



VANCOUVER, BC, APRIL 23, 2007

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**Attn: Editors**

## EMILY CARR INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES 2007 HONORARY DOCTORATE AND EMILY AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Vancouver, BC, April 23, 2007** – Emily Carr Institute (ECI) will honor international artist Ian Wallace, activist pop star Buffy Sainte-Marie, and world-renowned painter Wanda Koop on May 5, 2007 at its Graduation Ceremony to be held at the Chan Centre at UBC. They will each receive an Honorary Doctor of Letters from the Board of Governors for their contribution to the world of art, conferred by ECI President Dr. Ron Burnett and Board Chair Dr. George Pedersen.

This year's Emily Award, acknowledging outstanding achievements by an alumnus during the early years of their career, goes to Sonny Assu.

"We are extremely proud of this year's recipients. Not only have they influenced Canadian art, but they've made their mark on the international community," comments Dr. Ron Burnett.

Past honorary degree recipients include: Michael Audain, Douglas Coupland, Atom Egoyan, Arthur C. Erickson, Sally Potter, Gordon A. Smith, and Wendy Tilby.

### Career Highlights

#### Ian Wallace

Ian Wallace has been active as an art critic and artist exhibiting painting, sculpture, photography and video since 1965. He exhibits widely in Canada, Europe and USA, with work included in numerous collections including the Reina Sophia in Madrid, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, Centre Pompidou in Paris, The National Gallery in Ottawa and The Vancouver Art Gallery.

Mr. Wallace is also the recipient of:

- The Governor-Generals Award for Excellence in the Arts in 2004
- VIVA Award for Excellence in the Arts in 1997

*Degrees + Programs in*

*Visual Arts, Design + Media*

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1399 Johnston Street

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*Established in 1925*



## Buffy Sainte-Marie

Buffy Sainte-Marie virtually invented the role of Native American international activist pop star. Her concern for protecting indigenous intellectual property, and her distaste for the exploitation of Native American artists and performers has kept her in the forefront of activism in the arts for forty years. Presently she operates the Nihewan Foundation for Native American Education whose Cradleboard Teaching Project serves children and teachers in eighteen states.

An early Macintosh pioneer in digital art and music, Ms. Sainte-Marie's works were among the first of its kind to be seen in museums and galleries across North America. The images she creates are very limited edition Ilfordchrome photographic prints, ranging in size from two to nine feet high. The pieces are framed and exhibited in galleries, both physical and virtual.

Ms. Sainte-Marie is also the recipient of:

- An Officer of the Order of Canada in 1998, appointed by His Excellency the Right Honorable Roméo-Adrien LeBlanc, former Governor General
- A Lifetime Achievement Award from National Aboriginal Foundation in 1998
- A Gemini Award in 1997
- Voted to the Juno Hall of Fame in 1995
- An Academy Award in 1982 for her song, *Up Where We Belong*

## Wanda Koop

Wanda Koop is one of Canada's most distinguished and inventive artists. Her painting career spans three decades and includes over 50 solo exhibitions. Long recognized as a painter, she has also become known for her poetic video work. Koop's work has been exhibited in Canada, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, Brazil, Japan, USA, Italy, India and China.

Ms. Koop is known for her community work, particularly the founding of Art City (1998) – a successful storefront art centre in Winnipeg that provides the opportunity for inner-city youth-at-risk to work with contemporary visual artists.

Ms. Koop is also the recipient of:

- A Member of the Order of Canada in 2006, appointed by Her Excellency the Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General
- The Doctor of Letters from the University of Winnipeg in 2002
- The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002

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# EMILY CARR INSTITUTE

ART + DESIGN + MEDIA

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## Sonny Assu

Sonny Assu is one of Canada's most promising artists. After graduating from ECI in 2002 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, this Vancouver artist has built a successful art practice utilizing a variety of media platforms. Assu's work not only pushes the bounds of contemporary Indian art but it also takes a satirical look at pop culture and consumerism. His work has been accepted into the National Gallery in Ottawa, the Seattle Art Museum, the Museum of Anthropology at UBC and in various other collections across Canada and the United States.

Mr. Assu is the recipient of:

- The Canada Council Visual Art Project Grant
- The BC Arts Council Grant

Media interested in meeting the recipients can attend the Honorary Doctorates reception on Saturday, May 5, 2007 at 5 pm. Please RSVP to ECI President's Office 604.844.3815 or [carina@eciad.ca](mailto:carina@eciad.ca).

- Ends -

## **About Emily Carr Institute**

Located in Vancouver, BC, Emily Carr Institute is one of the world's premier art institutes committed to excellence and innovation in visual arts, media arts and design. Emily Carr Institute offers a wide variety of Bachelor degree programs, the newly created Masters of Applied Arts degree and Continuing Studies courses. For further information on the Institute, please visit [www.eciad.ca](http://www.eciad.ca).

For further information, please contact:

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