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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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VIVA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 1993 CASH AWARD WINNERS

On April 27, 1993 at 8:00 p.m. at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in Vancouver the VIVA Selection Committee announced that Vancouver artists **Elspeth Pratt** and **Henry Tsang** are the recipients of the 1993 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, Pratt and Tsang 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 B.C. 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.

An additional cash award was presented to Vancouver artist **Eric Metcalfe** under the auspices of VIVA in memory of curator **Alvin Balkind**.

The VIVA Foundation was created by Doris and Jack Shadbolt in 1988. Previous winners are Carol Itter, Neil Wedman, Carel Moiseiwitsch, Stan Douglas, Terry Ewasiuk, David Ostrem, Persimmon Blackbridge, Gary Pearson and Alvin Balkind.

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

ANNUAL \$10,000 VIVA AWARD WINNERS FOR 1993:

ELSPETH PRATT

Born 1953

BFA 1981, University of Manitoba

MFA 1984 University of B.C.

Elsbeth Pratt, took her art training at the University of Manitoba, Sydney University, Australia and the University of British Columbia, graduating in 1984 with a M.F.A. She has received several grants from provincial and federal arts funding agencies. She has had solo shows at the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, YYZ, Toronto and the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Lethbridge.

Pratt, a sculptor, creates architectural objects out of commonplace materials such as styrofoam insulation, plywood, cardboard and fabric. Her architectural intervention is a type of feminist activism. In the same way that much of the architecture that we live with today mimics previous building materials, these artworks pass along complex messages without the unnecessary pomposity of monolithic displays of granite and marble.

HENRY TSANG

Born 1964

BFA 1986, University of B.C.

Henry Tsang has worked in installation, video, performance and photo-based mediums. Much of his work deals with cultural identity, exploring the space between cultures resulting from contact, influence and dominance. In 1991, he co-curated the multidisciplinary exhibition "Self Not Whole: Cultural Identity and Chinese-Canadian Artists in Vancouver". He has been an active member of the Vancouver Association for Noncommercial Culture, which is committed to the investigation and intervention of cultural practices in the public sphere, has taught at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design, Vancouver and currently sits on the B.C. Advisory Committee for the Status of the Artist. Recently, his site-specific installation for the Kamloops Art Gallery involved a resurrection of Chinook jargon, an intercultural pidgin widely used on the west coast of North America throughout the 19th century.

**WINNER OF THE SPECIAL DONOR AWARD
IN MEMORY OF ALVIN BALKIND:**

ERIC METCALFE

Born 1940

BFA 1970, University of Victoria

Eric Metcalfe, one of the founders of the Western Front Society in Vancouver, is best known as the creator (in 1970) of his persona Dr. Brute and the leopard spotted world of Brutopia. Before and since Metcalfe has used a wide range of media including drawing, sculpture, performance and video to explore his personal obsessions with modern culture.

For most of his career, Metcalfe has worked collaboratively and socially. It was this emphasis on collaboration, the socialization of art and new technology that formed the basis for Metcalfe's own practice. From the leopard spots to the perfect enamel surfaces of his sculptures, his works have emphasized the insidiousness of the repressive dynamic of polite culture.

Last year a retrospective of his work was organized by the UBC Fine Arts Gallery. A solo exhibition will be mounted by the Winnipeg Art Gallery this year. His work is regularly included in exhibitions in North America and Western Europe.