

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE APRIL 15, 2005

B.C. VISUAL ARTISTS RECEIVE AWARDS

THE 18TH ANNUAL VIVA AWARDS OF \$10,000 EACH WILL BE PRESENTED TO HADLEY + MAXWELL (HADLEY HOWES, MAXWELL STEPHENS) AND STEVEN SHEARER ~ THE SECOND AUDAIN PRIZE FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE VISUAL ARTS OF \$25,000 WILL BE PRESENTED TO E.J. HUGHES

The combined event will take place at the Vancouver art Gallery on Wednesday, April 20, at 7:30pm. His Worship, the Mayor of Vancouver, Larry W. Campbell will address a gathering of about 400 guests and present the awards to the recipients.

THE JACK AND DORIS SHADBOLT FOUNDATION

The VIVA AWARDS were created by Jack Shadbolt, renowned painter, teacher and art advocate, and Doris Shadbolt, equally renowned as curator, writer, historian and critic. The awards are intended to the nurture the advancement of the visual arts in British Columbia and their appreciation by the public through the granting of \$10,000 annual awards to practicing artists and an Award of Honour of \$50,000 or \$25,000 every fifth year to persons who have had a significant, sustained influence on the visual arts in British Columbia. Since its inception in 1988, 30 Annual Awards and 4 Awards of Honour have been granted in an ongoing programme that eclipses the lifetime of the founders. Jack died in 1998 and Doris in 2003.

THE AUDAIN FOUNDATION

The AUDAIN PRIZE FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE VISUAL ARTS is funded by the Audain Foundation. Over the last 20 years, **Michael Audain**, chairman and CEO of Polygon Homes Ltd. has been a strong supporter of the arts in Vancouver. He currently serves as Chair of the Vancouver Art Gallery Foundation and the Audain Foundation for the Visual Arts in British Columbia, serves as a member of the British Columbia Arts Council, and chairs the B.C. Arts Renaissance Fund. In 2005 Michael Audain endowed the position of Audain Curator of British Columbia Art at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Okanagan artist, Ann Kipling, was the recipient of the inaugural Audain Prize in 2004.

The award recipients of the VIVA Awards and the Audain Prize are chosen by a jury appointed each year by the Board of Trustees of the Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation.

CONTACT

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RECIPIENTS OF THE 2005 VIVA AWARDS

Presented by The Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation

HADLEY+MAXWELL

Known collectively as Hadley+Maxwell, Canadian artists Ms. Hadley Howes and Maxwell Stephens began collaborating in 1997 after graduating together from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. They design, install and document conceptual artworks. To date, their body of work has included film sets, opera and dance productions, publications, images, photographs, and acts of conceptual inquiry. They have explored such diverse mediums as silk-screen and etching, oil and watercolour painting, sculpture and installation, video and photography and writing. They also have extensive knowledge of historical decorative arts.

Like post-modern imps on a mission, Hadley+Maxwell believe that life is (or can be) art, and that art is (or can be) life. They have worked within a close circle of gallery directors, curators, collectors and other artists to set up frequently-elaborate commentaries about art and culture. "The Décor Project", initiated in 2001, involved the redecoration, documentation and de-decoration of a number of homes belonging to prominent contemporary art figures. They administered questionnaires about preferences and lifestyles, rearranged the interiors, had the results photographed and put everything back in its place. Nine décor projects have been completed in Vancouver, Montreal, Peterborough, Winnipeg, Toronto, New Brunswick, Melbourne, Seattle, and Vancouver again. The most recent in the series is *We Are Othyrworld*. Through self-determination and intentionality, their actions upturned the praxis of power between artists and galleries. They simultaneously create a dialogue on issues of identity and the representation of identity.

Hadley, whose background focussed on public art and architecture, was born in Toronto, Ontario in 1973. Maxwell, a former musician with a number of recordings and publicly exhibited videos to his credit, was born in Montreal, Quebec in 1966. They have been the subject of numerous magazine and journal articles. They joined the board of Artspeak Gallery in 2000. Their work has been funded by the Canada Council (2002, 2003, 2005), British Columbia Arts Council (2004) and the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver (2001). In 2004 they co-wrote a thesis for their joint Masters of Art in Communications from the European Graduate School, Switzerland. They continue to live together, work together, and teach – collaboratively, of course – at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design.

For more information or for high-resolution digital images of the artists' work for print, please contact Ross Sullivan, Peak Communicators Ltd., 604-689-5559 or by e-mail: rsullivan@peakco.com.

