

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Major Vancouver Art Gallery Exhibition Celebrates the Career of Ken Lum
February 12 – September 25, 2011

VANCOUVER, BC – The Vancouver Art Gallery will present the first large-scale solo survey of the work of internationally renowned Vancouver artist Ken Lum. Opening February 12th, *Ken Lum* features more than 50 works spanning Lum's 30-year career, including a number of works not previously exhibited in North America: *Mirror Maze with 12 Signs of Depression*; *House of Realization*; and his recent *Rorschach Shopkeeper Signs*.

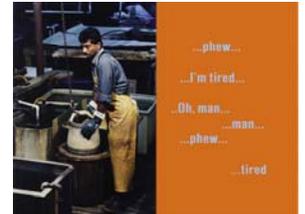
Over the past three decades, Lum has developed a complex body of work which includes sculpture, painting, photography and other art forms. This exhibition is a comprehensive exploration of that art, from his early performance work *Entertainment for Surrey*, to his acclaimed Portrait-Repeated Text series, to his more recent mirror-based installations.

"We're very honoured to present this comprehensive exhibition of Ken Lum's work," said Vancouver Art Gallery director Kathleen Bartels, "Ken is, deservedly, one of Canada's most celebrated artists and this is an outstanding opportunity to see the vast and complex corpus of his work ever brought together in one exhibition."

Noted for its critical relevance, ironic humour and emphasis on the commonplace, Lum's art investigates questions of identity and public/private space. His upbringing in East Vancouver, a place of overlapping cultural values, forms the basis for much of his work. Subverting the visual tropes of mass media – such as signs, billboards and logos – Lum reveals the tensions and contradictions that characterize life in an increasingly globalized world.

Lum's work has been exhibited throughout North America, Europe and Asia, and presented in important international forums such as Documenta and the Carnegie International, as well as in Biennales in Shanghai, Gwangju, Liverpool, Istanbul, Sao Paolo and Venice.

Ken Lum is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Grant Arnold, Audain Curator of British Columbia Art. The exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue, published in partnership with Douglas & McIntyre.



Ken Lum, *Phew, I'm Tired*, 1994. Chromogenic print, aluminum, enamel. Sintra Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Acquisition Fund. Photo: Tomas Svab, Vancouver Art Gallery.

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A media preview, including a tour with the artist and curator, will be held on Thursday, Feb. 10th, at 9h00 am at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

The exhibition is supported by: Presenting Sponsor, Polygon Homes Ltd.; the Province of British Columbia; Arts Partners in Creative Development; and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional support is generously provided by Rick Erickson and Donna Partridge.



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Photographs for publication are available on request.

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. We thank everyone for their continuing generosity.