

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VANCOUVER ART GALLERY LAUNCHES LANDMARK RETROSPECTIVE of AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHER ROBERT ADAMS

**Robert Adams: The Place We Live, A Retrospective Selection of Photographs
September 25, 2010 – January 16, 2011**

VANCOUVER, BC – The Vancouver Art Gallery will launch *Robert Adams: The Place We Live, A Retrospective Selection of Photographs*--- an exhibition of the life work of eminent American photographer Robert Adams ---- on September 25th, 2010. The retrospective is on display at the Gallery until January 16, 2011, the first stop in an international tour of North America and Europe.

Over the past four decades photographer Robert Adams has come to be widely regarded as one of the most original and significant chroniclers of the western American landscape. The first large-scale exhibition of Adams' work to be presented in Canada, *Robert Adams: The Place We Live* traces the artist's longstanding engagement with the degradation of the environment in the face of suburban development.

"The Vancouver Art Gallery is honored to have been selected as the first venue for the international tour of this important exhibition," said Gallery director Kathleen Bartels. "Vancouver is known internationally as a centre for contemporary photography and we are so pleased to showcase an artist who has so profoundly influenced the work of many prominent Canadian artists."

Robert Adams (b. 1937) blazed a trail to a new kind of landscape photography in the 1970s as a leader in the New Topographic movement. For more than 40 years, his challenging yet beautiful photographs have focused on the changing landscape of the American West, and illuminate the hand of man on the natural environment. In an interview with PBS, Adams said "I'd like to document what's glorious in the West and remains glorious, despite what we've done to it... But I also want to show what is disturbing and what needs correction." Honoured with many awards during his career, Adams' received a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 1994, and the Hasselblad Award in 2009. Now in his senior years, Robert Adams has devoted his energy to assisting the Yale University Art Gallery to create this retrospective of his life's work.

"We are delighted to be able to work with our colleagues in Vancouver to debut this exhibition," says Jock Reynolds, director of the Yale University Art Gallery, "Not only is the city home to some of today's most vital practitioners of photography, it is also located in the region of the world that Adams has made his subject for the past twenty years."

[A media breakfast and exhibition tour with the curators of *Robert Adams: The Place We Live* will take place on Thursday, September 30, 2010, at 9am at the Vancouver Art Gallery.](#)

The exhibition and associated publications are organized by Joshua Chuang,



Longmont, Colorado, 1979
gelatin silver print
Yale University Art Gallery.
Purchased with a gift from
Saundra
B. Lane, a grant from Trellis
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Robert_Adams_06.jpg

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Assistant Curator of Photographs, and Jock Reynolds, the Henry J. Heinz II Director, both of the Yale University Art Gallery. Made possible by Yale alumni and friends: Helen D. Buchanan; Allan K. Chasanoff; Lara Rubin Constable and the Reed Foundation; Nathaniel W. Gibbons; Betsy and Frank Karel; Saundra B. Lane; Melanie and Rick Mayer and the MFUND; Mr. and Mrs. Alexander K. McLanahan; Ms. Eliot Nolen and Mr. Timothy P. Bradley; Risher Randall, Sr.; the Shamos Family Foundation; Mary Jo and Ted P. Shen; Jane P. Watkins; the Janet and Simeon Braguin Fund; and an endowment created with a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The acquisition of Robert Adams's master prints was made possible through a gift from Saundra B. Lane, a grant from the Trellis Fund, and the Janet and Simeon Braguin Fund. In Vancouver this project is supported by Mark McCain and Caro Macdonald/Eye and I.

Following the show in Vancouver, *The Place We Live* will be exhibited at the Denver Art Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Yale University Art Gallery, and then will tour Europe.

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Attachments: Backgrounder on *Robert Adams: The Place We Live* and photographer Robert Adams; Selected Robert Adams Quotes from "Why People Photograph".

Photographs for publication are available.

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 Gaming Revenues; the Government of Canada through the Canada Council for the Arts and the Department of Canadian Heritage. We thank everyone for their continuing generosity.