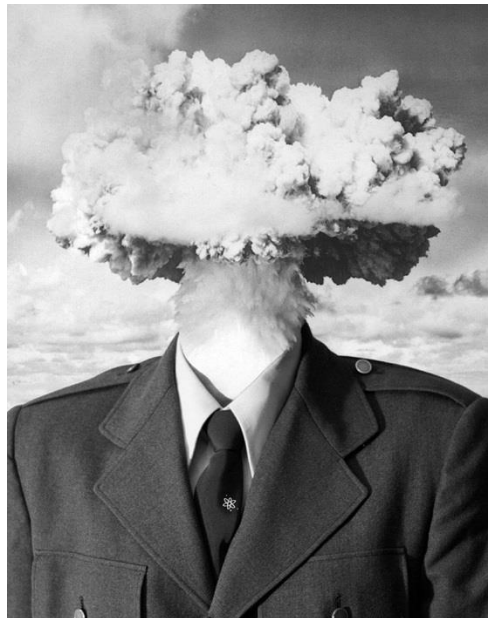


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The Vancouver Art Gallery explores the impact of the nuclear age through the lens of art in **BOMBHEAD**



Media are invited to an exhibition preview of **BOMBHEAD** on **Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 9:00 am** at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Media attending can RSVP directly to Carine Redmond ([carine@carineredmond.com](mailto:carine@carineredmond.com) or 778-239-3067).\*

**February 26, 2018, Vancouver, BC** – The Vancouver Art Gallery is excited to present **BOMBHEAD** (March 3 – June 17, 2018), a thematic exhibition that explores the emergence and ongoing impact of the nuclear age through the work of artists, designers, filmmakers, photojournalists and physicists.

Guest curated by John O’Brian, Professor Emeritus of Art History, Visual Art & Theory at the University of British Columbia, **BOMBHEAD** combines atomic ephemera with artworks drawn primarily from the Vancouver Art Gallery’s collection. Encompassing the pre- and postwar period from the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 to the triple meltdown at Fukushima Daiichi in 2011, the exhibition brings together paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture, photographs, film and video that deal with this often dark subject matter, strongly associated with obliteration and destruction.

“We are very pleased to present **BOMBHEAD**, which explores the profound cultural and ecological impact of nuclear technologies through the art and visual culture of the nuclear era,” says Kathleen

S. Bartels, Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. “In a time marked by ongoing nuclear proliferation this timely exhibition compels us to observe and reflect on the major role Canada has played in nuclear events since their emergence in the mid-twentieth century.”

Artists in the exhibition include: Carl Beam, Henry Busse, Blaine Campbell, Bruce Conner, Gregory Coyes, Robert Del Tredici, Wang Du, Harold Edgerton, Gathie Falk, Robert Filliou, Richard Finnie, Betty Goodwin, Adolph Gottlieb, David Hockney, Jenny Holzer, Robert Keziere, Roy Kiyooka, Bob Light and John Houston, Ishiuchi Miyako, Carel Moiseiwitsch, Bruce Nauman, Andrea Pineiro, Robert Rauschenberg, James Rosenquist, Mark Ruwedel, John Scott, Erin Siddall, Nancy Spero and Barbara Todd.

The themes explored in this exhibition will strongly resonate with the works on view in *Takashi Murakami: The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg* (February 3 – May 6, 2018), which reflect Murakami’s own reckoning with the nuclear age.

### **About John O’Brian**

John O’Brian is an art historian, writer and curator. He has organized exhibitions on photography and the nuclear era—*The Nuclear Machine* (Copenhagen, 2016), *Camera Atomica* (Toronto, 2015), *After the Flash* (London, 2014), *Strangelove’s Weegee* (Vancouver, 2013)—and published twenty books, including *Ruthless Hedonism: The American Reception of Matisse* and *David Milne and the Modern Tradition of Painting* as well as *Clement Greenberg: The Collected Essays and Criticism*, which he edited. He lives in Vancouver and until recently taught at the University of British Columbia.

### **\*Also opening this month at the Vancouver Art Gallery:**

*Living, Building, Thinking: art and expressionism* (March 3 – May 21, 2018)

*A Cultivating Journey: The Herman Levy Legacy* (March 3 – May 21, 2018)

Image:

Bruce Conner, *Bombhead*, 1989/2002, pigment on RC photo paper, acrylic, Private Collection, © Estate of Bruce Conner/SODRAC (2017)

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IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

MEDIA CONTACT

Carine Redmond, Carine Redmond & Associates

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### **About the Vancouver Art Gallery**

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America’s most respected and innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery’s ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs, and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is paid to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to the arts of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art that the Gallery founded in 2014. The Gallery’s programs also explore the impacts of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture. [www.vanartgallery.bc.ca](http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca)

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts.