

BURNABY ART GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2012

CANADIAN ARTIST TERRANCE HOULE TRANSFORMS ART GALLERY

National Indian Leg Wrestling League of North America Debuts in Burnaby British Columbia and Tours the Nation

November 27, 2012 – January 27, 2013

BURNABY, BC– *The National Indian Leg Wrestling League of North America or NILWLNA* is a first for Burnaby and Canada. Mythical “Indian Wrestlers” take their place in and around a wrestling ring within Burnaby’s public art museum. Much of Terrance Houle’s practice is directed towards exploring racial and cultural stereotypes imposed upon First Nations people by non-aboriginals. This exhibition, through a series of photographic images, investigates the Hollywood and media driven “Indian Wrestler’s” body through contemporary social and political frameworks. *National Indian Leg Wrestling League of North America* boldly questions how the Aboriginal body may be utilized to create and dismantle stereotypes of First Nations people within the portrait genre, professional sports, and farcical situations. Houle often utilizes his own body and the performance medium to delve into and explore colonialism and the cumulative social effects of racial typecasting. These images also question ideas related to personal and collective subjectivity, the power of the gaze, and the social constructs of aboriginal portraiture.

“One of the most important projects the Burnaby Art Gallery has undertaken, *NILWLNA* provides the gallery with a unique opportunity to explore cultural stereotypes” says Burnaby Art Gallery’s Director/Curator, Darrin Martens. “Houle’s work is not only engaging on a visual level, it provides opportunities for us as viewers to unpack the impact and effects of racial and cultural stereotyping on Canada’s First Nation’s people. Through humour we are able to delve into and assess the lasting effects that Colonial expansion and power has had.” *The National Indian Leg Wrestling League of North America* begins in Burnaby and will be touring to Calgary, Winnipeg and North Bay, Ontario.

For a complete listing of Houle’s solo exhibitions, group exhibitions and collaborative projects, public and corporate collections, public art commissions, curatorial work, web projects, design-related projects, and publications along with an impressive bibliography, go to: www.terrancehouleart.com

Photographs and interviews with the artist are available on request.

Press Preview

Thursday, November 22, 10:00 a.m.

Artist in Attendance

Refreshments Provided/Main Gallery

Opening Reception

Thursday, November 22, 7 p.m.

Artist in Attendance

Refreshments Provided/Main Gallery

Burnaby Art Gallery

National Indian Leg Wrestling League of North America: Terrance Houle

Artist Talk

Saturday, November 24, 2 p.m.

Enjoy a free tour of the exhibition with the artist.

All ages. No registration required. No fee.

Free Family Sunday

In the B.A.G.

Sunday, November 25, 1-4 p.m.

Join us for an interactive experience that combines the current gallery exhibit National Indian Leg Wrestling League of North America with a free, hands-on studio activity. All Ages. No registration required. No fee.

Lunch B.A.G. Days

Friday, November 30, 12 noon – 1 p.m.

Enjoy a short tour of the exhibition led by our public programmer, Shaun Dacey, followed by a catered lunch and refreshments in the Art Gallery's Fireside Room. Limited seating; book early. Bookings must be made 24 hours in advance. Twenty-four hours notice required for a refund.

\$12 includes lunch/ 16 yrs & up/ Call to register: 604-297-4422

Artist's Biography

Terrance Houle is an internationally recognized multi-disciplinary artist of Blood Tribe ancestry based in Calgary, Alberta. Houle studied at the Alberta College of Art & Design earning a BFA in Fibre in 2003. In 2004, his short film *The Wagon Burner*, won the Best Experimental Film Award at the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival in Toronto. In 2006 Houle received the Enbridge Emerging Artist Award. Houle was also a semi-finalist for the prestigious Sobey Art Award in 2008. Houle has been featured in many group and solo exhibitions across Canada and is a founding member of Indigeneity Artist Collective Society.

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The Burnaby Art Gallery is dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting a contemporary and historical visual art programs by local, national and internationally recognized artists. As the stewards of the third largest public art museum collection within the Province of British Columbia, the Burnaby Art Gallery cares for and manages over 4,600 works of art. The Burnaby Art Gallery is a nationally recognized leader in print culture dedicated to showcasing original hand pulled prints and ephemera related to printmaking in Canada.

For more information about the gallery's exhibitions, programs, tours, call 604-297-4422 or visit www.burnabyartgallery.ca. Located in the beautiful surroundings of Deer Lake Park, the Burnaby Art Gallery is open Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 am-4:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday, 12:00-5:00 pm. Admission is by donation; parking is free.

The Burnaby Art Gallery acknowledges the generous support provided by: the City of Burnaby; the British Columbia Arts Council; the Province of British Columbia, its patrons and visitors.