

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Exploring the story of Canadian painting in a major exhibition,  
*Entangled: Two Views on Contemporary Canadian Painting***



Image: John Kissick, *burning of the houses of cool man, yeah No.6 (cool man, yeah)*, 2016, oil and acrylic on canvas, Courtesy of Katzman Contemporary

Media is invited to an exhibition preview of *Entangled: Two Views on Contemporary Canadian Painting* on **Thursday, September 28, 2017, 9:00 a.m.** at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Media attending please RSVP to Justin Mah ([jmah@vanartgallery.bc.ca](mailto:jmah@vanartgallery.bc.ca))

**September 5, 2017, Vancouver, BC** – On **September 30, 2017**, the Vancouver Art Gallery is excited to open *Entangled: Two Views on Contemporary Canadian Painting*, on view until January 1, 2018, featuring artists and painting practices from across the country.

The story of contemporary painting in Canada is constantly changing, and for good reason—dynamic and influential art practices, wildly differing opinions and strongly held beliefs make for a charged atmosphere in art schools, studios and public and private galleries. Within the community of painters, strong ideas give shape to new modes of painting and new techniques that are in turn shared, debated, tested and critiqued in studios across Canada.

*Entangled: Two Views on Contemporary Canadian Painting* offers insight into two distinctly different approaches that have come to dominate contemporary painting in this country. The origins of both can be traced back to the 1970s, to a moment when the continued existence of painting was hotly debated.

Within that debate, two new strategies were devised, one that proposed the possibility of conceptual painting—a notion of painting that emerged from and returned to the idea—and a second painting proposition that valued actions and materiality over ideas—in short, doing and making were pitted against ideas and concepts. *Entangled* traces the legacy of that debate and documents the artists who have been largely responsible for the strong revival that painting now enjoys in this country.

“*Entangled* offers a timely opportunity to explore on a national scale the origins and contemporary manifestations of paintings in this country,” says Kathleen S. Bartels, Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. “With work by thirty-one artists from Halifax to Victoria and many places in-between, the

exhibition carries this significant national conversation into the present while offering a survey of the lively debates that have come to make painting relevant and meaningful today.”

*Entangled: Two Views on Contemporary Canadian Painting* is presented from two conjugate curatorial perspectives. The first, *Art As Idea as Painting*, curated by artist and Emily Carr University of Art + Design professor David MacWilliam, will feature artists Neil Campbell, Tammi Campbell, Arabella Campbell, Allyson Clay, Gerald Ferguson, Neil Harrison, Jeremy Hof, Garry Neill Kennedy, Guido Molinari, Guy Pellerin, Francine Savard, Jeffrey Spalding, Ron Terada, Claude Tousignant and Julie Trudel.

The second, *Performative Painting*, curated by Vancouver Art Gallery Senior Curator Bruce Grenville, will feature artists Stephanie Aitken, Marvin Luvualu António, Rebecca Brewer, Sarah Cale, Eric Fischl, Jessica Groome, Colleen Heslin, John Heward, John Kissick, Elizabeth McIntosh, Sandra Meigs, Paterson Ewen, Jeanie Riddle, Michael Snow, Nathalie Thibault and Joyce Wieland.

*Entangled: Two Views on Contemporary Canadian Painting* will be accompanied by a 112-page publication with texts by the two curators.

**Exhibition support generously provided by:**

Phil Lind

The Timothy C. Kerr Family Foundation

## **Exhibition-Related Public Programs**

### **A Crimp in the Fabric: Situating Painting Today**

*A Crimp in the Fabric: Situating Painting Today*, which includes a keynote lecture and day-long symposium, presents a range of perspectives reflecting on the current state of contemporary painting practices. *A Crimp in the Fabric: Situating Painting Today* is co-organized by the University of British Columbia, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Simon Fraser University and the Vancouver Art Gallery.

#### **Keynote Lecture**

#### **Isabelle Graw: The Value of Painting**

**When:** Thursday, September 28, 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Reliance Theatre, Emily Carr University of Art + Design

The keynote presentation by renowned art historian and critic Isabelle Graw—*The Value of Painting*—will be held on September 28 at 7:00 p.m. Graw will consider what constitutes painting today and look at current measures of value in painting, from artistic to economic, through the lens of critical theory.

Isabelle Graw is Professor for Art Theory and Art History at Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste (Städelschule), Frankfurt am Main, where she co-founded the Institute of Art Criticism. She is an art critic and co-founder of *Texte zur Kunst* in Berlin.

The Goethe-Institut is an Arts Partner of Vancouver Art Gallery



## **Symposium: A Crimp in the Fabric: Situating Painting Today**

**When:** Friday, September 29, 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Simon Fraser University, Djavad Mowafaghian World Arts Centre

On Friday, September 29, a day-long symposium with four moderated panel sessions comprised of Canadian and international artists and scholars will be held at the World Arts Centre, Simon Fraser University. Each of the panels will focus on a theme pertinent to issues in contemporary painting. The discussions will cover a range of topics, such as questions of aesthetics and the agency of materials; the economic conditions of painting (and its history); the role of the artist's studio as a site of intellectual and material production; and the ways in which the practice of painting resists easy translation into words.

Supported by:



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### **Curators' Tour: Bruce Grenville and David MacWilliam**

**When:** Tuesday, October 3, 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Vancouver Art Gallery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Join co-curators Bruce Grenville and David MacWilliam for a tour of the exhibition *Entangled: Two Views on Contemporary Canadian Painting*.

### **Work in Progress Speaker Series: Bruce Grenville**

**When:** Tuesday, November 7, 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Vancouver Art Gallery, Room 4East

*Entangled: Two Views on Contemporary Canadian Painting* (2017) & *weak thought* (1998/1999)

In this series, Vancouver Art Gallery curators discuss exhibitions they have organized this year in relationship to a project from the Gallery's history. By coupling exhibitions from the past and the present, these talks map various trajectories of the Gallery and highlight some of the ways in which visual art has developed in Western Canada.

Senior Curator Bruce Grenville will discuss *Entangled: Two Views on Contemporary Canadian Painting* (2017), which he co-curated with David MacWilliam, and the exhibition *weak thought* (1998/1999), which he co-curated with Grant Arnold. These examples of collaborative projects offer diverse and sometimes contradictory models for examining the production of contemporary abstract art from Canada and Vancouver respectively.

**Visionary Partner for Art Education:** Ji Ping Bai

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 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](http://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.