

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WACK! It's FUSE Again at the Vancouver Art Gallery

Vancouver's Most Artful Evening Out Happens November 28th from 6pm to Midnight

VANCOUVER, BC — The **November 28th FUSE** will transform the **Vancouver Art Gallery** into the city's most intriguing nightspot. The first *FUSE* since the all-night June event, the evening will feature a full slate of music, art and performance inspired by **WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution**, including live music by legendary sound artist **Pauline Oliveros**, a hip-hop version of **Martha Rosler's Semiotics of the Kitchen**, an adult-oriented puppet show and much more. The highly anticipated event offers a completely original line up of non-stop entertainment throughout the Gallery, from the historic courtrooms and intimate gallery spaces to the specially-created *FUSE Lounge*, where Gallery-goers can have a drink and listen to one of the city's hottest DJs.

Pauline Oliveros is a senior figure in contemporary American music. Her performance at *FUSE* will feature her celebrated compositions synthesizing electro-acoustic sounds, stretching the sonic possibilities of the accordion well beyond their imagined boundaries. The experimental musician, whose work is included in *WACK!*, began her career in the 1950s as one of San Francisco's circle of iconoclastic composers, artists and poets. Now a professor of music at New York State's Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the artist focuses on opening human sensibilities to sound through a process she calls Deep Listening – a philosophy and practice that cultivates appreciation of sounds on a heightened level.

Norma, a Vancouver collective whose performances have included a simulated seven-hour party waist deep in 2500 balloons and a three-hour blind-folded line dancing session, will put a new spin on *WACK!* artist Martha Rosler's *Semiotics of the Kitchen*. Throwing down hip-hop style, the seven young artists will introduce their hallmark brand of absurdity and repetition to Rosler's seminal work of feminist performance art in an exploration of collective identity and cultural anxiety.

Fluffy 10th Street: Confessions of a Dirty Puppet is a one-puppet play about a wanton marionette performed by Vancouver artists Tara Travis and Jamie Robson. Fluffy, a pole-dancing puppet reminisces about her past dalliances with Pinocchio and tells a tragic tale of her fall from celebrated actress of classic fairy tales to a life as a sultry stripper. Using the traditional Japanese form of puppetry known as Bunraku, the puppeteers are present on stage during the performance shrouded in black to obscure their appearance while manipulating the wide range of Fluffy's evocative movements.

In collaboration with Gallery Gachet, a Vancouver arts institution dedicated to demystifying issues related to mental health, *FUSE* will present performance works by Vancouver artists **Dolores Dallas** and **Irene Loughlin**. Dallas will create a sculptural installation out of expired cigarette lighters in the Gallery's forecourt over the course of the evening, creating a metaphor that honours those who have lost their lives to addiction. Caped in blankets, Loughlin and several collaborators will



Fluffy, star of the one-puppet play, *Fluffy 10th Street: Confessions of a Dirty Puppet*

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seek out *FUSE*-goers to perform “diagnoses” of their ailments and recommend possible “cures,” providing written prescriptions that visitors can affix to their bodies.

Performing in a fourth-floor Gallery space, Vancouver singer **Vanessa Richards** and her band **Radiant Sound** will pay homage to the feminist spirit of artists featured in *WACK!*. The group will play a live set of songs by women who created powerful music between 1965 and 1980 – the time period explored in the exhibition. In the *FUSE* Lounge, Vancouver’s hottest female DJ, **DJ Betti Ford**, will spin tunes and highlight some of pop music’s legendary ladies.

Timed to take place once during the run of all major exhibitions, the Vancouver Art Gallery’s *FUSE* puts the city’s leading visual arts destination in an entirely new light—at night. *FUSE* tickets are \$17.50 per person. Members of the Vancouver Art Gallery receive free admission.

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