

**For Immediate Release**

## **PRESIDENT DR. RON BURNETT AND ALUMNUS DOUGLAS COUPLAND APPOINTED TO THE ORDER OF CANADA**

***Emily Carr University congratulates two visionary leaders in the field of art + culture***

**Vancouver, CAN, JANUARY 02, 2014** | [Emily Carr University of Art + Design](#) proudly congratulates our President + Vice Chancellor, [Dr. Ron Burnett](#), and esteemed alumnus, [Douglas Coupland](#), on their newly announced appointments to the Order of Canada. One of the highest civilian honours in the country, the Order of Canada recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to our nation.

Dr. Ron Burnett is made a Member of the Order of Canada for his leadership in arts education, notably as president of Emily Carr University. With his vision and leadership, the Emily Carr community has achieved many significant milestones, over nearly two decades, to become the prestigious, globally recognized centre of art and design innovation it is today. These accomplishments will include the new purpose-built Emily Carr Campus at Great Northern Way.

Because of Dr. Burnett's outstanding contributions, today Emily Carr University is noted for: a values-driven culture; interdisciplinary balance between fine art, interactive media and communication design; and a strong focus on research, partnership and innovation. Ethics, social collaboration, as well as sustainability theory and ecological design practices are hallmarks of the curriculum and of Dr. Burnett's desire to graduate students who are uniquely suited to solving the complex problems facing our future.

Dr. Burnett is also a recipient of: the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012; the "Chevalier de l'ordre des Art et des Lettres", a knighthood from the French Government in 2010; Educator of the Year in Canada in 2005; the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002; and the Outstanding Leadership Award from the International Digital Media Arts Association. He currently sits on the boards of BCNet, the European League of Institutes of the Arts, AICAD, the Learning Development Institute, and is a former Chair of the Knowledge Network.

A photographer, videomaker, filmmaker and writer, Dr. Burnett is the author of over 150 essays, chapters and articles and has published three books, [Cultures of Vision: Images, Media and the Imaginary](#), [Explorations in Film Theory](#) and [How Images Think](#). Dr. Burnett is on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and writes a weblog, established 1994, entitled [Critical Approaches to Culture + Media](#).

Well-known alumnus Douglas Coupland is made an Officer of the Order of Canada for his contributions to our examination of the contemporary human condition as a novelist, cultural commentator and artist. His fiction and recognized works in design and visual art include the international best seller *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture*, which popularized terms such as McJob and Generation X.

With 13 novels, two collections of short stories, seven non-fiction books and dramatic works and screenplays for film and television, Mr. Coupland is a prolific contributor to, and influencer of, Canadian and global culture, with his latest critically acclaimed contemporary novel, *Worst. Person. Ever.*, published in 2013.



**About Emily Carr University of Art + Design**

Emily Carr University of Art + Design, established in 1925, is a world leader in education and research. Encouraging experimentation at the intersection of art, design, media and technology, our learning community merges research, critical theory and studio practice in an interdisciplinary environment. Alumni and faculty are internationally recognized as award-winning creators and thought leaders who have enormous impact on both the cultural sector and economy. We engage students, industry, and society to continuously explore and think differently about creativity and how it shapes our world. Emily Carr is building a state-of-the-art campus for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning at Great Northern Way. The University will be at the centre of a new social, cultural, educational, and economic engine for British Columbia. Find out more at [ecuad.ca](http://ecuad.ca).

**For additional information, contact:**

Barry Patterson, Executive Director of Communications, Emily Carr University of Art + Design  
[bpatterson@ecuad.ca](mailto:bpatterson@ecuad.ca); 604.844.3078

Karin Watson, Media Relations, Communications Department, Emily Carr University of Art + Design  
[kwatson@ecuad.ca](mailto:kwatson@ecuad.ca); 604.630.4566