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Contact

Roxanne Toronto *communications officer, university advancement*
tel 604 742 9007 | roxanne@ecuad.ca



ALUMNUS STEVEN SHEARER TO REPRESENT CANADA AT THE 54TH ANNUAL VENICE BIENNALE

Vancouver, BC | Emily Carr University of Art + Design alumnus Steven Shearer (93) has been selected to represent Canada at the prestigious 54th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia 2011 (Venice Biennale). The Biennale is the only international arts exhibition that Canada sends official representation to and is one of the most celebrated contemporary art exhibitions in the world.

Shearer was born in New Westminster in 1968 and is currently based out of Vancouver. Known for incorporating a range of traditional and contemporary media, his work includes paintings, sculpture, photographic compilations and text-based works.

“We’re absolutely delighted that Steven has been chosen to represent Canada at the 2011 Biennale,” says Dr. Ron Burnett, President + Vice-Chancellor, Emily Carr University of Art + Design. “He joins the ranks of several notable Emily Carr alumni who have proudly represented Canada over the years.”

Shearer exhibits nationally and internationally, with previous solo exhibitions in Amsterdam, Birmingham, Zurich, Los Angeles, New York, Calgary, Toronto, Turin and Tokyo. Group exhibitions include shows in Belgium, London, Switzerland, Chicago, San Francisco, and Mexico City. He is represented locally by Monte Clark Gallery.

The artist was chosen by a national selection committee comprised of senior contemporary art curators from across Canada and formed by the National Gallery of Canada (NGC), organizer of the Canadian representation for the 2011 Biennale. The NGC's Senior Curator of Contemporary Art, Josée Drouin-Brisebois, will organize the exhibition of Shearer's work.

Canadian artists have been represented at the Venice Biennale since 1952, with the exhibition helping to launch the international careers of some of the most celebrated artists in recent Canadian art history. Previous Emily Carr alumni representatives include BC Binning, Jack Shadbolt and Liz Magor.

For more information, please visit the National Gallery's website - www.gallery.ca

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