

TO THE DOGS

June 30 – August 5, 2007

Opening Reception

Saturday, June 30, 2 pm.

Dogs Welcome.

PRESENTATION HOUSE GALLERY

Presentation House Gallery is pleased to present *To The Dogs*, an art exhibition that examines the relationship between humans and canines through a variety of photographic, video and film works.

The exhibition considers how society has shaped, and is shaped by, the “companion species” known as dog. As **Gertrude Stein** wrote in 1935 “**I am I because my little dog knows me.**” Today, Vancouver seems especially obsessed with all things dog: we are who we are because of our dogs. Included in the show are classic images, contemporary art works, and vernacular portraits which are augmented by historic photographs culled from several local archives. Together these pictures reveal how dogs have remained an enduring metaphor and potent symbol in human history, an integral part of everyday life, and a favourite subject of the camera.

To the Dogs looks at the diverse ways that dogs as domestic pets and wilder animals are part of society as friends, helpers, labourers, and even performers. The exhibition includes photography of dog locomotion such as Edward Muybridge’s stop action motion studies from the late nineteenth century to John Divola’s recent series *Dogs Chasing My Car in the Desert*. There are many versions of “man and his best friend” as expressed in famous photographs of Jacques-Henri Lartigue and Herbert List, through to William Wegman’s collaborative exercises with his Weimeraners performing in a variety of guises. The stray dog and wolf are vividly portrayed in the conceptual work of Hiroshi Sugimoto and Francis Alÿs, and the documentary approaches of Magnum photographers Elliott Erwitt, Chris Steele-Perkins, and Miquel Rio Branco.

In conjunction with this exhibition is a **temporary dog portrait studio operated by Shari Hatt**. This award-winning Canadian artist has photographed celebrity dogs owned by the Duke and Duchess of York and British fashion designer Alexander McQueen. She will be available for dog portrait sessions for the first week of the exhibition. Please call 604.986.1351 to set up an appointment. A series of Hatt’s dog portraits, many of which are in major museum collections, will also be in the exhibition.

A film program, including classic dog movies, will be presented on Saturday, July 28, beginning at dusk on the lawn of Presentation House. Dogs Welcome. For more information see www.presentationhousegall.com.

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