

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Audain Gallery Opens With *Coming Soon* – A Multimedia Preview Project

The Audain Gallery at SFU Woodward's, 149 West Hastings St.
***Coming Soon* – A Multimedia Preview Project (January 2010)**

As the initial public art project for the Audain Gallery, four visual artists who are SFU Alumni have been commissioned to create new site-specific public art works. **Coming Soon** addresses the qualities of the neighbourhood and the context of the new location of SFU's School for the Contemporary Arts.

A work has been commissioned from **Ken Lum**, whose art is known to spark public interest and commentary. Lum's commission will be shown in the Hastings Street windows of the Gallery beginning in January. His work will be followed by a window project from another Vancouver artist, SFU alumna **Kathy Slade**. *Coming Soon* has also been extended into another medium to create a broader interface for the Audain Gallery, as **Lorna Brown** and **Jamie Hilder** create projects specifically designed for the Audain Gallery website.

The Audain Gallery – Mandate and Background

The Audain Gallery is a cornerstone of Simon Fraser University's new SFU Woodward's Contemporary Arts complex and an exciting new venue where artistic expression and social and political commentary will come together in the form of innovative, provocative exhibitions, events and collaborative programs. The gallery's inaugural exhibition, **First Nations/Second Nature** is part of the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad. It will be a showcase for how the gallery will engage and interact with the artistic community and the public through its presentations of conceptual and experimental art.

The Audain Gallery's mandate is to advance the production and presentation of contemporary visual art in Vancouver and internationally, through a responsive program of exhibitions in a flexible project space. The gallery will encourage conceptual and experimental projects as it explores the ways in which contemporary art is socially and politically formed and formative.

Another central and vital aspect of the gallery's mandate is community engagement. Exhibitions and coordinated events will be specifically designed to engage the SFU community, the general public of Vancouver, and most crucially, the neighbourhood communities of the Downtown Eastside. The Audain Gallery will host annual projects/exhibitions with artists-in-residence, and collaborations with international and local art institutions. It will also serve as a vital aspect of the visual arts program at SFU's School for the Contemporary Arts, which will be housed in the SFU Woodward's complex as of September 2010.

The Audain Gallery has been named for **Michael Audain**, philanthropist and chair of Polygon Homes Ltd., whose Audain Foundation made a major donation to SFU's School for the Contemporary Arts.

The curator of the Audain Gallery is SFU Contemporary Arts faculty member **Sabine Bitter**.

Full gallery and Inaugural Program information is available at www.sfuwoodwards.ca