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MEDIA RELEASE

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NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Solo exhibition by Vivienne Pearson is both personal and social

Dec 4, 2009 – Jan 16, 2010

COQUITLAM, BC – The works of artist Vivienne Pearson will be featured in the Art Gallery at Evergreen Cultural Centre next month, and with the title, *No Place Like Home*, one might expect a *Wizard-of-Oz-like* experience.

However, the only similarity to Oz in this series is that perhaps our world is becoming just as strange, scary and “apocalyptic”. “Home is the one place in all this world where hearts are sure of each other...” reads the first line in Vivienne Pearson’s artist statement. She continues, “Outside the world is rife with very tangible confrontations of race, class, culture and gender...”

Her works, large-scale textile assemblages, explore themes that are both personal and social and their indefiniteness reinforces the artist’s own uncertainties. The image of a dark world in *Babel* speaks of humanity’s arrogance. Another work titled, *All Alone* includes a needlepoint portrait of an Aboriginal child, and a new work from 2009, *The Big Ones Are Gone* is much more personal and is dedicated to her grandfather who pioneered the Gulf Islands.

Vivienne Pearson was formally trained as painter. But working with shape and colour on canvas fell short of her intention and she quickly moved to textiles. For the artist textiles create an essential resonance beyond the sense of sight, something more physical by the sheer nature of the media – needlepoint, quilting, crochet – that offers a rich quality. Her lines are never precise and the random undulations of the materials give her narratives an uncertain or uneven quality.

Vivienne takes textile art, historically a domestic and safe craft, and elevates it to high art that address hard-line social themes and contemporary issues. The Kootenay Gallery described her work like this, “One feels the work. Then one begins to comprehend it.”

Vivienne Pearson is a BC artist who received her BFA from Thompson University in Nelson. She has been the recipient of two Canada council Awards, residencies at the Banff Centre with awards from the Vancouver Foundation and Crafts Association of British Columbia. She lives on Mayne Island and is the Director of the Salt Spring Island Arts Council.

The exhibition, *No Place Like Home* previews on Dec 3 from 4 – 6pm and runs Dec 4 to Jan 18 in the Art Gallery. Gallery hours are Monday to Saturday, noon to 5pm. Admission is free. The official opening takes place Sunday, Dec 6 from 4 – 5:30pm. Everyone is welcome and the artist will be in attendance.

For more information on Vivienne Pearson and the Art Gallery visit www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca

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