



Damian Moppett, *Large Painting and Caryatid Maquette in Studio at Night*, 2008, oil on linen. Courtesy of the Artist and Catriona Jefferies Gallery.

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Vancouver Art Gallery Presents New Installation at *Offsite* by Artist Damian Moppett

Vancouver, B.C. – Opening on November 8th, Damian Moppett’s project for the Vancouver Art Gallery’s *Offsite* represents the studio as a stage set. *Offsite: Damian Moppett* is the latest public art installation by a noted local or international artist at this special site in the heart of the city. *Offsite*, the Gallery’s outdoor exhibition space near Georgia and Thurlow in downtown Vancouver, is dedicated to newly commissioned public art projects, and brings innovative contemporary art to a broad audience.

“We’re delighted to present this Vancouver-based artist for our sixth and latest *Offsite*,” said Gallery director Kathleen Bartels, “Moppett’s work follows in a tradition of remarkable public art projects created by international artists such as China’s O Zhang, the UK’s Heather and Ivan Morison, and US-based artist Kota Ezawa, as well as renowned local artists such as Ken Lum and Elspeth Pratt. We’re proud to bring these amazing new artworks to citizens and visitors.”

In this latest *Offsite* installation, Damian Moppett transforms his canvas *Large Painting and Caryatid Maquette in Studio at Night* into three-dimensional space, taking shapes from the work and reproducing them as large-scale cutouts in metal, which are staged around the space. The project features sculptural shapes in bold colours, propped up in the outdoor space as if from a pop-up book. Moppett’s work turns a reproduction of the artist’s studio into a sculptural artwork, one that viewers can experience as larger-than-life size.

Moppett's artistic practice uses sculpture, painting, photography, drawing and video, often in relationship to each other, as a meditation on the activity of making art. Moppett's project at *Offsite* is part of his larger oeuvre of works concerning the artist's studio. Moppett represents the studio as both a site of experimentation and a theatrical setting for the performative nature of art-making. His studio images are visually dense, cluttered with objects, materials and artworks in process, in a working space often lit dramatically. Moppett then turns this documentation into finished paintings or drawings, making the representation of the process of creation the subject of his work.

Featuring work by acclaimed contemporary artists, the first five *Offsite* exhibitions were: the photo-based work of Chinese artist O Zhang, a sculptural installation by Vancouver artist Ken Lum, a large-scale sculptural pavilion by UK artists Heather and Ivan Morison, an architectural intervention by Vancouver artist Elspeth Pratt, and a sculpture by San Francisco-based artist Kota Ezawa.

Members of the media are invited to attend a special inauguration of *Offsite: Damian Moppett* on Thursday, November 8th at 6pm. The artist and associate curator Kathleen Ritter will be in attendance and available for interview.

Offsite is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and funded by the City of Vancouver through the Public Art Program. The Gallery recognizes Ian Gillespie, President, Westbank; Ben Yeung, President, Peterson Investment Group; and the residents at Shangri-La for their support of this space. *Offsite: Damian Moppett* is curated by Kathleen Ritter, Associate Curator of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

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