

# VANCOUVER ART GALLERY TAKES TO THE STREETS WITH THREE MAJOR INSTALLATIONS DURING THE 2010 WINTER GAMES

VANCOUVER, BC – The Vancouver Art Gallery is playing a central role in enlivening Vancouver’s downtown streets during the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games with three major public art installations in the city’s most prominent locations. Using the exuberant floral patterns of Taiwanese fabric, Taipei-based artist Michael Lin has covered the Gallery’s entire northern façade with a massive hand-painted mural. The southern side of the Gallery has been transformed into an outdoor theatre presenting a continuous flow of video-based works on a massive LED screen. At Vancouver Art Gallery Offsite, the Gallery’s recently launched outdoor exhibition space, internationally renowned Vancouver artist Ken Lum has constructed large-scale sculptures that replicate squatters’ shacks once built on North Vancouver’s shoreline.

“The Vancouver Art Gallery is honoured to play a major role in welcoming the world to Vancouver during the 2010 Winter Games. In 2006, with the support of Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad and the City of Vancouver Public Art Program, we began to organize these groundbreaking projects that allow our dynamic contemporary program to burst onto the city’s streets,” said Vancouver Art Gallery director Kathleen Bartels. “It is thrilling to know that these ambitious works of art will be seen and admired by countless visitors to the city during such an exciting time in Vancouver’s history.”

## **Michael Lin: A Modest Veil – January 23 to May 2, 2010**

The Georgia Street Plaza, the largest public square in downtown Vancouver, is now backed by nearly 6,000-square-feet of brilliant colour composing Michael Lin’s massive mural titled *Georgia Street Plaza 23.01 - 02.05.10*. Covering the Gallery’s entire northern façade, Lin’s enveloping intervention dramatically transforms this high-traffic area. Thousands of passersby are being invited to reinterpret the altered architecture of the Gallery’s neo-classical building and consider the cultural references and connections created by the artist’s bold floral pattern. Appearing as part of the exhibition *Michael Lin: A Modest Veil*, Lin’s intervention is joined by a book-wrapping project that has covered hundreds of publications in the Gallery Store and a t-shirt designed by the artist that will clothe frontline Gallery staff.

Michael Lin is highly regarded for his monumental installations that reconfigure public space. Born in Tokyo in 1964, the artist was raised in Taiwan and now lives between Brussels, Shanghai and Taipei. His work reflects the influence of these diverse sites of cultural production and his movement between them. He has created monumental works for extraordinary sites around the world, including Towada Art Center, Towada (2008), The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu (2005), Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2005), Asian Art Museum, San Francisco (2004), P.S.1, Long Island City (2004) and Musee d’Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (2002). *Michael Lin: A Modest Veil* is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by senior curator, Bruce Grenville with assistant curator, Emmy Lee.



## **CUE: Artists' Videos – January 23 to March 21, 2010**

*CUE: Artists' Videos* presents the most innovative and compelling local, national and international artists working in film and video today. Presented on a nearly 20-foot, high-resolution LED screen on the Gallery's Robson Street façade, the series runs daily from 5 am to 2 am. The adjacent Robson Street Plaza, one of the city's busiest pedestrian hubs, will be particularly lively during the Olympic Winter Games when the area becomes an official site for live entertainment and a major centre for local, national and international media.

