

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Vancouver Art Gallery launches its first Google Art Project with Douglas Coupland

Featuring an extensive body of works produced over 14 years by the artist

January 28, 2015, Vancouver, BC – The Vancouver Art Gallery's critically acclaimed and enormously popular exhibition *Douglas Coupland: everywhere is anywhere is anything is everything* is now available for the first time to audience from around the world through Google Art Project ([link](#)). Visitors can browse 74 artworks in high-resolution and experience the exhibition in Google Street View. Debuted at the Vancouver Art Gallery in the summer of 2014, this exhibition assesses the artwork of Douglas Coupland, one of today's most significant and thought-provoking visual artists and authors. This exhibition will soon open to much anticipation in Toronto where it is jointly presented at two institutions: the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art (Jan. 31 – Apr. 19, 2015) and the Royal Ontario Museum (Jan. 31 to Apr. 26, 2015).

Organized and circulated by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Daina Augaitis, the Gallery's Chief Curator/Associate Director, *Douglas Coupland: everywhere is anywhere is anything is everything* is the first major exhibition to survey the past 14 years of this Vancouver-based artist's prolific creative output. Featuring over 100 works across a range of media, including installation, painting, photography, prints and quilts, this exhibition explores concepts of cultural identity, technology's ubiquity and contemporary life that are central to Coupland's work as a cultural critic. First displayed at the Vancouver Art Gallery from May 31 to September 1, 2014, this exhibition was well-received by nearly 80,000 visitors. Praised as "exceptional" by Forbes and "crackles with creativity, invention and insight" by The Vancouver Sun, this exhibition has impressed visitors and critics alike.

"This is a ground-breaking project for the Vancouver Art Gallery. We are excited to work with Google to expand our audience by permanently featuring *Douglas Coupland: everywhere is anywhere is anything is everything* online," said Kathleen S. Bartels, the Vancouver Art Gallery's Director. "We hope to engage visitors from around the globe to consider what defines contemporary culture through the artworks of Douglas Coupland."

"Douglas Coupland is one of the first living Canadian artists to be featured on Google Art Project. It is a compelling and relevant way to showcase Coupland's art through Google's powerful platform, as the artist frequently addresses the impact of technology in present-day society in his practice," said Daina Augaitis, Chief Curator/Associate Director at the Vancouver Art Gallery. "We are delighted to team up with Google to bring the content of this exhibition online, in time to celebrate the joint opening of this touring exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art and the Royal Ontario Museum."

"We're thrilled to work with the Vancouver Art Gallery to make this unique and important Canadian exhibition available online and accessible to all," said Amit Sood, Director of the Google Cultural Institute. "Douglas Coupland's works challenge us to look at technology, language, information and culture in new ways. Having personally visited the exhibition, I am glad that many others will be able to virtually access the experience as well."

**Project link:** <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/collection/vancouver-art-gallery>

### About the Vancouver Art Gallery

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of the most respected and innovative visual arts institutions in Canada and is committed to strengthening ties between artists and diverse communities throughout the city, province and beyond. As the largest public art museum in Western Canada, the Gallery features the work of ground-breaking contemporary artists from around the world and presents historical art of international significance, is committed to exploring the

art of Asia, and provides a global platform for British Columbia's dynamic artistic community, including the work of First Nations artists. Its growing collections represent the most comprehensive resource for art in British Columbia and is the principal repository for visual art produced in the region, as well as related works by other notable Canadian and international artists. The Gallery also places an emphasis on advancing scholarship through major publications and presents a multitude of public programs that offer new ways to consider art for visitors who come from throughout the region and internationally.

In response to the significant growth in collections, exhibitions and attendance over the past decade, the Gallery announced in 2014 the selection of Herzog & de Meuron for the design of a new and expanded home in downtown Vancouver. The future facility will double the Gallery's current size and will be a vital catalyst to Vancouver, enhancing the city's cultural community and serving as a centre for cross-cultural dialogue and exchange in the visual arts.

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.

#### **About Douglas Coupland**

Douglas Coupland was born in 1961 at the Royal Canadian Airforce in Baden-Söllingen, West Germany and in 1965 moved with his family to West Vancouver, British Columbia. He was educated at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, graduating in 1984 and continued his studies at Sapporo's Hokkaido College of Art as well as Milan's Istituto Europeo di Design.

Coupland is a visual artist and an internationally known writer and designer. In 1991 he published his first novel, *Generation X* and has since published 14 novels, plus ten works of non-fiction. He has exhibited in solo exhibitions at DX Design Exchange, Toronto (2004); Canadian High Commission, London (2004); Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal (2005); and Simon Fraser University Gallery, Burnaby (2007). His work has also been included in numerous group exhibitions including those at JFK Terminal 5, New York (2005); Plug-In ICA, Winnipeg (2008); Center for Contemporary Arts, Prague (2008); Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina (2008) travelling to Mount St. Vincent Art Gallery, Halifax and MacLaren Art Centre, Barrie (2009); Vancouver Art Gallery (2010); Oh Canada at Mass MoCA, North Adams (2012); The Pavilion, Beijing (2012); Moderna Museet, Malmö (2013); Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester; Niennial of the Americas, Denver (2013); Issey Miyake Foundation, Tokyo (2014); Centro Cultural do Brasil, Sao Paulo; and most recently at the Or Gallery, Berlin (2014)

#### **About the Google Cultural Institute**

The Google Cultural Institute is dedicated to creating technology that helps the cultural community to bring their cultural treasures, archives, heritage sites and other material online. The aim is to increase the range and volume of material from the cultural world that is available for people to explore online and in doing so, democratize access to it and preserve it for future generations.

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