

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 18, 2011**

**Gallery gets Unreal**  
**from the Collection: Unreal, opens January 22.**

VANCOUVER, BC – The Vancouver Art Gallery explores the edges of reality with *Unreal*, opening on January 22. The exhibition looks at contemporary artists' explorations beyond the rational and considers the ways in which art delves into ideas around desire, fantasy, anxiety and the absurd.

Drawn primarily from the Gallery's permanent collection and augmented with select loans, *Unreal* includes works by more than sixty international and Canadian artists, including Francis Bacon, Maxwell Bates, Matthew Brown, Marcel Dzama, Jock Macdonald, Myfanwy Macleod, Luanne Martineau, Cindy Sherman, Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun and many others.

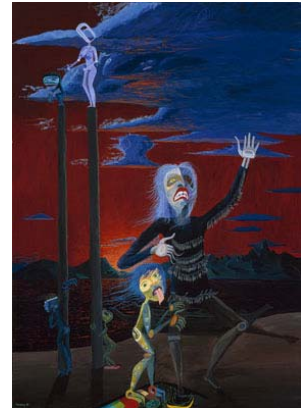
"We're very excited to launch into 2011 by showcasing so many remarkable artists from our permanent collection," said Vancouver Art Gallery director Kathleen Bartels, "This exhibition demonstrates the strength and breadth of our holdings, as well as the remarkable diversity and innovation of these contemporary artists."

The terrain of the unreal was systematically explored by artists in the early decades of the twentieth century. Informed in part by the ideas of psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, the surrealists strove to unleash repressed creative forces and to liberate the human imagination from the moral and sexual constraints of the conscious mind. Other movements such as Dada – and later Fluxus – worked to reveal the peculiarities and randomness of everyday life. From examinations of human vulnerability to the mining of the unconscious as a source of inspiration, to a conscious turn towards the strange and fantastic, *Unreal* seeks to unhinge our typical views of the world and open our eyes to the marvelous, the weird and even the monstrous.

*from the collection: Unreal* is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Daina Augaitis, chief curator/associate director.

A media tour with curator Daina Augaitis will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, at 10am at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

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Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun,  
*Shaman Dancing in Sunset*,  
1989. Acrylic on canvas.  
Collection of the Vancouver Art  
Gallery, Vancouver Art Gallery  
Acquisition Fund.

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**Photographs for publication are available on request.**

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