

MEDIA RELEASE
20 November 2007

Highlife
Michelle Allard

Proscenium Home
Erica Stocking



Michelle Allard, *Highlife*, 2007
rolled office paper, cardboard boxes,
dimensions variable

December 7 - January 10, 2008

Join us for the opening reception on Friday, December 7, 6:30-8:30 pm. Participating artists will be in attendance.

The Richmond Art Gallery presents two new exhibitions opening Friday, December 7, featuring work by Michelle Allard and Erica Stocking. Publications will accompany both exhibitions with texts written by Kristina Lee Podesva.

A new installation by **Michelle Allard** in Gallery One, is made entirely of thousands of sheets of rolled highlighter coloured office papers and cardboard boxes *Highlife* makes more out of less while considering processes of circulation, accumulation, and mutability. Resisting singular readings, Allard attempts to work within and beyond established systems of circulation and signification.

Emerging Vancouver-based artist **Erica Stocking** creates a new site-specific installation consisting of a bachelor apartment visible from both inside and outside Gallery Two. The contents of the apartment will be on loan from a Sears Department Store. Minimal aesthetic and phenomenological relationships with viewers are complicated by narrative spectacle. Theatricality is utilized to conflate public and private space, shopping and cultural engagement, exhibitionism and voyeurism. Using private spaces we can share with others, such as a hotel room, an apartment and the space of fairytales, Stocking creates installations that mirror our contemporary experience where interior/exterior dilemmas double as a metaphor for the private and public.

Erica Stocking received her BFA from The Emily Carr Institute in 2004. She has exhibited locally at Artspeak Gallery, Lobby Gallery, Helen Pitt Gallery, and the Butchershop Gallery. She is a founding member of Norma, a Vancouver based collective whose performance and installation works have been exhibited locally at Artspeak, LIVE Biennial of Performance Art, grunt gallery, and Access Gallery.

Michelle Allard's recent exhibitions include *Flourish* at Mercer Union, Toronto, 2006, *In Transit* at Diaz Contemporary, Toronto 2006, and *More or Less* at Eye Level Gallery, Halifax 2006. She has taken part

in several residencies; Association Pollen, France, 2005; Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, Japan, 2005, and Aceartinc in Winnipeg, 2004, and received numerous grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, The Ontario Arts Council, and the Toronto Arts Council. She received her MFA from the University of Guelph, Ontario in 2003 and is represented by Diaz Contemporary, Toronto.

An **Artist Talk** will be held on January 9 at 7pm. The Richmond Art Gallery is located at 180-7700 Minoru Gate in Richmond. Gallery hours are 10:00am to 6:00pm from Monday to Friday and 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

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 the Canada Council for the Arts.

(30)

Contact Information

Richmond Art Gallery

7700 Minoru Gate

Richmond V6Y 1R9

604.247.8300

Email; gallery@richmond.ca

www.richmondartgallery.org