

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Acclaimed international artist returns home

Rodney Graham: A Little Thought

February 5 to May 8, 2005



Image: **Rodney Graham**, *Loudhailer*, 2003, double 35mm film projection, Courtesy of the artist

Vancouver, BC – The Vancouver Art Gallery is pleased to present the exhibition, *Rodney Graham: A Little Thought*, opening February 5, 2005. This is the first major North American tour of Graham's work and this mid-career retrospective includes film, video, photography, sculpture and music by the internationally celebrated Vancouver-based artist. For nearly three decades as an artist, musician and writer, Rodney Graham has engaged audiences through innovative and exciting approaches to landscape, literature and sound.

Focusing on Graham's video and film work from the projection events of the late 1970s to recent costume dramas, *Rodney Graham: A Little Thought* features 24 works, including seven major audio-visual installations and a new film work, many of which have not previously been seen in Vancouver. In addition to film and video, the exhibition includes photographs, sculpture and audio recordings that demonstrate Graham's masterful use of genres - from minimalism to film noir from James Bond to Charlie Chaplin and from Richard Wagner to Pink Floyd.

"Rodney Graham is a remarkable artist whose work encourages us to cross borders of all kinds," said Kathleen Bartels, Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. "His intelligence, curiosity and humour shine through every aspect of this exhibition and we are delighted to have the opportunity to showcase Graham's work in his hometown."

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Born in Abbotsford in 1949, Rodney Graham began his artistic career at a time when the work of legendary American artists Dan Graham and Robert Smithson greatly influenced the artistic community in Vancouver. Rodney Graham is often identified with the “Vancouver School” of photography but he has taken a singular and often arcane path combining whimsical references to pop culture with a rigorous multidisciplinary breadth. Graham has been exhibited widely throughout Canada and Europe. In Vancouver his works have been included in several shows, including a solo exhibition in 1987 and a sculpture commissioned for the campus of the University of British Columbia, *Millennial Time Machine*, a 19th century, horse drawn landau, whose carriage has been converted into a camera obscura, in June 2003. Graham has received global acclaim and in Europe his works have been included in international art events such as Documenta IX and the 1997 Venice Biennale. A major survey of his work was presented in London in 2002 which then travelled to Düsseldorf and Marseilles.

“Rodney Graham is a rare artist whose new work is always eagerly anticipated and is among the most compelling art being made today,” said Grant Arnold, Curator, Vancouver Art Gallery. An example of Graham’s wit and humor is illustrated in his photo diptych, *Fishing on a Jetty* (2000), in which he assumes the role of Cary Grant as he plays an ex-thief pretending to be blind in Alfred Hitchcock’s *To Catch A Thief*, with the Vancouver skyline looming in the background.

This exhibition has been organized collaboratively by three institutions, Vancouver Art Gallery, Art Gallery of Ontario and The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. The exhibition debuted at the Art Gallery of Ontario in March 2004, travelled to The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles in the summer of 2004 and now arrives with much anticipation in Vancouver. The tour will continue after the hometown debut and travel to its final stop at the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania in the fall of 2005.

In conjunction with this exhibition co-curator Jessica Bradley, Art Gallery of Ontario, will elaborate on Rodney Graham’s works at 2pm, Sunday February 6 and Grant Arnold, Curator, Vancouver Art Gallery, will give a public tour of the exhibition at 2pm on Sunday March 6. Both tours are free with admission.

The public will have an opportunity to hear from the artist first hand as part of the Vancouver Art Gallery’s International Lecture series at 7pm, Friday, March 4 at the Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design. Rodney Graham will discuss his approaches to, and use of, photography, music, literature and film. Admission is \$15 at the door or \$10 for Members, Students and Seniors.

Audiences can spend an evening with The Rodney Graham Band and hear his music live at a The Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th St, with commentary by Peter Culley, at 8pm on February 3. Admission is free, but arrive early as seating is limited.

In addition, Pacific Cinématèque will present screenings of Graham's 1984 film *Two Generators* at 6pm on February 10, 17, 24 and March 3, admission is free.

A fully illustrated 200-page book produced by Vancouver Art Gallery, Art Gallery of Ontario, and The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, and distributed by Distributed Art Publishers, New York, also accompanies the exhibition.

All media are welcome to attend the opening celebration at 7pm on Friday, February 4, 2005.

Rodney Graham: A Little Thought closes on Monday May 8, 2005.

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When: February 5 to May 8, 2005

Where: Vancouver Art Gallery
750 Hornby Street
Vancouver BC V6Z 2H7
www.vanartgallery.bc.ca

Hours: Closed Mondays
Tuesday to Sunday & Holidays 10am to 5.30pm
Open Thursdays 10am to 9pm

Admission: Adults \$15.00, Seniors \$11.00, Students \$10.00, Children (12 & under) Free
Family \$40 (2 adults, 2 children, 13 years +), Thursday evening suggested donation \$5.00

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Images: Digital images for professional media use only are available at the Vancouver Art Gallery's FTP site <ftp://ftp.vanartgallery.bc.ca>. Contact 604 662 4722 for password access.

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