

FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## B.C. VISUAL ARTISTS RECEIVE AWARDS

THE TWO 20TH ANNUAL VIVA AWARD RECIPIENTS ARE **LUANNE MARTINEAU** OF VICTORIA AND **ISABELLE PAUWELS** OF VANCOUVER ~ THE RECIPIENT OF THE 4TH AUDAIN PRIZE FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE VISUAL ARTS IS **GORDON SMITH** OF WEST VANCOUVER.

A combined awards presentation will take place at the Rocky Mountaineer Station on Tuesday, May 15, at 8 pm. The keynote speaker will be **Don Shumka**, head of the British Columbia Arts Council. **Douglas Coupland**, one of Canada's famous fiction writers will also be attending the ceremony to talk about Gordon Smith, his friend and neighbour. **Patrik Andersson**, Emily Carr Institute art history professor and **Candance Hopkins**, Western Front Gallery curator will speak about the VIVA Award recipients.

The award recipients of the VIVA Awards and the Audain Prize are chosen by juries appointed each year by the Board of Trustees of the Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation.

### THE JACK AND DORIS SHADBOLT FOUNDATION

The **VIVA AWARDS** were created by **Jack Shadbolt**, renowned painter, teacher and art advocate, and his wife **Doris Shadbolt**, equally renowned as curator, writer, historian and critic. The awards are intended to nurture the advancement of the visual arts in British Columbia and their appreciation by the public through the granting of \$12,000 annual awards to practicing artists. Since its inception in 1988, 32 Annual Awards have been granted in an ongoing programme that eclipses the lifetime of the founders. Jack died in 1998 and Doris in 2003. Notable recipients of VIVA Awards are **Stan Douglas** and **Jeff Wall**.

### THE AUDAIN FOUNDATION

The **AUDAIN PRIZE FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE VISUAL ARTS** is funded by the Audain Foundation for the Visual Arts in British Columbia. Over the last 20 years, **Michael Audain**, chairman and CEO of Polygon Homes Ltd. has been a strong supporter of the arts in Vancouver. He currently serves as Chair of the Vancouver Art Gallery Foundation and the Audain Foundation for the Visual Arts in British Columbia, serves as a member of the British Columbia Arts Council and is a trustee of the National Gallery of Canada. In 2005 Michael Audain endowed the position of Audain Curator of British Columbia Art at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Okanagan artist, **Ann Kipling**, was the recipient of the inaugural Audain Prize in 2004.

### CONTACT:

For more information or to obtain high-resolution digital images of the artists' work for print, please contact:

Ross Sullivan  
Peak Communicators Ltd.  
Telephone: 604-689-5559  
Cel phone: 604-802-7139  
E-mail: rsullivan@peakco.com

more...

## RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 VIVA AWARD

Presented by The Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation

### LUANNE MARTINEAU

Luanne Martineau is a multimedia artist who creates hand-spun and felted wool sculptures. Through her work, she engages in a long tradition of social satire as well as feminist textile practice. Blurring the boundaries between low and high art, she combines labour-intensive traditional female handwork with questions about the politics of the body, style and ideology.

Early work involved dense collages of images with references as diverse as cartoon characters by R. Crumb, drawings by Goya, comic characters Little Nemo and Buster Brown and such children's literature as *The Little Prince* and *Little Black Sambo*. The artist also utilized such rudimentary crafts as oven-baked portrait busts, needlework embroidery and small framed watercolour landscapes. Martineau's fabric sculptures continue the heritage of feminist art by renegotiating definitions of art/craft and feminine/feminist. As did predecessors Magdalena Abakanowicz and Louise Bourgeois in their soft sculptures, Martineau backs away from "male" rigidity and high-style rhetoric. The presence of the soft and domestic is characteristically combined with unbridled, even grotesque references to the body, its messy innards and unpredictable ways. In a manner similar to Eva Hesse's phallic mockery (black salamis wound with string, slumping cylinders of fiberglass), the power in Martineau's work lies in this confrontation of the attractive and comfortably familiar with the repulsive and taboo aspects of our physical existence.

Martineau had a solo exhibition at Vancouver's Contemporary Art Gallery in 2004. Her work was included in the Vancouver Art Gallery's major drawing exhibition in 2003, *Drawing the World; Masters to Hipsters*, and most recently in *Just My Imagination* (2005) a major survey of drawing in Canada that circulated to several venues. Martineau's work will be featured in La Biennale de Montréal: Crack the Sky during the month of May 2007. She is the author of *FREAKOUT (Temporal Bodies)*, 2006.

Luanne Martineau was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. She studied art at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design as well as the Alberta College of Art & Design. Martineau received her Fine Art Diploma in 1993 before going on to complete her Master of Fine Arts at the University of British Columbia in 1995. She was previously the Associate Curator for the Art Gallery of Calgary. Martineau currently lives and works in Victoria, British Columbia where she is a Professor of Theory and Curatorial studies at the University of Victoria. She is represented in Canada by TrépanierBaer in Calgary and by Jessica Bradley ART + PROJECTS in Toronto.

**RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 VIVA AWARD**  
Presented by The Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation

**ISABELLE PAUWELS**

Belgium-born conceptual artist Isabelle Pauwels currently lives in Vancouver and is represented by Catriona Jeffries Gallery of Vancouver. Pauwels graduated from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2001 and earned her Master of Fine Arts at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2006. She has exhibited in Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Chicago and Los Angeles, and was formerly represented by the Atelier Gallery, Or Gallery and State Gallery in Vancouver.

Pauwels works in a variety of disciplines that include sculptures, installations, screenplays, prints and performances. Her pieces are as formally rigorous as they are interdisciplinary. She is best known for her architectural interventions in gallery spaces where she has literally cut up walls. Her gestures often bring to mind sculptural and conceptual traditions tied to the likes of Gordon Matta-Clark and Michael Asher. Her work is unique for the way she increasingly connects it to narrative genres derived from television and pulp fiction. Through her own idiosyncratic but focused vision, Pauwels encourages us to re-evaluate relations between social and aesthetic systems.

*Unfurnished Apartment for Rent* (2003), a book and installation at Vancouver's Contemporary Art Gallery, looked at the narrative possibilities of domestic settings. The bookwork details, in seven screenplays, the interaction between a series of fictitious apartment dwellers. Her video installation *Making a Living* (2005) was structured formally on Vito Acconci's *Undertone* (1973). She based her concept-driven 2006 exhibition at Catriona Jeffries on television technologies that emerged during the 1920s and 30s, and their refinement by the military during World War II. In 2006, she also participated in SPEC: Mediated Identities in Chicago, and the New Wight Biennial: Anxiety of Influence at UCLA.

## RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 AUDAIN PRIZE

Presented by the Audain Foundation for the Visual Arts in British Columbia

### GORDON SMITH

Gordon Smith is an esteemed painter and printmaker who has gained international renown for his abstracted images of the Canadian landscape. For more than fifty years, he has explored the mediums of drawing, painting and printmaking in inventive and expressive ways. His work is in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Smithsonian, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Vancouver Museum. He has been granted many prizes and awards, including honorary doctorates from Simon Fraser University, Emily Carr College of Art and Design and the University of British Columbia. He received the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada's Allied Arts Medal in 1980. In 1996 Smith was awarded the Order of Canada.

Smith was praised by Canadian legend Lawren Harris as "a consummate artist of very considerable power". His paintings are noted for their strong sense of atmosphere, colour and light. Smith is constantly inspired by the challenge of finding a balance between pure abstraction and depicting the British Columbia wilderness. His work reflects his attachment to the physical and emotional act of painting, and his affection for the land. The last 18 years of Smith's career as an artist have been his most prolific and have seen him produce some of his finest prints and paintings. A master of colour and paint, he explores the British Columbian landscape in a fresh, expressive and aggressive style that is unparalleled by other artists. Never satisfied, he continues to express new visions daily.

Smith was born in 1919 in Sussex, England. In 1937 Smith enrolled at the Winnipeg School of Art and in 1940 moved to Vancouver, where he joined the army. He returned from the war in 1944 and enrolled in the Vancouver School of Art. After his graduation in 1946, he accepted a position on faculty and taught for the next 10 years. In 1956, Smith joined the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia and taught there until his retirement in 1982. He won recognition for his art in 1955 when the National Gallery of Canada awarded him first prize in the very first Biennial of Canadian Painting. In 1960 he was chosen to represent Canada at the Sao Paulo Bienal. For the past 17 years, Smith has energetically guided the growth of The Artists for Kids Trust, a unique program that brings artists into classrooms in North Vancouver, provides master classes and programs for children, and provides scholarships to secondary students. He is represented by Equinox Gallery, Vancouver.

---

**VIVA AWARDS**

1988	Stan Douglas Carel Moiseiwitsch	1998	Cornelia Wyngaarden Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun
1989	Carol Itter Neil Wedman	1999	Myfanwy MacLeod Judy Radul
1990	Terry Ewasiuk David Ostrem	2000	Haruko Okano Jerry Pethick
1991	Persimmon Blackbridge Gary Pearson	2001	Dana Claxton Brian Jungen
1992	<i>Award of Honour</i> Alvin Balkind	2002	<i>Award of Honour</i> Jeff Wall
1993	Elsbeth Pratt Henry Tsang	2003	Geoffrey Farmer Kelly Wood
1994	Mike MacDonald Chick Rice	2004	Rebecca Bellmore Ron Terada
1995	Kati Campbell Alan Storey	2005	Hadley+Maxwell Stephen Shearer
1996	Lorna Brown Phillipe Raphanel	2006	Damian Moppett Marianne Nicolson
1997	<i>Award of Honour</i> Joan Lowndes Ian Wallace	2007	Luanne Martineau Isabelle Pauwels

---

**THE AUDAIN PRIZE  
FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
IN THE VISUAL ARTS**

2004	Ann Kipling
2005	E.J. Hughes
2006	Eric Metcalfe
2007	Gordon Smith