



Canadian "Art Stars" Documentary

PICTURE START

World Premiere at Reel Artists Film Festival 2011

**in Toronto - February 27 - Bell Lightbox
& Calgary - March 27 - Alberta College of Art + Design**

Broadcast Premiere on Bravo! Spring 2011

The members of the so-called 'Vancouver School' are the biggest art stars to ever come out of Canada, yet they remain little known to many Canadians. ***Picture Start*** tells the remarkable—and unlikely—story of the emergence and rise of the original generation of this esteemed group—**Jeff Wall, Rodney Graham and Ian Wallace.**



This unique documentary will have its World Premiere at Toronto's **Reel Artists Film Festival** on **February 27**, on **March 27** at the Reel Artists Festival in **Calgary**, and will be broadcast on **Bravo!** in the **Spring of 2011.**

Picture Start is produced by **Ric Beirsto** (*Mixed Blessings, Code Green Canada*) of **Laughing Mountain Communications**, and directed by **Harry Killas** (*Superkids, Stand-Up Samurais*). **Charlotte Engel** is the Production Executive for Bravo! The hour-long documentary is written by Beirsto and Killas, cinematography is by **Danny Nowak**, editing by **Rafi Spivak**, with original

music by **Dennis Burke**. The film was shot in Vancouver, New York, Ontario, Paris, Barcelona and Dresden.

Picture Start draws back the curtain on an extraordinary set of artists who met in Vancouver in the late '60s, formed the *UJ3RK5* ("the most uniquely talented lineup ever to form a Canadian band"), did the unheard of and said no thanks to a contract with a major record label, then continued on individually to change the Vancouver art scene forever, and the medium of photography in the process.

With their success, they launched Vancouver on an astonishing trajectory, taking it from a place of relative obscurity, known more for its surrounding forests than its artists, to a city now at the leading edge of the contemporary art world. The film explores how and why this remarkable emergence occurred, presenting the key artists, their work and the supporting players, as well as many of the events which make up the whole-scale transformation of the Vancouver art scene.

Picture Start was produced and developed in association with Bravo!, a division of CTV Limited, Knowledge Network and SCN. Produced with the participation of Rogers Documentary Fund; the Canadian Media Fund; with the assistance of CAVCO, The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit; developed with the participation of BRITISH COLUMBIA FILM, with the participation of the Province of British Columbia Film Incentive BC. Produced by Laughing Mountain Communications Inc. www.laughingmountain.ca.

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