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

TWO VANCOUVER ARTISTS TO RECEIVE \$10,000 CASH AWARDS

Doris Shadbolt will present \$10,000 each to two artists from British Columbia on **March 28** at 8pm in the Concourse at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design.

The Vancouver Institute for the Visual Arts (VIVA) selection committee announced that Vancouver artists **LORNA BROWN** and **PHILLIPE RAPHAEL** will receive the VIVA cash awards for 1996. Short biographies of the recipients are attached.

The committee feels that both artists have made outstanding long-term contributions to their work as visual artists and have continued to contribute to the development of visual art in British Columbia. The selection committee wishes to acknowledge that in spite of limited financial support and recognition, Brown and Raphael 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.

Created in 1988 by Doris and Jack Shadbolt, The VIVA Foundation is dedicated to the recognition and advancement of artists in British Columbia. VIVA is the only organization west of Ontario that gives "no strings attached" cash awards to individual visual artists. Previous winners are Carel Moiseiwitsch, Neil Wedman, Carol Itter, Stan Douglas, Terry Ewasiuk, David Ostrem, Persimmon Blackbridge, Gary Pearson, Alvin Balkind, Elspeth Pratt, Henry Tsang, Eric Metcalfe, Chick Rice, Mike MacDonald, Kati Campbell and Alan Storey.

**PLEASE, DO NOT RELEASE NAMES OF AWARD RECIPIENTS BEFORE
MARCH 29.**

VIVA CASH AWARD WINNERS FOR 1996

LORNA BROWN

Born 1958, Oxbow, Saskatchewan

Lorna Brown's work has focussed on how society classifies the subjective voices of women as 'low ranking knowledge'. Combining fiction with fact, she constructs a mixture of text, photographs and sculpture that challenges the barriers which have historically conditioned how the voices of women are heard and their movements are determined.

She creates installation works based on a variety of media, including photography, sound and text. Brown successfully uses scale to make an impact. Her installations are often composed of huge photo-murals of women depicted in enigmatic roles accompanied by fictional narrative text. Combinations of sculpture, text and imagery conspire to make public strange, usually private, feminine thoughts and voice the desire of women to step out of conventional female roles.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Once Removed* (1992) at the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, and *Character* (1993) at Presentation House Gallery, North Vancouver. Brown has taught studio and seminar classes in the Studio and Media Divisions of the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design and at Simon Fraser University's School for the Contemporary Arts.

PHILIPPE RAPHANEL

Born 1956, Paris, France

Philippe Raphanel came to Canada in 1976, initially making his home on Hornby Island. By the end of the decade he had moved to Vancouver and was exploring the local, regional tradition of modernist landscape painting. He came to prominence in 1985 when his work was included in *Young Romantics*, organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery.

From modernist landscape painting, Raphanel developed a politicized and personal reading of regional pastoral painting. By the early '80s he was producing post-punk paintings depicting the 'natural' detritus of the resource industry. Since then his work has increasingly used sexual metaphors to examine bourgeois subjectivity, resource exploitation and the relationships between nature and the human body. In his most recent work *Poisons/Phobia*, snapshot photographs of the Gay Movement juxtaposed with botanically accurate painted panels of indigenous florals suggest multiple meanings and readings of the nature/culture dichotomy.

A solo exhibition, *Lip Sync* (1992), at the Or Gallery in Vancouver was preceded in 1993 by group exhibitions in Korea, Vancouver and Seattle. Raphanel has taught at Simon Fraser University and in the Studio and Media Divisions of the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design.