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RECIPIENTS OF THE 2005 VIVA AWARDS Presented by The Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation

STEVEN SHEARER

Steven Shearer has fondly been described as the "bastard offspring" of the Vancouver photo-conceptualist movement, but more rightly he is the progenitor of the new digital generation. Shearer works in a broad range of media including collage, digital prints, serigraphs, oil and acrylic paintings, music and installation. Like Andy Warhol, Shearer is fascinated by the sociological, historical, cultural, and economic value of mass media, especially as it relates to youth.

Shearer's signature collages have hundreds of found pictures aligned in a kind of scrapbook aesthetic by loosely-defined rows and columns. Most of his images, including boy bands, muscle cars and album covers, are downloaded from the bottomless well of the Web where they were posted on personal websites, special interest groups and blogs. He has produced a number of works anthologizing images of 1970s teen pop idols like Shawn Cassidy and Leif Garrett. Like an anthropologist, he is particularly interested in amateur record and tape collections, guitars and other totems of youthful rebellion, which he sees as artifacts of "a time when ideas of identity, social engineering, and culture collide". He documented a small fraction of heavy-metal memorabilia appearing on Ebay each day in collages using hundreds of postage-stamp sized pictures.

In a recent survey of Shearer's work at Vancouver's Contemporary Art Gallery, the centerpiece for the show was made from prefabricated parts of steel garden sheds. Inside, a guitar P/A system played heavy metal guitar. The exhibit included fanzine-style collages, fictitious performance posters, pop-culture promo photographs, and snapshots of long-haired suburban youths playing thrash guitar in their parents' basements. For one digital print entitled *Slumber*, he collaged hundreds of images of children and adults sleeping.

Shearer was born in New Westminster, BC in 1968 and received his BFA (Studio) at Emily Carr College of Art & Design in 1992. His work has recently been exhibited at New York's American Fine Arts, Tokyo's Mars Gallery, and San Francisco's CCAC Wattis Institute. He has participated in numerous shows in Europe, Japan, the United States and Canada. His unique artwork has been collected by the Los Angeles Contemporary Museum of Art; the Canada Council Art Bank and the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; The Morris and Helen Belkin Fine Arts Gallery, Vancouver; and the London Regional Museum, Ontario, among others. Recently he had a solo exhibition at Galerie Eva Presenhuber in Zurich and exhibited in a group exhibition at the Tate Modern in London.

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RECIPIENT OF THE 2005 AUDAIN PRIZE

Presented by the Audain Foundation for the Visual Arts in British Columbia

E.J. HUGHES

For more than seventy years, British Columbia artist E.J. Hughes has painted a beguiling narrative of our province. Hughes' landscape images are some of the most distinctive and memorable ever created. His lively murals, paintings and prints represent an entire world of parallel life: ferries crossing the Georgia Strait; arbutus trees, mountains and fishing boats; maritime settings and picturesque farmlands. The evocative images convey a sense of calmness and an insight into Hughes's own introspective process.

E.J. Hughes was born in North Vancouver in 1913. He studied under Charles H. Scott, Jock Macdonald and Frederick Varley at the Vancouver School of Applied Art and Design before joining the Canadian military in 1939 as a war artist. In 1946 he was discharged from the military and moved to Shawnigan Lake on Vancouver Island with his wife Fern. From here he has drawn and painted the Gulf Islands, Ladysmith Harbour, farms near Courtenay, stretches of Qualicum Beach, images of Howe Sound and views from Vancouver's Stanley Park among hundreds of other scenes.

For more than thirty-five years, Max Stern of the Dominion Gallery in Montreal represented Hughes. He has been an enormously prolific artist with an extensive exhibition and awards record. He was awarded an honorary degree by the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in 1998 for his life-long, passionate study of British Columbia.

Hughes was the inaugural recipient of an Emily Carr Scholarship on the recommendation of Group of Seven member Lawren Harris. The Vancouver Art Gallery first exhibited Hughes' work in 1935. The gallery acquired its first Hughes painting in 1949 and organized the first exposition of his work in 1967. In 2003, the Vancouver Art Gallery initiated a major retrospective entitled "E.J. Hughes: Work from the Early 1930s to Present". The exhibition travelled to the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Ontario then returned to Victoria, British Columbia until June 2004. He has been called a "national treasure" and "a true son of British Columbia".

In 2001, E.J. Hughes received the Order of Canada for his achievements and original representation of Canada. At the age of 92, he continues to be inspired by local landscapes. Like little windows opening on entrancing and endlessly absorbing views, his paintings remain clear and realistic, while at the same time infused with his individualistic and magical sense of art.