

For Immediate Release

**New Installation by First Nations Artist Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun
Presented at the Vancouver Art Gallery's Future Site**



September 20, 2016, Vancouver, B.C. – Lauded Vancouver artist Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun has created a new public art installation for the future site of the Vancouver Art Gallery. Media are invited to attend the launch event to be held at Larwill Park from 6:00–8:00pm, on Thursday, September 22, 2016, as Gallery Members, dignitaries and the general public gather to celebrate the opening of the installation titled *Ovoidism* at this special location.

Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun is a renowned artist of Coast Salish and Okanagan heritage. His work merges native iconography with a political perspective. *Ovoidism* is the artist's largest outdoor art project to date. It's based on the ovoid, a rounded oval-rectangular shape that is a key design element unique to Northwest Coast art. This shape is an essential building block from which movements flow or design patterns emanate to form a figure, often representing joints (shoulder, hip, wing, pectoral fin), as well as eye sockets and teeth. For this commissioned artwork, Yuxweluptun uses the form, along with vivid colour, to speak to the past and the present uses of the Larwill Park site, marking that place with a watchful eye, and reminding us as we pass by and through the site that we live, work and interact on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish people.

When:

6:00–8:00 pm, Thursday, September 22, 2016

Official remarks begin at 6:15pm

Where:

Larwill Park, on the corner of West Georgia and Cambie Streets
(Please arrive through the Georgia Street entrance.)

For media on assignment, please RSVP to Debra Zhou (dzhou@vanartgallery.bc.ca).

Ovoidism is the second installation of the Vancouver Art Gallery's Larwill Park site project. The location holds a unique place in the history of Vancouver—as a parade ground, fairground and sports field, a space for celebration and for protest, and more recently, as a bus depot and parking lot. Last fall, the Gallery launched the first installation, showcasing nine oversized cutout images taken from documentary photographs of Larwill's long ago happenings.

Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and produced by Other Sights for Artists' Projects, this series at Larwill Park reflects the site's rich historical background while looking to the future Gallery and its role in a new cultural precinct in the heart of downtown Vancouver. *Ovoidism* will be on display at the Larwill Park site until September, 2017.

About Other Sights for Artists' Projects:

Other Sights projects consider the aesthetic, economic and regulatory conditions of public space and public life. Operating as a Vancouver-based artist collective since 2005, Other Sights seeks to create a presence for art in spaces and sites that are accessible to a broad public, such as the built environment, communications technologies, the media, and the street. othersights.ca

About the Vancouver Art Gallery:

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of the most respected and innovative visual arts institutions in Canada and is committed to strengthening ties between artists and diverse communities throughout the city, province, and beyond. As the largest public art museum in Western Canada, the Gallery features contemporary and historical exhibitions all year round, and provides a global platform for British Columbia's dynamic artistic community, including the work of First Nations as well as art of the Asian Pacific artists. Its growing collection of over 12,000 artworks represents the most comprehensive resource for art 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 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. www.vanartgallery.bc.ca

Images:

Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun

Ovoidism, 2016

laminated plywood, latex paint

site-specific installation at the Larwill Park Site

Photo: Blaine Campbell

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MEDIA INFORMATION:

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