

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 6, 2008

Thirty-five foot Inflatable Sculpture to be Installed on the Vancouver Art Gallery's Georgia Street Façade



Jeff Ladouceur, *Untitled* [preliminary drawing], 2008
pencil, acrylic on printed paper, 27.94 × 21.59 cm

VANCOUVER, BC — Canadian artist **Jeff Ladouceur**'s massive inflatable sculpture ***Floater*** will span the columns of the **Vancouver Art Gallery**'s Georgia Street façade. Created to coincide with the current exhibition ***KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Comic + Video Games + Art***, the large-scale installation of a cartoon-like body intertwined in the Gallery's pillars, draws on the artist's celebrated work as an illustrator. Constructed of inflatable polyester cloth, the sculpture will be installed on **Friday, June 6** and will be on display until the closing of ***KRAZY!*** on **September 7, 2008**.

Like much of Ladouceur's drawings, *Floater* alludes to the wandering hobo anti-hero of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century comics, such as the buffoonish "rogue" Ally Sloper, who bumbled his way through British funny papers and the tin can-lidded Happy Hooligan, who was put through a punishing regime of pratfalls every week in the early 1900s. The sculpture is an extension of the drawn figures in the artist's book *Schmo* published in 2004, which stretch and contort in a manner akin to Jack Cole's post-World War II comic-book hero Plastic Man or Olive Oyl in Max Fleischer's animated *Popeye* shorts of the 1930s. Echoing these characters, *Floater*'s hose-like appendages coil into the surrounding architecture of the gallery façade, creating comedic effects through its figurative abstraction.

Jeff Ladouceur is the seventh artist presented in ***NEXT: a series of artist projects from the Pacific Rim***. The series highlights work previously unseen in Vancouver and seeks to engage the diverse practices of Pacific Rim artists. The Vancouver Art Gallery commissioned Ladouceur to create *Floater*. The project is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by guest curator Jordan Strom.

Born in Nanaimo, Canada, in 1975, Jeff Ladouceur currently divides his time between Brooklyn, New York and Vancouver, British Columbia. His work has been included in numerous group exhibitions, including *In Full Cry*, New Image Art, Los Angeles (2007), *Tinyvices*, Colette, Paris (2007) and *On-Line: Contemporary Drawing*, Sonoma State University Art Gallery, California (2006). He has had solo exhibitions in Paris, New York, Toronto, Los Angeles, Montréal and Brussels. His work has been featured in *The Believer*, *Kramer's Ergot*, *Harper's*, *Border Crossings* and *The Walrus*. L'Oie de

Cravan press has published Ladouceur's books *Schmo* (2004) and *Ebola* (2002); a new title is scheduled for release by the same press in 2008.

-30-

Media contact:

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

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

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.