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## PRESS RELEASE:

*grunt gallery – Vancouver, BC*

### **Exhibition: *Background / ThisPlace***

**Artists:** Michael de Courcy (with Glenn Lewis, Gerry Gilbert, Taki Bluesinger); Emilio Rojas, Guadalupe Martinez, and Igor Santizo.

**Opening Reception:** May 10, 2013 (7–10pm)

**Exhibition date:** May 10, 2013 – June 8, 2013

grunt gallery presents a retrospective and collaborative project based on *Background / Vancouver*, a photo-mapping expedition of Vancouver by Michael de Courcy with Taki Bluesinger, Gerry Gilbert, and Glenn Lewis on October, 30 1972. The project consists of the four artists walking three separate paths documenting their experiences in photographs. The project resurged in 2012 when Michael de Courcy launched the website *Background / Vancouver* project, exposing this unique perspective of Vancouver's 1972 identity to new audiences online. grunt will be exhibiting the original photo mural conceived and produced by Michael de Courcy as part of an ongoing photographic documentary project of Vancouver's artists collective, Intermedia society.

On October 30, 2012, Vancouver artists, Emilio Rojas, Guadalupe Martinez, and Igor Santizo, revisited this conceptual project. 40 years to the day, these three artists came together to forge a new, fourth path that intersects with the original paths which revisits ideas about Vancouver's identity and history. The retrospective project is entitled, *ThisPlace / Vancouver*.

The group explores the aspect of the social; through conversations, meetings and experiences with people met during the expedition on October 30, 2012. The artists document their experiences using video, sound, and still-based images. A new dialogue emerges that reflects on how choices about documentation, narratives and mapping, from the past to the present, inform a contemporary perspective of Vancouver. The artists question how one tells a story of identity and an ever-changing urban landscape that is inclusive to varied experiences based in history, people, and artists from the past and to the present. Several multi-media and performance-based projects by Emilio Rojas, Guadalupe Martinez, and Igor Santizo will be concurrently exhibited at grunt.

The opening reception will take place on May 10, 2013 (7-10pm) and the exhibition will run until June 8, 2013.

Subsequent artist talks and panels will take place in May, following the opening exhibition, to help inform an ongoing discourse. Discussions held at these meetings will contribute to the web-based component of this project will be launched on October 30, 2013.

- **Tuesday May 14**, Social Cartography: Am Johal and Sarah Shamash (7pm)
- **Saturday May 18**, *Background / Vancouver* artists' talk: Michael de Courcy, Glenn Lewis and Grant Arnold (2pm)
- **Thursday May 23**, Sound walk (5pm) // Mapping and Sound Panel: Vincent Andrisani and Randolph Jordan (7pm)
- **Saturday May 25th**, *ThisPlace / Vancouver* artists' talk: Emilio Rojas, Igor Santizo, Guadalupe Martinez (2pm) // Potluck Dinner (5pm)

The above artist talks and panels will be held at grunt gallery.

**View this information on our website:**

<http://grunt.ca/exhibitions/background-panorama/>

*Developed with the participation of British Columbia Film & Media and the British Columbia Arts Council.  
A special thanks to MODO Car Co-Op for supporting the transportation component of *ThisPlace / Vancouver*.*