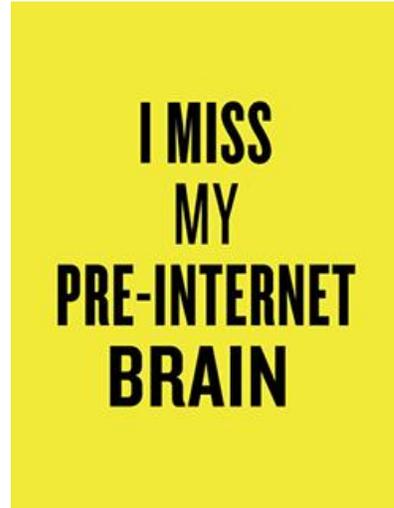


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First Solo Museum Exhibition of Multi-Faceted Artist Douglas Coupland Opens May 31 at Vancouver Art Gallery

May 22, 2014, Vancouver, BC –The first major visual art exhibition of artist and author Douglas Coupland opens at the Vancouver Art Gallery on May 31, 2014. Featuring over 100 works, including several new large-scale installations, ***Douglas Coupland: everywhere is anywhere is anything is everything*** surveys the past 14 years of this Vancouver-based artist’s creative output across a range of media, such as installation, painting, photography, prints, and quilts. The exhibition explores concepts of cultural identity, technology’s ubiquity and contemporary life that are central to Coupland’s work.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Vancouver Art Gallery has commissioned Coupland to create a site-specific public artwork ***Gumhead***—a 7-foot tall interactive self-portrait by the artist, which will be on view next to the Gallery on Howe Street, starting May 31, 2014. The exhibition is accompanied by a first monograph of Coupland’s visual art, featuring essays from world-renowned authors such as Sophia Al Maria, William Gibson, James Gleick, Bjarke Ingels, Chuck Klosterman, Hans Ulrich Obrist, and Michael Stipe, co-published by the Vancouver Art Gallery and Black Dog Publishing.

“Marking the first solo museum exhibition dedicated to the art of one of the most thought-provoking artists working today, *everywhere is anywhere is anything is everything* reflects the Gallery’s strong commitment to provide a global platform for local artists,” said Kathleen S. Bartels, Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. “We are thrilled to be the first museum to present this survey of Coupland’s work and hope this exhibition will inspire audiences of all backgrounds and generations to consider what defines contemporary Canadian culture.”

Spanning a diverse range of media, Coupland’s work incorporates contemporary events, popular culture, new technologies and art historical references that range from the paintings of Emily Carr and

the Group of Seven to the Pop Art sensibility of Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. The title of the exhibition, *everywhere is anywhere is anything is everything*, reflects this range of influence, and speaks to both Coupland's deep engagement with place and cultural identity and, simultaneously, his recognition of a growing ubiquity, as access to information becomes more readily available to the masses.

"Douglas Coupland's work sheds light on subjects as varied as the distinct nature of Canadian identity, the rise of utopian ideas, the power of words, the presence of digital technologies, the significance of the everyday, and the unshakeable nature of one's own constitution—ideas that Coupland examines with both optimism and some trepidation." said Daina Augaitis, Vancouver Art Gallery's Chief Curator/Associate Director.

The exhibition is presented through six themes:

- **Secret Handshake** unravels the stereotypes that constitute Canadian cultural identity, both benign and menacing.
- In **Growing Up Utopian**, Coupland uses Lego, latent with endless creative possibilities, to reflect on both the fantastical and dystopic possibilities born out of this post-war perspective.
- **Words into Objects** includes Coupland's recent work *Slogans for the 21st Century* which contains more than 100 pithy statements about our contemporary world.
- In **Pop Explosion**, Coupland brings classic images of the Pop Art movement into the 21st Century.
- In **The 21st Century Condition**, Coupland references recent world events including the 9/11 terrorist attacks and introduces smartphone technology as a tool for viewers to engage with memories of that pivotal event.
- **The Brain** focuses on a major new sculpture comprised of 5000 objects the artist has collected over the years, serving as a metaphor for the complicated ways in which the brain functions.

Douglas Coupland

Douglas Coupland is a visual artist based in Vancouver. Coupland studied at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design (now University), graduating in 1984 and continued his studies at the Hokkaido College of Art and Design in Japan as well as the Sapporo Instituto Europeo di Design, Milan. Since his return to art-making in 2000, 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 been included in numerous group exhibitions including those at JFK Terminal 5, New York (2004); Plug-In ICA, Winnipeg (2008); Cambridge Galleries (2008); Center for Contemporary Arts, Prague (2008); Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina travelling to Mount St. Vincent Art Gallery, Halifax and MacLaren Art Centre, Barrie (2008-2009); Vancouver Art Gallery (2010-11); and Mass MoCA, North Adams (2012). Coupland's notable public art commissions include *Terry Fox Memorial* (2012) and *Digital Orca* (2010) in Vancouver, and *Monument to the War of 1812* (2008) in Toronto. In addition to his prolific art production, Coupland is also an internationally renowned writer and designer—in 1991 he published his first novel, *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture* which eventually became an international bestseller. He has since published 14 novels and several works of non-fiction. In December 2013, Coupland was appointed to the Order of Canada. Coupland was born in 1961 at the Royal Canadian Airforce base in Baden-Söllingen, West Germany and in 1965 moved with his family to West Vancouver, British Columbia.

Douglas Coupland: everywhere is anywhere is anything is everything and *Gumhead* are organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Daina Augaitis, the Gallery's Chief Curator/Associate Director.

Gumhead is the fifteenth installment in *TD NEXT: A Series of Artist Projects from the Pacific Rim*, presented by TD Bank Group.

Related Events:

The Future of the Future: An Evening of Ideas

Hosted by Douglas Coupland and Michael Prokopow with Sophia Al Maria, William Gibson, James Gleick and Michael Stipe

Date & Time: Wednesday, June 11, 7pm

Venue: The Vancouver Club 915 West Hastings / Tickets: \$60

Exhibition Publication Launch

A conversation between Douglas Coupland, Hans Ulrich Obrist and Shumon Basar

Date & Time: Friday August 15, 6pm

Venue: Vancouver Art Gallery, in the Gallery Lobby / Tickets: \$10

A media preview will take place on Thursday, May 29, 2014 from 9:00am to 10:30am with Douglas Coupland and Daina Augaitis at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Media attending please RSVP to Debra Zhou (dzhou@vanartgallery.bc.ca)

Exhibition website: www.couplandexhibition.org

Image credits:

(left) Douglas Coupland, *Brilliant Information Overload Pop Head*, 2010, acrylic and epoxy on pigment print, Collection of Lucia Haugen Lundin.

(right) Douglas Coupland, *Slogans for the 21st Century*, 2011-2014 (detail), Courtesy of the Artist and Daniel Faria Gallery.

Douglas Coupland: everywhere is anywhere is anything is everything

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Douglas Coupland: Gumhead



Images are available upon request.

MEDIA INFORMATION:

Debra Zhou, Communications Specialist

Direct: 604-662-4722 Mobile: 604-671-2358

dzhou@vanartgallery.bc.ca

About the Vancouver Art Gallery

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. We thank everyone for their continuing generosity.