

***The Metamorphosis* Examines Transformation Through Physical, Spiritual and Cultural Realms**

Presentation Highlights Vancouver Art Gallery's Collection Including Many Artworks Acquired within the Past Five Years



November 7, 2018, Vancouver, BC – The Vancouver Art Gallery explores transformation and change in *The Metamorphosis*, an exhibition of contemporary installation, film, photography, sculpture and more showcasing the Gallery's collection. On view November 24, 2018 to March 17, 2019, this presentation features international and local artists: Sonny Assu, Beau Dick, Lyse Lemieux, Marianne Nicolson, Skeena Reece, Fiona Tan, Wang Jianwei, and others.

“The fourth presentation of our fall season, *The Metamorphosis* ties together provocative themes and ideas of change undertaken in more than forty remarkable contemporary works selected from the Gallery's collection,” says Kathleen S. Bartels, Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. “Among the artworks featured, many were acquired by the Gallery over the past five years and this marks our first opportunity to showcase them.”

With its title inspired by Franz Kafka's 1915 novella, *The Metamorphosis* invokes a compelling human and creative desire to explore oneself and the world. Kafka's literary classic follows the experience of a man who, upon waking up, finds himself transformed into a giant insect. This exhibition looks at Kafka's themes by way of visual art that addresses physical, spiritual and cultural transformation.

Some of the artists in *The Metamorphosis* physically alter the appearance of their materials, while some repurpose everyday objects in evocative ways. Other artists create works that suggest a movement between different realms or states in pursuit of altered consciousness or spiritual transcendence. Additionally, featured artists engage the issue of cultural hybridity as a result of shifts between one milieu and another, often pointing to resulting difficulties of translation.

Since 1931, the Gallery's collection has become the most comprehensive resource for visual culture in British Columbia. *The Metamorphosis* highlights the wealth of the Gallery's growing collection with works from BC and beyond.

Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Bruce Grenville, Senior Curator; Tarah Hogue, Senior Indigenous Fellow; and Emmy Lee Wall, Assistant Curator.

Image 1 – Beau Dick, *Sculpin Mask*, 1985–92, red cedar, acrylic paint, cedar bark, rope, Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Acquisition Fund.

Image 2 – Wang Jianwei, *The Morning Time Disappeared*, 2014, single-channel video with sound, Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Gift of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in connection with The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Chinese Art Initiative; The gift of edition 2/5 to the Vancouver Art Gallery was made possible in part by China Global.

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IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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About the Vancouver Art Gallery (vanartgallery.bc.ca)

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most respected and innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs, and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is paid to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to the arts of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art that the Gallery founded in 2014. The Gallery's programs also explore the impacts of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture.

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.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is situated on traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səłilwətaɁ (Tsleil-waututh) peoples, and is respectful of the Indigenous stewards of the land it occupies, whose rich cultures are fundamental to artistic life in Vancouver and to the work of the Gallery.

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