

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **The Gallery Gets Physical this Summer with *Body Slam***

**Vancouver, BC** – The Vancouver Art Gallery is pleased to present four provocative contemporary exhibitions this summer in the *Body Slam* suite, an international convergence of recent work focusing on the human form. Comprising works by artists from Austria, France, the UK and Vancouver, *Body Slam* explores the human condition through the mediums of sculpture, photography and works on paper.

*Body Slam* will be on exhibition from May 28 through September 5, 2005. Included in the *Body Slam* suite are: *Franz West*, *Wang Du: Parade*, *Body: New Art from the UK* and *Theodore Wan*.

*Franz West* features more than 25 works by one of Europe's leading contemporary sculptors. Austrian artist West emphasizes the human body as a key component in his art. His notions of the grotesque, as well as his wickedly subversive humour, have created new perspectives on sculpture at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Works in the exhibition include a number of sculptures that visitors are invited to handle and pose with, thus activating the work.

*Wang Du: Parade* showcases sculptural works by Paris-based, Chinese-born artist Wang Du, and will be the first presentation of his works in Canada and the first international venue for the exhibition outside of France. Wang Du produces elaborate three-dimensional figures and forms primarily inspired by the popular media and the images they produce (chiefly magazines and newspapers, but also television and the Internet).

The Vancouver Art Gallery is the first and originating venue for the Canadian tour *Body: New Art from the UK* an exhibition that explores new contemporary works by 14 influential artists, some of whom are identified as the yBa (young British artists). The principal focus for all the artists is the human body, both as a powerful site of social rupture and dissent and as a subject of complex social interactions. Emerging in the 1990s, the aggressive, in-your-face attitude of these artists united the forces of British youth culture, mass marketing and high art.

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Finally, *Theodore Wan* brings together many never-before-seen photographs, videos and artistic research belonging to the Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery. Theodore Wan had a significant impact on conceptual art in Canada throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Wan's reputation was secured through a remarkable series of medical photographs that bridge scientific illustration, performance and self-portraiture and in his later commercial and almost ethnographic practice, he explored the body in spaces of leisure and erotic consumption.

*Body Slam* is being presented in juxtaposition with an exhibition of historical works by the legendary sculptor Rodin, providing visitors with a unique opportunity to explore the human body in all its many dimensions.

Individual releases for each of the four exhibitions in the *Body Slam* suite follow this section.

All media are welcome to attend the opening celebration at 7pm on Friday, June 24, 2005.

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