

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Space Between Photography and Film is Explored in Vancouver Art Gallery Exhibition

VANCOUVER, BC – When visitors experience the **Vancouver Art Gallery**'s upcoming exhibition of work by **Owen Kydd**, they may find themselves asking, "Wait a second, did that move?" This is because the Vancouver artist inventively explores the space between photography and film, producing images that often seem stationary, but with time reveal subtle motion. Comprised of three video installations, each presenting 30 vignettes screened on thin, wall-mounted monitors, the exhibition **NEXT: Owen Kydd – Mission/Night/Joshua**, will be on view from **October 3, 2009 to January 3, 2010**.

"The Gallery's **NEXT: a series of artist projects from the Pacific Rim** showcases the newest and most exciting work by artists in this artistically diverse region," said **Kathleen Bartels, director of the Vancouver Art Gallery**. "As one of the foremost visual arts institutions on the Pacific Rim, we are committed to presenting the region's most innovative artists, such as Owen Kydd, whose work pushes the boundaries of traditional artistic practice."

Kydd's exhibition at the Gallery is made up of three video installations – *Mission*, *Night* and *Joshua* – each of which is composed of three rectangular monitors mounted on the Gallery wall in cross formation. All of the monitors present approximately six minutes of video made up of numerous vignettes. The scenes, shot with a stationary video camera in one take, fade in and out from black and are presented in continuously renewed combinations.

On first glance, there is often no apparent movement in many of Kydd's video images. They appear self-contained and discrete, allowing the viewer's attention to be drawn to details within the frame – the texture of a folded napkin, the not-quite-legible writing on a blackboard, or the stubble on the back of a freshly barbered head. But, this sense of stillness is disrupted as movement is introduced – a car drives across the landscape, lights flicker or a human figure passes by a previously empty window. The eye starts to search for motion in what was thought to be a still photograph and begins to contend with the hybrid nature of Kydd's imagery.

"Owen Kydd's work is extremely successful at creating tension between the experiences of viewing photography and film," said **Grant Arnold, Audain Curator of British Columbia Art**. "By confounding the viewer's expectations about what they are seeing, the artist asks us to consider how image-making media represent reality."

Mission, *Night* and *Joshua* focus on the geographic periphery of Vancouver and Los Angeles. In this suburban terrain, Kydd videos strip malls, gas stations, drag-strips, cineplexes, fast food outlets and other locations, drawing attention to a process of large-scale homogenization at work. Documenting lived experiences in these places, Kydd presents a collection of descriptive portraits, including a

luminous still-life of a modest place setting carefully arranged for a meal in *Mission*, a richly detailed scene of a blinking parrot in *Night*, and a boy pleading with his mother for a treat outside a rustic diner in *Joshua*. Seen together, Kydd's vignettes of life and landscape evocatively describe intimate details of the worlds they portray.

"The *NEXT* series of exhibitions is consistent with the Vancouver Art Gallery's vision to recognize and celebrate artistic talent from the Pacific Rim," said **Raymond Chun, Senior Vice President, TD Canada Trust Pacific Region**. "TD is proud to support this series of projects by emerging artists showcased in a world-class, dynamic Gallery for the third consecutive year."

Born in Calgary, Alberta in 1975, Owen Kydd moved to Vancouver in 1991 where he graduated from Simon Fraser University with a joint degree in film and fine art in 1999. Over the past decade the artist has presented his work in numerous group exhibitions, including 2009's *Sentimental Journey* at the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver. *NEXT: Owen Kydd – Mission/Night/Joshua*, is the artist's first solo presentation at a major public museum. The exhibition is presented as a part of *NEXT: a series of artist projects from the Pacific Rim* and is curated by Grant Arnold, the Vancouver Art Gallery's Audain Curator of British Columbia Art.

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Presenting Sponsor:  **Bank Financial Group**

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

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