



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RBC donates \$1.7 Million to Vancouver Art Gallery through RBC Emerging Artists Program



November 2, 2023, VANCOUVER, BC // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the x̣m̄əθk̄w̄əȳəm (Musqueam), Sk̄wx̄w̄ú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətəʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is pleased to announce that RBC has generously contributed \$1.7 million through RBC Emerging Artists to provide mentorship, visibility, and leadership opportunities for emerging Canadian artists through various art programming. RBC's funding will also support the new Vancouver Art Gallery, which is estimated to open in 2028.

"We are proud to support the Vancouver Art Gallery's Emerging Artist programming through this donation," says **Martin Thibodeau, Regional President, British Columbia, RBC.** "This gift marks RBC's largest donation to the arts and is a significant milestone in RBC's long-standing support of the Gallery's public programs. Together, with partners like the Vancouver Art Gallery, RBC Emerging Artists is helping artists bridge the gap from emerging to established in their art form. These voices are important to building inclusive, vibrant communities, and strong economies."

Since 1979, RBC has played a role in the Vancouver Art Gallery's journey, providing over half a million dollars of support for the Gallery's community programs. This dedication has helped strengthen the Gallery's mission to connect people, art and ideas, and highlights the shared belief in the power of art to

shape our communities. RBC's support has been pivotal in the success of programs such as 'Art Connects—Raising Diverse Voices,' for which the Gallery remains deeply grateful.

"RBC Emerging Artists exemplifies the Gallery's mission to support, nurture and promote the next generation of British Columbian artists," says **Anthony Kiendl, CEO & Executive Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery**. "We are immensely grateful for RBC's impactful commitment to the arts and their dedication to providing emerging artists with the tools they need to succeed."

The RBC Emerging Artist Program is an initiative that will be integrated into the programming at the Vancouver Art Gallery, aimed at offering support for emerging artists in British Columbia. This program will be designed to take a holistic approach, providing mentorship, visibility and leadership opportunities for its participants while facilitating their professional development through collaboration with the Gallery and its extensive network.

The primary focus of the program will be to not only support emerging artists from education to full-time employment but to also provide the necessary skills, mentorship and creative platforms to provide provincial, national and eventually international engagement opportunities. For more information about the Vancouver Art Gallery, please visit www.vanartgallery.bc.ca.

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MEDIA CONTACT

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ABOUT VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's celebrated exhibitions, extensive public programs and emphasis on advancing scholarship focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is given to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to those of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art founded in 2014. The Gallery's exhibitions also explore the impact of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture. The Vancouver Art Gallery is a charitable not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts. The Vancouver Art Gallery is situated on the ancestral and unceded territories of the x̱m̱əθḵ'əy̱ə m̱ (Musqueam), S̱ḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and sə̱lilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and is respectful of the Indigenous stewards of the land it occupies, whose rich cultures are fundamental to artistic life in Vancouver and to the work of the Gallery.

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