

## MEDIA RELEASE

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MARGINALIA: Getting Out of the House  
Pam Hall & Margaret Dragu  
**September 11 - November 16, 2008**

### **Opening Reception: September 11 at 7pm**

*Participating artists will be in attendance. Everyone is welcome.*

Short Performance aktion by the Artists

The Richmond Art Gallery is pleased to present *Marginalia: Getting Out of the House*. This coast-to-coast correspondence project between Pam Hall (St. John's, Nfld) and Margaret Dragu (Richmond, BC) is a collaboration investigating connection, communication and community, sexuality, aging, and domestic life. "MARGINALIA" is a virtual, physical, and daily engagement with distance and intentional relation.

For the past 4 years Hall and Dragu have been exchanging emails, video clips and "memory cloths"- small fabric squares approximately 12" x 12", which they construct as "postcards/journal pages/poems/snapshots" describing elements of their lives. The squares/carres are exchanged digitally several times a week and have come to represent a "soft book of days" through which each artist maps, and then shares their history.

The project has brought them together over the past two years, in Vancouver, Montreal and St John's to develop the collaboration. During LIVE 2005 the artists invited the public into what they had been, up until now, a very private process. Performance, process, installation the work spans the breadth of Canada and several media

MARGINALIA is about creating discourse: both between the two artists who have undertaken this committed correspondence, and between audiences who experience the work both virtually and in real-time. Our process engages new technologies and old manual practices to explore the ground between art and life, between one coast and another, between two strangers deciding to "make a relationship". We are, like most Canadians, exploring how it might be possible to forge deep connection, mutual understanding, and complicity across great distance

Pam Hall is a visual artist, filmmaker and writer whose work has been exhibited across Canada and internationally, and is represented in many corporate, private and public collections. Her solo exhibition "The Coil: a history in four parts", documenting a five year process of site-specific installation on the land and water across Canada and in Japan, was purchased by the National Gallery of Canada for its Permanent Collection. Her most recent interdisciplinary installation "New Readings In Female Anatomy", opened at the AGNL in St. John's in 2001, and traveled to Carleton University Art Gallery 2002. In addition to her visual arts practice, based in St. John's, Newfoundland, she travels extensively to pursue the creation and presentation of her work, and to teach graduate students at art schools in Vermont. Hall has written and illustrated children's books, teaches graduate students in the United States, and works as a production designer in the film industry. Her work on "Rare Birds" was recognized for Outstanding

Achievement in Production Design by the Director's Guild of Canada. She lives and works in St. John's. She has an extensive exhibition history: her work has been shown throughout Canada and internationally

Dragu's astonishing output of work spans back to 1969 and includes forays into theatre, film, video, writing, choreography and above all, performance art. As well as working in performance, Dragu is a film and video artist, writer, choreographer, actor, and radio broadcaster. She was the first artist to be featured in *Canadian Performance Art Legends*, a project initiated by the Toronto-based organization Fado in 2000 to highlight the work of senior Canadian performance artists. She is perhaps best known for her work in the 1980s, including her long-running X's and O's series, which began with a solstice mega-spectacle in Hamilton in 1983 (X's and O's on the Longest Day of the Year) and continues with her recent "Improvisation for X's and O's". Her 1988 film project I VANT TO BE ALONE reads as a who's who of the Toronto art scene of the 1980s, while her smaller, more intimate 1990s work has been produced and seen mainly on the west coast. In the last decade she has done many activating public projects including the multi-faceted "Walking Woman" in association with the RAG.

Artist Talk with Margaret Dragu Nov 14, Friday from 5 – 6pm. The **Opening Reception** will take place on **September 11 from 7 to 9pm**. Participating artists will be in attendance. City of Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie will open the exhibition.

**Gallery hours** are 10:00am to 6:00pm from Monday to Friday and 10:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday & Sunday. For updated information on events and programming, visit the website at [www.richmondartgallery.org](http://www.richmondartgallery.org)

The RAG is operated by the Richmond Art Gallery Association and is the City of Richmond's Public Contemporary Art Gallery under the auspices of the Office of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services. The RAG receives generous and ongoing financial support from the City of Richmond, the BC Arts Council, the BC Gaming Commission and project Assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts.

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