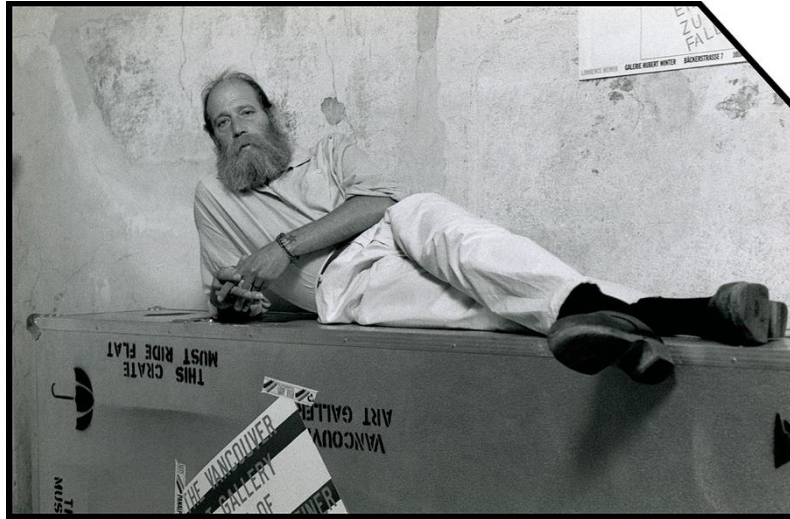


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Vancouver Art Gallery launches two new exhibitions spotlighting works from the collection

Celebrating iconic figures in conceptual art



March 9, 2024, VANCOUVER, BC // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səllwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

This weekend, the Vancouver Art Gallery will unveil two new exhibitions drawn from the Gallery's permanent collection, celebrating a pair of significant figures in conceptual art: American artist **Lawrence Weiner** (1942–2021) and Canadian artist **Garry Neill Kennedy** (1935–2021).

One of the leading figures in the development of conceptual art, Weiner was a pioneer of language as art in the mid-1960s. Throughout his fifty-year career, Weiner's text-based works have appeared in museums, galleries and public buildings around the globe. The Vancouver Art Gallery's relationship with Lawrence Weiner was established when the Gallery commissioned its first public artwork for the collection—*PLACED UPON THE HORIZON (CASTING SHADOWS)*—in 1990, which remains on view today on the Gallery facade along the Robson Plaza and ʂxʷʌneq Xwtl'e7énk Square.

Lawrence Weiner originally began making posters in the 1960s, as a way to reach a broad audience outside of museums and galleries. The Lawrence Weiner Poster Archive was established at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 1978 and then transferred to the Vancouver Art Gallery in 1991. The Archive has grown substantially over time through annual gifts from the artist and is now the most significant representation of Weiner's work in this form held in a public collection. Opening March 9, ***OF & ABOUT POSTERS: THE LAWRENCE WEINER POSTER ARCHIVE (1965–2021) AT THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY*** showcases the most comprehensive collection of the artist's posters to date and marks the Gallery's 30-year relationship with Lawrence Weiner. Guest Curator Grant Arnold has collaborated with Lawrence Weiner since the 1990s to develop exhibitions of the artist's poster archive at venues worldwide; he began work on this landmark exhibition in 2018 in close consultation with Weiner, prior to the artist's passing in 2021.

A total of 250 posters made between 1965 and 2021 will be complemented by a selection of Weiner's editions, books, audio works and ephemera that attest to the various ways the artist's work has permeated visual culture and changed the way we think about text and art.

Presented as a companion to *OF & ABOUT POSTERS*, ***HORIZONS*** is a conceptual art project by Garry Neill Kennedy in which a selection of landscape paintings are rehung so that the horizon lines are at the eye level of the artist, and—when viewed

together—these otherwise disparate landscapes form one continuous horizon line around the gallery walls. Conceived in 1980, Kennedy’s proposal extended from the artist’s parallel engagements with the medium of painting and institutional critique in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The concept is characteristic of Kennedy in its playfulness, but the idea also quietly undermines curatorial control and intervenes within the conventions of museum display. The exhibition features a selection of historical and modern paintings from the Gallery’s collection, and has been developed collaboratively with Cathy Busby, a celebrated visual artist and Kennedy’s spouse.

Unrealized in his lifetime, **HORIZONS** is being revisited today to offer visitors the opportunity to witness the realization of Kennedy’s concept for the first time, and to help build an understanding of the longstanding friendship and professional ties between Kennedy and Weiner, which spanned more than forty years. The exhibition features a selection of correspondence, drawings and notes from Weiner to Kennedy that offers a glimpse into the nature of their relationship and conveys a sense of support, respect and mutual admiration between the two artists.

“At this extraordinary moment in the Gallery’s history, it is timely to be highlighting two luminaries who boldly encourage visitors to consider new ways of thinking, making and experiencing art.” says **Anthony Kiendl**, CEO & Executive Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

[OF & ABOUT POSTERS: THE LAWRENCE WEINER POSTER ARCHIVE \(1965–2021\) AT THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY](#)

MARCH 9, 2024 –AUGUST 25, 2024

Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and guest curated by Grant Arnold, former Audain Curator of British Columbia Art, with Mandy Ginson, Associate Curator

[HORIZONS](#)

MARCH 9, 2024 –AUGUST 25, 2024

Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Mandy Ginson, Associate Curator, in collaboration with Cathy Busby, Project Advisor

Additional Support from: **Joanie Anderson**

-30-

MEDIA CONTACT

Vancouver Art Gallery

media@vanartgallery.bc.ca

Image: Lawrence Weiner during the installation of The Vancouver Art Gallery Archive of Lawrence Weiner Posters, 125 Jahre Hochschule für Angewandte Kunst, Vienna, 1993, Courtesy of the Lawrence Weiner Estate

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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliilwətał (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.

vanartgallery.bc.ca

