

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**VISIONARY PARTNERS CONTRIBUTE \$2.6 MILLION IN SUPPORT  
OF VANCOUVER ART GALLERY PROGRAMS**

September 9, 2103 Vancouver, BC—The Vancouver Art Gallery is pleased to announce pledges of support by its Visionary Partners, a group of philanthropists whose donations will total \$2.6 million over several years. These multi-year contributions from Gallery Board and Foundation Trustees—all longtime lead supporters of the institution—are earmarked for several of the Gallery's primary areas of endeavour such as specific exhibitions, community and education programs, subsidized student memberships and public access to Gallery programs.

"I am joined by the entire Board of Trustees when I say we are incredibly honoured to have this generous philanthropic support from our five Visionary Partners," said Board Chair Bruce Munro Wright. "In addition to helping the Vancouver Art Gallery provide significant exhibitions and art education programs, these Partnerships will contribute in profound ways to the institution's long-term sustainability and greatly increase accessibility for all members of the community."

**David Aisenstat: *Visionary Partnership Celebrating British Columbia Artists***

David Aisenstat is generously contributing to exhibitions by groundbreaking BC artists such as Gareth Moore, Charles Edenshaw and Myfanwy McLeod - artists who are recognized as important contributors to the visual art landscape of this province.

**The Audain Foundation for the Visual Arts: *Visionary Partnership for Post-Secondary Student Engagement in BC***

Michael Audain and the Audain Foundation for the Visual Arts are supporting a new initiative for post-secondary student engagement in BC. This program will generously subsidize Gallery memberships for students pursuing studies in visual arts in this province, and will be launched this fall at Emily Carr University of Art + Design, expanding across BC over the next five years.

**Diamond Foundation: *Visionary Partnership for Community Access***

The Diamond Foundation has committed their support for programs that allow access to the Gallery by all members of the community. This pledge supports Tuesday Evenings by Donation, Free Weekly Programs for children, and free access for community service organizations and inner city schools.

**Michael O'Brian Family Foundation: *Visionary Partnership for Community Programs***

The Michael O'Brian Family Foundation supports three vital Gallery programs: *Offsite*, the Gallery's outdoor public art space in downtown Vancouver; Permanent Collection exhibitions presenting gems from the Gallery's vault; and our major annual fundraising events.

**The Peeter and Mary Wesik Family: *Visionary Partnership for Arts Education***

The Wesik Family has pledged support for the Gallery's Art Education Programs providing creative hands-on interactive approaches to learning about visual art. This Partnership helps us to maintain strong and vital School Programs, the Teen Art Group and the important Docent Training Program.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is enormously grateful for this support from our five Visionary Partners. To learn about how you can become a part of the Gallery's success, please visit our website at <http://community.vanartgallery.bc.ca/>

### **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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