

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Herzog & de Meuron Selected to Design Vancouver Art Gallery's New Museum Building**

**Vancouver, BC** — April 29, 2014 — The Vancouver Art Gallery has selected Herzog & de Meuron to design its new and expanded home in downtown Vancouver. The new museum building will be the first project in Canada for the Pritzker Prize-winning firm. At approximately 300,000 square feet, the new Gallery will provide more than double the space of the current facility to support the museum's collections, exhibitions, and programs, which have increased exponentially over the past decade. It will also enable the Gallery to better serve its growing audience, expand the international reach and range of its program, and further enhance Vancouver's standing as a major centre of cultural production. The Gallery plans to unveil conceptual designs for the new building in early 2015.

"A new, expanded Vancouver Art Gallery will build Vancouver's creative economy and give local artists exposure to a broader audience," said Mayor Gregor Robertson. "Congratulations to Herzog & de Meuron, who will be creating this important new cultural space in our downtown."

"We are thrilled to be working with Herzog & de Meuron and to be the first to bring their incredible talent to Canada. Our new Gallery will be a vital and dynamic resource for Vancouver, one that engages and welcomes artists and visitors from the region and from around the world," said Kathleen S. Bartels, Gallery Director. "Throughout the selection process, Herzog & de Meuron demonstrated a deep commitment to and respect for the rich history and unique spirit of the Gallery, our community, and our surrounding natural and urban environment. Our new purpose-built home will embrace the rich diversity of our community and serve as a nexus for cross-cultural dialogue and exchange."

The Vancouver Art Gallery's Architect Selection Committee was unanimous in their recommendation of Herzog & de Meuron to the Gallery's Board of Trustees. Their recommendation was based on the firm's proven ability to create innovative museum buildings that place prominence on artists and institutional mission, and the firm's vision for the new Gallery, which recognizes and responds to the context and needs of the museum now and in the future. Based in Basel, Switzerland, Herzog & de Meuron have had a longstanding engagement with the visual arts, working with institutions and artists around the world on such renowned buildings as the Tate Modern in London, the Schaulager in Basel, the Pérez Art Museum Miami, and the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. In addition, the firm has realized some of its most significant work around the Pacific, including the de Young Museum in San Francisco, California; Prada Aoyama in Tokyo, Japan; and the National Stadium ("Bird's Nest") in Beijing, China.

"Herzog & de Meuron's designs are recognized internationally for both their creativity and sensitivity to place. Their buildings not only effectively and elegantly meet the needs of their users, but also become places that are part of the cultural draw and identity of a city. We

look forward to collaborating with Herzog & de Meuron to create an architecturally significant new museum that will be an important beacon for our city and enhance the cultural community of Vancouver and of the Province of British Columbia,” said Bruce Munro Wright, Chair of the Gallery’s Board of Trustees and Chair of the Architect Selection Committee.

Herzog & de Meuron were selected from a group of five shortlisted firms from across the globe—including Diller Scofidio + Renfro (New York), KPMB Architects (Toronto), SANAA (Tokyo), and Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects (New York)—following a series of in-depth interviews and site visits to significant projects designed by each firm. The finalists, announced in January 2014, represented five of 75 firms from 16 different countries, who submitted their credentials through an open request for qualifications (RFQ) process issued by the Gallery.

The new Vancouver Art Gallery will be located at West Georgia and Cambie Streets in downtown Vancouver, on a city-owned site that was awarded to the museum by unanimous vote of the Vancouver City Council in April 2013. The new building will include dedicated space for the museum’s growing collections, expanded indoor and outdoor exhibition spaces for the Gallery’s dynamic exhibitions, and new educational facilities that will allow it to dramatically increase educational and public programs. The new Gallery building will enhance the cultural, social, and community space in the heart of downtown Vancouver and become an important economic driver for the city—creating a public centre that connects the downtown area, Chinatown, Gastown, and East Vancouver, and that attracts visitors and cultural tourists from throughout the region and internationally.

The Vancouver Art Gallery has already received significant support for its expansion, including a \$50-million gift from the Province of British Columbia and the designation by the City of Vancouver of the downtown site at West Georgia and Cambie Streets. The Gallery expects to announce early capital gifts in the coming weeks and launch the public phase of the capital campaign as the conceptual design is unveiled.

“Congratulations to the Vancouver Art Gallery in marking this important project milestone,” said Coralee Oakes, Minister of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development. “Even during this period of continued fiscal discipline, the Government of British Columbia is providing record levels of support to artists and cultural organizations, including our commitment to help the Vancouver Art Gallery build a new home.”

For more information about the new Vancouver Art Gallery please visit:  
[vanartgallery.bc.ca/future](http://vanartgallery.bc.ca/future)

### **About Herzog & de Meuron**

Founded in Basel in 1978, Herzog & de Meuron are internationally recognized for designs that are both highly inventive and responsive to the site, geography, and culture of the region for which they are planned. Led by five Senior Partners—Jacques Herzog, Pierre de Meuron, Christine Binswanger, Ascan Mergenthaler, and Stefan Marbach—Herzog & de Meuron have designed a wide range of projects, from highly recognized public facilities, museums, and stadiums, to distinguished private projects, and have been awarded

numerous prizes, including The Pritzker Architecture Prize, in 2001, and the RIBA Royal Gold Medal and the Praemium Imperiale, both in 2007.

### **About the Vancouver Art Gallery**

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of Canada's most respected and innovative visual arts institutions and is committed to strengthening links between artists—both contemporary and historic—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 artists from around the world and from British Columbia's dynamic artistic community, highlighting the growing links with art of the Asia Pacific and the work of First Nations cultures. Its growing collection represents the most comprehensive resource for visual culture 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 a multitude of public programs that offer new ways to consider art for visitors from throughout the region and internationally.

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.



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