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Place des Arts to present first major collection of work by Burnaby artist Marta Chojnacka

COQUITLAM, British Columbia – *Marta Chojnacka: Stages of Lines*, the first major exhibition of work by the artist is on view at Coquitlam's Place des Arts between August 13 and September 5, 2009. The collection will include 23 works painted by the Burnaby artist between 2008 and 2009.

Stages of Lines, a collection of abstract-surrealistic paintings, reflects on the artist's life journey and moments which represent happiness, sadness, love, loneliness, friendship and heartbreak. Initially, the viewer has a difficult time of making sense of these various shapes and lines that cover a brightly painted canvas. Yet with a little time the image comes to life that brings forth strong human emotions and connections - the red for pain, passion and love; the green for loneliness and envy; the black for sadness and evil in the world.

On a closer inspection of the painting *Extremo*, one can identify a black city being observed by two starring eyes perhaps suggesting how our world is full of envy or that it lacks privacy – which one can only be decided by the individual viewer. Numerous shades of red, blue and green connect the lines perfectly and produce a strong, yet beautiful, image. The painting *Reproduce* connects shades of yellow, blue and green with perfectly painted lines of numerous widths that swirl to produce a female form. Yet looking closer at this impressive painting another form shows behind that of the woman. What originally seemed to be just a lonely figure now can be perceived to be a woman and a man, or a woman overshadowing a man, or perhaps two women? These are two of many examples that show a strong artistic talent and maturity which Chojnacka is known for.

Chojnacka was born in Poland and grew up in Spain, finally settling in Vancouver in 1992. After graduating from UBC Studio Fine Arts Faculty in 2003 and completing the Fine Arts and New Media Bachelor of Education in 2004, Chojnacka began teaching Art Foundations and Media Photography at a local Private High School. She's a dedicated educator, encouraging her students to pursue their passion of art and yet still continues evolving as an artist herself. To view the artist's paintings, please visit <http://mchojnacka.weebly.com>.

Opening reception for *Stages of Lines* will take place on August 13, 2009 between 7pm – 9pm at the Place des Arts inside the Leonore Peyton salon, located at 1120 Brunette Avenue in Coquitlam. The exhibit will last through September 5, 2009. For specific times and location please visit www.placedesarts.ca.

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For more information or to interview the artist, please contact Marta Chojnacka

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