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**THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY and
the AUDAIN FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS
CREATE A VISIONARY PARTNERSHIP
FOR POST-SECONDARY STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN BC**

September 10, 2013. Vancouver, BC—The Vancouver Art Gallery in collaboration with its Visionary Partner, the Audain Foundation for the Visual Arts, is very pleased to announce a multi-year initiative to provide subsidized Gallery memberships for post-secondary students pursuing visual art studies in British Columbia.

The first phase of this new program will be launched tomorrow, September 11, at Emily Carr University of Art + Design and will expand in stages across the whole of British Columbia during the next five years. It will be offered to 1,800-2,000 ECUAD students in the first year and is expected to grow to accommodate more than 10,000 BC students by 2018.

“We are very pleased to facilitate what will be a wonderful new program for the art students of British Columbia,” said Michael Audain, Chair of the Audain Foundation. “Recalling how much I enjoyed and benefited from my Metropolitan Museum of Art membership in the 1950s, I feel confident that BC students who participate in this new initiative will reap many rewards from affordable access to the Gallery’s exhibitions and public events.”

The Vancouver Art Gallery is the largest public gallery in Western Canada and its programs, which are considered to be among the very best in the country, allow students to leave their computers and books behind in order to experience art first hand. This new membership program reflects our belief that all students should have access to the work of historic masters and contemporary artists—art from this province as well as national and international realms, and to have opportunities to engage in thought-provoking public forums that explore the issues and ideas presented in the work.

Director Kathleen Bartels expressed her great appreciation for the Foundation’s ongoing support. “With this five-year commitment as Visionary Partner for Post-Secondary Student Engagement in BC, the Audain Foundation plays a profoundly important role in helping the Gallery to expand access to transformative cultural experiences.”

The Vancouver Art Gallery is most grateful for the Audain Foundation for the Visual Arts’ remarkable generosity.

About the Vancouver Art Gallery

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. We thank everyone for their continuing generosity.

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