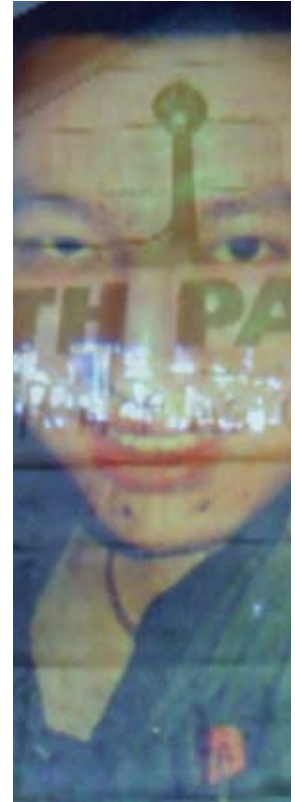
Videos selected for *CUE* range from short, dynamic films that surprise and delight to those that probe deeply into the complexities of today's world. The exhibition includes more than 90 titles by artists from around the globe, including Afghanistan, Canada, China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. For her video *The Birth of RMB City*, Chinese artist Cao Fei takes viewers into the on-line 3D virtual world *Second Life* using her avatar China Tracy. For *Civilization*, Italian artist Marco Brambilla depicts a journey from hell to heaven using digitally-enhanced found film footage. Vancouver's Paul Wong presents a year's worth of personal snapshots compiled in chronological order and shown at a rate of 1000 images per minute for the intense viewing experience of *Last Year*. The works are presented in seven thematic programs, including *Borrowing from Cinema*, *Constructing Tableaux*, *Notes on the Everyday*, *Sight and Sound*, *History in the Making*, *Performing for the Camera* and *Living in the Spectacle*. Each program will repeat at various times of the day to maximize viewing opportunities.

*CUE* is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and co-curated by associate director/chief curator, Daina Augaitis and New York-based curator, Christopher Eamon with curatorial assistant, Stephanie Rebick.

## **Vancouver Art Gallery Offsite: Ken Lum – January 23 to September 6, 2010**

For his sculptural installation *from shangri-la to shangri-la* at Vancouver Art Gallery Offsite, artist Ken Lum constructs scale replicas of three squatter's shacks from North Vancouver's Maplewood Mudflats settlement. Located along the area's intertidal zone from the early 20th century until 1971, the mudflat community was home to a number of artists, writers and activists. For his project, Lum recreates the cabins of renowned writer Malcolm Lowry, artist Tom Burrows and Greenpeace leader Dr. Paul Spong. Propped up on stilts over the surface of the Offsite reflecting pool, the huts strike a sharp contrast with the surrounding downtown architecture. Located at the foot of the Shangri-La Hotel, Vancouver's tallest building, these structures evoke the character of the mudflat community and draw attention to the advance of urban development in the Lower Mainland.

Ken Lum is a Vancouver artist whose work questions the relationship between modernism, mass culture and everyday experience, often blurring the boundaries separating high art and popular culture. Over the past twenty years, Lum's work has been presented in solo exhibitions throughout North America, Europe and Asia. He has also represented Canada at the Istanbul Biennial, São Paulo



Biennial, Shanghai Biennale, Gwangju Biennale and Documenta. The Gallery's Offsite exhibition space near the intersection of Georgia and Thurlow streets in Vancouver's downtown core offers a rotating program of innovative public art projects by local and international artists, which respond to the city's unique urban environment.

Vancouver Art Gallery *Offsite: Ken Lum* is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Audain Curator of British Columbia Art, Grant Arnold with assistant curator, Kathleen Ritter.

*Michael Lin: A Modest Veil and CUE: Artists' Videos*  
Presented with:



*Michael Lin: A Modest Veil*

Sponsor:



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*CUE: Artists' Videos*

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Supporting Sponsor:



*Offsite: Ken Lum* funded by the City of Vancouver through the Public Art Program.



This project is supported by Ian Gillespie, President, Westbank; Ben Yeung, President, Peterson Investment Group; and the residents at Shangri-La. The Gallery deeply appreciates support for *Offsite: Ken Lum* from the Michael O'Brian Family Foundation.

Michael Lin, *Georgia Street Plaza 23.01 - 02.05.10, 2010* (production image), paint on aluminum panels  
Photo: Rachel Topham

Paul Wong, *Last Year, 2010* (still), video, 6 min, 23 sec, Courtesy of the artist

Ken Lum, *from shangri-la to shangri-la, 2010* (detail). Photo: Brian Howell

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