



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **GOVERNOR GENERAL TO RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN IN THE ARTS AWARD**

**Vancouver, BC** – The Vancouver Art Gallery has initiated an award honouring women who have made a significant contribution to the arts. The first recipient of the *International Woman in the Arts Award* will be Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada.

The award luncheon will be held on **Tuesday June 18 from 12 noon to 2.00 pm** at the Four Seasons Hotel. Attending the luncheon will be corporate guests and members of the arts community. George Killy, Chair of the Gallery's Board of Trustees, said, "This is a new event for the Gallery and we anticipate approximately 300 guests will attend to honour Mme Clarkson". He added, "It is fitting that this inaugural award luncheon coincides with our summer exhibition featuring three outstanding female artists. *Carr, O'Keeffe, Kahlo: Places of their Own* will open on June 15 and brings together the work of Emily Carr, Georgia O'Keeffe and Frida Kahlo."

The Governor General will be present to receive the *International Woman in the Arts Award* and will address the assembled guests. The award will be presented by Doris Shadbolt – author, curator and doyenne of art on the West Coast. The event will be hosted by actor, writer and director Nicola Cavendish who has performed across Canada for 27 years, is known for her role in *Shirley Valentine* and recently toured in Michel Tremblay's play *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again*. The program will also include performances by pianist Rena Sharon and soprano Marisa Gaetanne, two prominent Canadian female performing artists, and violinist Caitlin Tully who, at the age of fourteen, has been described as one of the most up and coming violinists of her generation.

"The Vancouver Art Gallery is privileged to present this award to Mme Clarkson who has not only achieved a great deal as a writer, publisher and broadcaster over the past three decades," said Kathleen Bartels, Director, Vancouver Art Gallery, "but who has also made a formidable impact as Governor General in promoting the arts in the international arena." Ms Bartels went on to say, "Like artists Carr, O'Keeffe and Kahlo, this award honours women who have demonstrated their creative vision and a shared spirit of courage, passion and integrity".

Mme Clarkson's appointment in 1999 as Governor General follows a rich and distinguished career. As the first Agent-General for Ontario in Paris, she promoted Ontario's cultural interests in France, Italy and Spain. As host, writer and producer of several influential programs on CBC Television, Mme Clarkson received numerous awards in Canada and the US.

In addition, Mme Clarkson has given generously of her time as Honorary Patron of numerous artistic and charitable organizations. These include serving as Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec and as the President of the Executive Board of IMZ, the international audio-visual association of music, dance and cultural programmers based in Vienna.

Proceeds from this event will support the Vancouver Art Gallery's exhibition and public programs. For further information or to purchase tickets contact Betty Hum, Event Specialist, Vancouver Art Gallery, 604 662 4700, [bhum@vanartgallery.bc.ca](mailto:bhum@vanartgallery.bc.ca)

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