



Audain Gallery

AUDAIN GALLERY SFU WOODWARD'S



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Audain Gallery Presents Local and International Artists' Perspectives In Cultural Olympiad's *First Nations/Second Nature* Exhibition The Audain Gallery at SFU Woodward's, 149 West Hastings St. www.sfuwoodwards.ca

Vancouver, BC: 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 (Feb. 6–Mar. 20, 2010)** is part of SFU Woodward's Inaugural Program and the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad. This thought-provoking exhibition considers Native North Americans' ideas of place and nationhood as it reconsiders the history of colonial encounters in Canada and the United States.



Artworks include a lightbox by **Sam Durant** containing the words “*You are on Indian Land Show Some Respect (2008)*.” The text is a faithful reconstruction of a handmade protest sign from archival photographs of Native American civil rights protests in the United States. It's part of a larger Durant series that considers how historical moments can be reinstated to enable their reinterpretation in the present.

Another series of works, *Deeds/Nations* and *Deeds/Abstracts: The History of a London Lot*, is by the late **Greg Curnoe**. The series takes the settlement history of London, Ontario as its subject. Just prior to his death, Curnoe attempted to record every person who has lived in the London region. His aim was to return to the public record the First Nations members who signed the original land surrenders, together with other First Nations people and settlers of the period. His series brings together related books, original research material, ephemera and paintings. **Pia Fuchs's** *Untitled (Pan-National Flag)* broadly questions how territory is defined and publicly symbolized. It combines the outlines of flags from each country recognized by the UN, creating an almost absurd national emblem.

There are also new works by **Rebecca Belmore**, **Jimmie Durham**, and **Cheryl L'Hirondelle** in collaboration with **Andrew Lee** that respond directly to the Woodward's site, along with large-scale installations by **Matthew Buckingham** and **Andrea Geyer** and drawings by **Brian Jungen**. The exhibition is curated by **Candice Hopkins**, the Sobey Curatorial Resident of Indigenous Art at the National Gallery of Canada.

The Audain Gallery – Mandate and Background

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