

MEDIA RELEASE  
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*Between Hope and Politics: Photographs of the PacifiCat Project.* **Jim Breukelman**



**Jim Breukelman, *PacifiCat Project #3*, 2000**



**January 18 – February 28, 2008**

*Opening reception is Friday, January 18, at 6:30pm. Participating artist will be in attendance.*

The Richmond Art Gallery is pleased to debut a new body of work by senior BC photographer Jim Breukelman.

Many large-scale prints will be shown from a vast photo essay documenting the construction of the aborted fast ferries built in British Columbia for the BC Ferry Corporation. The detail, sense of space and compositional integrity of these pictures evoke the formal abstraction of modern painting and architectural design. This epic visual meditation on a megaproject, with its attendant expectations, achievements, pitfalls and controversy, speaks to global concerns (alongside the work of artists like Edward Butynsky or Andreas Gursky) while retaining a poignantly local perspective.

**Jim Breukelman** received a BFA in photography at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, Rhode Island, USA, studying with Harry Callahan and Richard Leibowitz. In 1967 he was hired by the Vancouver School of Art to plan and implement their first program in Fine Art Photography. From 1967 to 2000, in his various roles as Photography Instructor, Department Head of Photography, and Dean of Media Arts at ECI, Jim Breukelman has had a significant influence on the development of artists and photographic art in Vancouver. He has had numerous solo exhibitions across Canada over four decades and his work is in various public and private collections including the Vancouver Art Gallery and the Canada Council Art Bank in Ottawa.

The artist thanks The Canada Council for the Arts for supporting this project.

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.

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