



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 8, 2025

**MOA Presents Solo Exhibition of Internationally-Renowned Contemporary
Indigenous Artist Rebecca Belmore in
— *VALUE: Rebecca Belmore at the Museum of Anthropology* —**

Exhibition to showcase four installation works that span Belmore's four-decade career

VANCOUVER, BC — The Museum of Anthropology (MOA) at UBC is delighted to present an exhibition of internationally-lauded contemporary artist Rebecca Belmore in ***VALUE: Rebecca Belmore at the Museum of Anthropology***, on display from **May 15–October 19, 2025**. The exhibition offers an examination of four important works from the Anishinaabe artist's four-decade career, embodying Belmore's persistent critique of the ongoing condition of colonialism. Through four of her large-scale installation works, Belmore challenges our notions of collective value defined by colonial institutions and contemporary social structures. The four works will be displayed throughout MOA, including in the Audain Gallery and the Great Hall.

"For more than four decades, Rebecca Belmore has been a force for change through her embodied artistic practice, critiquing the far reaching and long lasting implications of colonialism and capitalism, which continues to impact the lives of Indigenous people in Canada and around the world," says guest curator **Jeffrey Boone**, a collector, former gallerist, and Master's student in Critical and Curatorial Studies at the University of British Columbia. "This exhibition speaks to the artist's alternative system of value within her Indigenous community, prompting visitors to reflect and, perhaps, redefine their own understanding of value in terms of our relationship to land, water, objects, and, ultimately, to one another."

Two of Belmore's most notable multimedia works will be exhibited at MOA's Audain Gallery: *Fountain* (2005) and *Wild* (2001). *Fountain* premiered at the 2005 Venice Biennale, where Belmore was selected as Canada's official representative at the prestigious international exhibition. A proposition to consider our relation to land and water, the installation constitutes a short video filmed on Iona Beach – not far from MOA – that shows the artist struggling in the ocean before throwing a pail of water-turned-blood at the screen. The element of water is represented both in the subject of the film, but also literally in a wall of falling water onto which the video is projected. Previously seen in a different configuration at the Vancouver Art Gallery nearly 20 years ago, the work will now be exhibited to the artist's original installation specifications for the first time in Vancouver at MOA.

Commissioned by the Art Gallery of Ontario, *Wild* is a mixed media piece that includes a bedspread with human hair and beaver pelt, and references Belmore's original performance of the installation. Through Belmore's physical occupancy of the luxurious bed at its 2001 premiere, the artist inverts the aggressive and hostile treatment of her ancestors at the hands of European colonizers by assuming the unexpected role of unwelcome guest in the most intimate room of the house.

/more...

In 2010, Belmore gifted *Wild* to the Vancouver Art Gallery, as part of a protest against a high-profile legal dispute. Her gift took the form of a performance on Labour Day weekend in 2010, in which she sat on the sidewalk in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery under a sign that read “I AM WORTH MORE THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO MY PEOPLE,” asserting her understanding of intrinsic value above the capitalistic monetary value placed on her work by contemporary society. The placard used in the protest will be on display in this exhibition.

A fourth work will be on display in Vancouver for the very first time, and will be exhibited in MOA's Great Hall as a later addition to the exhibition, in late July 2025. The piece, *Ayum-ee-aawach Oomama-mowan: Speaking to their Mother* (1991) is a two-meter-wide wooden megaphone created by Belmore in response to the 1990 Kanehsatà:ke Resistance in Oka, Quebec, in which Mohawk people and their supporters protested plans to build a golf course on sacred Indigenous land. The piece is still regularly activated in community, whereby the megaphone is carried to an outdoor location so that those who are gathered can speak to the land through the megaphone. When the megaphone arrives at MOA in July – following its activation through the SAW Gallery in Ottawa – it will be accompanied by a sound recording from an early activation of the work, with voices speaking and singing through the megaphone in various languages.

A member of the Lac Seul First Nation on traditional Anishinaabe territories in Northwestern Ontario, Belmore roots her work in the political and social realities of Indigenous communities. She lives and works in Vancouver. The artist's work has been exhibited at the Polygon Gallery, Audain Art Museum, Grunt Gallery, Vancouver Art Gallery, Art Gallery of Ontario, and National Gallery of Canada, as well as internationally in the United States, Mexico, Cuba, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Greece, Japan, and Australia. Among her many accolades, she was most recently recognized as recipient of the 2024 Audain Prize for the Visual Arts.

Jeffrey Boone is a Master's student in Critical and Curatorial Studies in the Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory at the University of British Columbia, returning to academia after a 35-year career in the art world. Boone collects contemporary art, has managed commercial galleries, helped build private and corporate collections, and organized exhibitions. His work centres on fostering access to contemporary art and the conversations around it.

Visitors will receive a brochure that will fold out as a take-away poster, and includes a map, list of exhibited works, curatorial essay, and acknowledgements.

To learn more about the exhibition, visit moa.ubc.ca

About MOA (moa.ubc.ca)

The Museum of Anthropology (MOA) at the University of British Columbia (UBC) is world-renowned for its collections, research, teaching, public programs and community connections. Its mission is to inspire an understanding of and respect for world arts and cultures. Today, Canada's largest teaching museum is located in a spectacular Arthur Erickson-designed building overlooking mountains and sea. MOA's collections consist of more than 50,000 cultural objects and artworks created in Asia, Africa, Oceania, Europe and the Americas — with a focus on the Pacific Northwest. MOA's Multiversity Galleries: Ways of Knowing provide public access to many of these works. The Audain Gallery and the O'Brian Gallery, MOA's feature exhibition spaces, showcase travelling exhibitions, as well as those developed in-house.

LISTING INFORMATION

MOA presents *VALUE: Rebecca Belmore at the Museum of Anthropology*

Dates: May 15 to October 19, 2025

Admission Rates: \$10 (Youth 6-18), \$22 (Student 19+ & Senior 65+), \$25 Adult

Address: Museum of Anthropology
University of British Columbia
6393 NW Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC

Website: moa.ubc.ca

- 30 -

For further media information, contact

Angela Poon | 604.569.5343 | apoon@mpmgarts.com
Laura Murray | 604.418.2998 | lmurray@mpmgarts.com

 MURRAY PATERSON
MARKETING GROUP