

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Vancouver Art Gallery presents a major fundraising Gala
in celebration of the Institute of Asian Art**



January 12, 2016, Vancouver, BC – A major fundraising gala will be held at the Vancouver Art Gallery on Saturday, January 30, 2016 to benefit its Institute of Asian Art (IAA), the Gallery's comprehensive initiative to advance scholarship and public appreciation of art from Asia through exhibitions, public programs and collections. Titled *In the Mood for Love*, this gala is inspired by the life and career of China's first Movie Queen Hu Die (Butterfly Hu) who was one of the most popular actresses during the 1920s to 1960s. This event will feature a special presentation of rare photographs of Hue Die from her family album, a live auction of extraordinary artworks from China's most renowned artists, outstanding entertainment by Star Captains with friends, as well as a spectacular dinner prepared by Four Seasons Hotel Vancouver. Proceeds from this event will support the programs and development of the Institute of Asia Art at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Building upon the Gallery's longstanding commitment to fostering cultural connections throughout the Asia Pacific region since the 1980s, IAA was officially launched in the fall of 2014 in conjunction with two major exhibitions of Chinese art: *The Forbidden City: Inside the Court of China's Emperors* and *Unscrolled: Reframing Tradition in Chinese Contemporary Art*. In 2015, the Gallery presented works by Mumbai-based artist Reena Saini Kallat and Korean artist Lee Bul as part of the IAA's exhibition programs. Programs will continue to evolve with an exhibition featuring New Delhi-based Bharti Kher in the summer of 2016. The Gallery has also announced the establishment of a distinguished international Asian Art Council that includes the following members: Xu Bing, Artist, Beijing; David Chau, Collector, Shanghai; Vishakha Desai, Special Advisor for Global Affairs, Professor of Professional Practice in the Faculty of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, New York; Roobina Karode, Director/Chief Curator of the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Delhi; Kimsooja, Artist, New York/Seoul; Lin Li, Collector, Hangzhou; and Fumio Nanjo, Director of the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo. In addition, the Gallery recently announced two key curatorial positions for the IAA—esteemed Chinese scholar, curator and artist Zheng Shengtian as the Adjunct Director, and former MOCA Shanghai curator Diana Freundl as the Associate Curator, Asian Art.

The gala's co-chairs Amelia Gao, Vancouver Art Gallery's trustee, and Zheng Shengtian, Adjunct Director of the Gallery's Institute of Asian Art, said: "With this special event, we are thrilled to mobilize more people, especially members of Vancouver's Asian community, to contribute to the growth and prosperity of the Institute of Asian

Art. We look forward to celebrating IAA's vision and achievements, as well as welcoming existing and new supporters to join our commitment to facilitate a deeper understanding between cultures and expand our discourse on Asian art in this country."

Among the many artworks for the live auction, there will be a new calligraphy work by Xu Bing, one of the most active and influential Chinese artists living today who developed a system for writing English called "square word calligraphy" in the 1990s. Wang Dongling, widely recognized as China's greatest living calligrapher, donated two new calligraphy works. His artworks can be found in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum, New York, the Guggenheim Museum, New York, the British Museum, London, the Palace Museum, Beijing, and many other prestigious cultural institutions around the world. Other auction items include artworks by prominent Chinese artists such as Chen Chieh-jen, Li Lei, Chen Xinmao, Gu Xiong and Guo Yan, as well as a painting by Canadian artist Jack Shadbolt. Limited editions by Ding Yi, Wang Guangyi, Wei Guangqing, Rong Rong & Yinri, Yan Lei & Hong Hao and Zhong Biao will also be available.

For more information and to book tickets, please phone 604.662.4747

Presenting Sponsor, Institute of Asian Art Gala:

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