

For Immediate Release

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Museum of Vancouver unleashes its *Ravishing Beasts*

Exhibit features taxidermy unseen for half a century, and explores its modern relevance in art, design—and the future of museums

Ravishing Beasts is a visually dramatic exploration of the provocative and strangely alluring world of taxidermy. Museum of Vancouver presents this exhibit, the first of its kind in North America, October 22nd, 2009 to February 28th, 2010 at 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Information: 604.736.4431 www.museumofvancouver.ca

This 3,600 square foot exhibition showcases the Museum's extensive collection of taxidermy with a contemporary approach to gallery design. It challenges viewers to think about taxidermy's cultural aesthetic and scientific history, and examines the current revival of the practice in art and design—both on the West Coast and abroad.

From the pages of interior design magazines to mainstream jewellery design to the art installations of Damien Hirst, taxidermy is undeniably an of the moment trend, raising complex questions about our conflicted and complex relationship to nature and animals.

The exhibit also examines the Museum's past, displaying taxidermy and other items from its natural history collection that have not been on public display for half a century. According to Rachel Poliquin, MOV's guest curator, "*Ravishing Beasts* provides a fascinating opportunity to question the legacy, current value, and future relevance of taxidermy both within and beyond museum culture."

Featured visuals:

- Approx 100 taxidermy specimens are on display including; a prize winning giant moose (whose antlers alone span over 5ft), White Rhinoceros head mount, and the now extinct Huia Bird and Passenger Pigeon.
- Contemporary Art – the provocative works of Vancouver artist George Vergette, French artist Pascal Bernier, Dutch artist duo Idiots, and a short documentary about German artist Iris Schieferstein are explored.
- Vignettes throughout the gallery explore topics such as; trophy hunting, museum dioramas, the taxidermy process, animal beauty, history, and conservation.

No animals were killed for this exhibition. Most of the taxidermy that will be on exhibit is from the Museum's own collection and was acquired primarily between 1894 and 1950 from Vancouver residents.

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For more information or to set up interviews contact:

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