased to be the catalyst for what promises to be another important moment for the visual arts in our province."

Taking a cue from a song by English rock band The Smiths, the exhibition title evokes a central characteristic of the work being exhibited – a sense of immediacy that speaks to the present moment. Bringing together divergent artistic practices, the exhibition focuses on artworks that privilege events over objects, process over product and interaction over contemplation. Organized according to connections between works rather than a single theme, ***How Soon Is Now*** identifies a number of recurring motifs and subjects, including the recording studio, spaces of social interaction, architecture, the unconscious, literature, and a sense of experimentation and risk.

The exhibition offers an opportunity to experience British Columbia's surprising range of artistic approaches. Father and son team **Jim, Cedric and Nathan Bomford** will build an elaborate two-story architectural installation using wood salvaged from their relatives' yards on Vancouver and Bowen Islands. **Jackson 2bears** will present a hip-hop-based video performance challenging Native stereotypes and racism. **Samuel Roy-Bois** will construct a soundproof recording booth where visitors can jam on instruments, with their music piped into the Gallery's lobby. **Holly Ward** will create a mobile sculptural consisting of a pile of



Kristi Malakoff
Target, 2005
crepe paper party streamers, high density foam
Photo: courtesy of the artist

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soil that is moved by volunteers. **Mark Soo** will create an audio-based work that approximates the sound of a neighbour's music being heard through the wall of an apartment. **Kristi Malakoff** will create a massive star on the floor of the Gallery's lobby with tape used by stage actors to block scenes. **Abbas Akhavan** will install speakers in the trees at the Gallery's entrance that will greet visitors with the sound of European Starlings. **Antonia Hirsch** will create a wall installation using convex surveillance mirrors to spell out the words "the invisible hand" in Braille. **Aaron Carpenter** will create a flag for the Gallery's Georgia Plaza flagpole that has not flown a flag in years. **Christian Kliegel** will create a number of elevator doors that lead nowhere. **Kevin Schmidt** will present a screening/performance on a boat floating down the Fraser River. These are just a sampling of the innovative, and often humorous and interactive works that will be on display.

"I am absolutely thrilled to be showing my work as a part of **How Soon Is Now**. It's a real honour to be recognized as part of the stellar group selected for the show," said Nelson based artist **Kristi Malakoff**. "British Columbia's art scene is rock solid and has an amazing international reputation for its energy and diversity. This exhibition will provide a wonderful opportunity to experience the exciting contemporary art being produced in the region right now."

Spilling beyond the spatial constraints of a traditional exhibition, **How Soon is Now** places artworks inside and outside of gallery spaces, on ceilings and floors, in alcoves, on the Gallery grounds, at the entrance, in the windows, in the lobby and behind walls. Gallery spaces will be platforms for a range of transformative, social, sensory, introspective and political experiences. The exhibition invites viewers to rethink their idea of the Gallery through a number of site specific works, as well as performances and events that emphasize viewer interaction.

Artists in the exhibition include: **Jackson 2bears, Abbas Akhavan, Sonny Assu, Noah Becker, Raymond Boisjoly, Cedric, Nathan and Jim Bomford, Aaron Carpenter, Hadley+Maxwell, Antonia Hirsch, Allison Hrabluik, Instant Coffee, Christian Kliegel, Germaine Koh, Laiwan, Kristi Malakoff, Kyla Mallett, Luanne Martineau, Damian Moppett, The Music Appreciation Society, Lucy Pullen, Marina Roy, Samuel Roy-Bois, Carol Sawyer, Kevin Schmidt, Kathy Slade, Ken Singer, Mark Soo, Erica Stocking, Dan Starling, Brendan Tang, Kara Uzelman, Holly Ward, Rhonda Wepler and Trevor Mahovsky, and Paul Wong.**

How Soon Is Now is organized by the **Vancouver Art Gallery** and curated by **Kathleen Ritter**, assistant curator. This exhibition is presented with **Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad**. Supported by the **British Columbia Arts Council** and the **Province of British Columbia**.