



www.drawnfestival.ca  
July 18 - August 8

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 15, 2009

## **New visual arts festival will showcase contemporary drawing**

**Vancouver, BC** — Once overshadowed by other forms of artistic media such as painting and sculpture, drawing is increasingly being recognized as an important avenue of aesthetic expression in its own right. In order to celebrate the unique attributes of this most primary of artistic media, a group of leading Vancouver-area galleries and curators are joining forces this summer to create Canada's first city-wide festival of drawing. Beginning **July 18** and continuing through August 8, ***Drawn / Artists and Drawings / Vancouver 2009*** will feature an unprecedented series of exhibitions devoted to various aspects of contemporary and historical drawing. A parallel series of free lectures, artist talks and gallery tours will augment the exhibition component.

According to Lynn Ruscheinsky, one of the festival's principal coordinators, the event will bring attention to drawing while celebrating and validating the accomplishments of artists working in this medium. "In Western culture, the role of drawing has traditionally been seen as something that is limited to the artistic process, whether we're talking about preparatory drawings for paintings and sculptures or architectural drawings," Ruscheinsky says. "Yet drawing has rarely been regarded as an important aesthetic medium in its own right." Ruscheinsky notes that the contemporary art world has been reassessing the place of drawing in recent years. "We're beginning to see it recognized more and more as a significant independent medium. *Drawn* will reflect this shift in attitude, and it will further contribute to awareness about this wonderful form."

At the heart of *Drawn* will be over 15 independently curated exhibitions, each devoted to a different aspect of drawing. The host venues will include some of Vancouver's leading commercial contemporary art galleries representing many of Canada's top artists and drawers. At least three public venues—the **Vancouver Art Gallery**, the **Burnaby Art Gallery** and the **Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery** at the University of British

*continued on page 2*

Columbia—will also be participating with shows dedicated to drawing. The multi-venue line-up of exhibitions will be complemented by a full program of free lectures, artists talks and public openings. Featured speakers and panelists will include **Rosemarie Tovell**, Curator of Prints at the National Gallery of Canada, acclaimed BC artist **Ann Kipling**, Inuit drawer and printmaker **Kavavaow Mannomee** and Vancouver Art Gallery senior curator **Ian Thom**, among many others. The entire multi-faceted festival will kick off with a party and launch in downtown Vancouver.

Ruscheinsky anticipates that the exhibitions themselves will cover an array of contemporary and historical practices. "Viewers will be able to see works by such luminaries of BC and Canadian art as **B.C. Binning**, **Emily Carr** and **David Milne**, along with the latest in contemporary drawing from Vancouver and beyond," she says. "This inaugural 3-week festival—the first of its kind in Canada and maybe the world—is going to go a long way towards putting drawing on the map in Vancouver, and hopefully right across Canada."

*Drawn* is presented by the Vancouver Drawing Festival Society, a non-profit society dedicated to raising awareness and appreciation for the medium of drawing. The full program of exhibitions and events will be announced June 1.

For more information, please call Robert Kardosh: 604-418-3759.

-30-

