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Reference: Janice Whitehead  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### VIVA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 1990 CASH AWARD WINNERS

On May 29, 1990 at 8:30 p.m. the VIVA Selection Committee announced that Vancouver artists Terry Ewasiuk and David Ostrem are the recipients of the 1990 VIVA cash awards. The committee feels that the two chosen artists have both made outstanding long-term commitments to their work as visual artists and a continuing contribution to the development of visual art in this region. The Selection Committee wishes to acknowledge that in spite of limited financial support and recognition, Ewasiuk and Ostrem have willingly proceeded with the development and production of their own work and have made a visible and significant contribution to the cultural life of their community.

The VIVA Selection Committee is made up of artists, critics and curators who are asked by the Foundation to bring together a selection of unsolicited nominees to be discussed with respect to their appropriateness for this Award. In this sense it is not a competition and artists are not asked to make submissions. The mandate of the committee is province-wide and includes a variety of media. In its first three years the Award has acknowledged the work of artists from the Lower Mainland whom the Committee felt were deserving of support. While the number of deserving artists is far larger than the resources of the Foundation, the Selection Committee makes every effort to identify through its process a pair of artists whose belief in what they do is reflected in their longstanding commitment to their work and the artistic life of British Columbia.

#### *Terry Ewasiuk*

Terry Ewasiuk is a Vancouver artist currently living and working in Berlin. Over the last five years she established herself as a key figure in Vancouver, both as an artist and as the exhibition curator at the Montgomery Cafe. In the mid-1980's the Montgomery was a focal point as a meeting and exhibiting place for some of the most vital young artists in the city, many who are now recognized as significant figures.

Recently, Terry Ewasiuk's exhibitions at the Western Front and Or Galleries have shown her working in photo-based work, juxtaposing black and white photographs with found materials. Her work is political, serious and humorous with a concerned content referring to feminism, the erotic potential of art and the flaws of consumerism.

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*David Ostrem*

David Ostrem began exhibiting in the late 1970's and became known for his ironic silkscreens in the early 1980's. These multicoloured prints depicted an imaginary work built out of the flotsam and jetsam of mass-culture of the cold-war era. His figures were bemused and alienated, caught between the pursuit of consumer existence and the release of rock & roll.

In the late 1980's he began to make large drawings and paintings which also referred to popular imagery and the pretensions of the culture-industry. His extended series on the condition of the artist satirize the art-market, while making a dignified plea for individual perception. Ostrem has long been recognized by the artistic community as a special voice, one that is caustic, funny, but also tender and compassionate.

The VIVA Foundation was created by Doris and Jack Shadbolt in 1988. Previous winners are Carol Itter, Neil Wedman, Carol Moiseiwitsch and Stan Douglas.

A press kit containing photographs and detailed biographical information is available upon request. Call Janice Whitehead, (604)254-1405.