

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Vancouver Art Gallery Launches Summer 2018 Exhibition: *Cabin Fever*

History of the cabin as an architectural form and cultural construct explored through installations, models, video, photography and more



Media are invited to an **exhibition preview** of *Cabin Fever*
9:00 am on Thursday, June 7, 2018, at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Media attending can RSVP directly to Hanah Van Borek (hvanborek@vanartgallery.bc.ca)

May 15, 2018, Vancouver, BC – The Vancouver Art Gallery is pleased to present *Cabin Fever*, a new exhibition tracing the history of the North American cabin as an architectural form and a cultural construct, on view June 9 to September 30, 2018. Assembling renderings, artworks and commercial products as well as architectural models, plans and full-scale interventions, *Cabin Fever* surveys this iconic yet humble lodging's utility, adulation and prevalence in Canada and the US.

From rustic sanctuary of the kind Henry David Thoreau wrote about in his book *Walden* (1854), to minimalist homestead popularized by coffee table books *Rock the Shack* and *Hide and Seek*, and websites such as *Cabin Porn*, the cabin and its connotations have evolved over centuries. *Cabin Fever* explores this evolution through three key themes: “Shelter”, which introduces the cabin as a practical solution to patterns of westward expansion and emergency relief; “Utopia”, which examines the cabin as the ideal locale to practice introspection or to escape the conventions of society; and “Porn”, which positions the cabin as an idea fully integrated into popular culture.

Spanning the second floor of the Gallery, *Cabin Fever* features architectural models, drawings and plans, photography, historical documents, literature, video and ephemera. As the centerpiece of this exhibition, a collection of seventeen architectural models installed in chronological order showcase the cultural influences that have informed cabin design in North America since the seventeenth century. In addition, two full-scale installations by American artist and filmmaker James Benning and a full-size cabin by Canadian artist Liz Magor will be mounted in the Gallery space.

“*Cabin Fever* is conceived as part of the Gallery’s ongoing commitment to the presentation of visual culture in its myriad forms,” says Kathleen S. Bartels, Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. “A follow up to the Gallery exhibition *Grand Hotel: Redesigning Modern Life* (2013), which looked at the cultural impact of the hotel, *Cabin Fever* is the first-ever exhibition investigating the cabin’s architectural typology and influence on contemporary culture. The idea for this exhibition originated with independent curator and writer Jennifer M. Volland, who we are thrilled to work with again. The Gallery hopes to capture the imagination of visitors as they become reacquainted with the cabin and its storied history.”

Cabin Fever will include works by Vikky Alexander, Anshen & Allen, Ant Farm, Steve Baer, James Benning, BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group), Marcel Breuer, Henrik Bull, John Campbell, Camp Brand Goods, College of Architecture, Texas Tech University, Colorado Building Workshop, University of Colorado Denver, Walker Evans, Filson, R. Buckminster Fuller, Andrew Geller, Mattie Gunterman, Herschel Supply Co., Bo Helliwell & Michael McNamara, Lloyd House, Ken Isaacs, A.Y. Jackson, Richard Johnson, Olson Kundig, Dorothea Lange, John Lautner, MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects, Jock Macdonald, Liz Magor, PARTISANS, Patkau Architects, Pendleton, George Rockrise, Arthur Rothstein, Lee Russell, Eero Saarinen, Rudolph Schindler, Scott & Scott Architects, Jack Shadbolt, Sitka, Henry David Thoreau, UUfie, John Vachon, Frederick Varley, Frank Lloyd Wright, and John Lloyd Wright.

This exhibition is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Jennifer M. Volland, Guest Curator, Bruce Grenville, Senior Curator and Stephanie Rebick, Associate Curator.

Image:

MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects Limited, Cliff House, Tomlee Head, NS, 2010
Photo: Greg Richardson, Courtesy MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects Limited

**Major support for this exhibition generously provided by:
Naudia and Mark Maché**

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***Also opening in June at the Vancouver Art Gallery:**

David Milne: Modern Painting (June 16 – September 9, 2018)

Site Unseen (June 16 – September 9, 2018)

IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

MEDIA CONTACT

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About the Vancouver Art Gallery

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America’s most respected and innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery’s ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs, and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is paid to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to the arts of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art that the Gallery founded in 2014. The Gallery’s programs also explore the impacts of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture. www.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 the Canada Council for the Arts.