

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **VICTORY: Art Gallery Will Remove Animals**

Peter Hamilton, of the Vancouver based ecology organization Lifeforce, is pleased to hear that the Vancouver Art Gallery will finally remove all animals from the controversial exhibit "Theatre of the World".

Lifeforce implemented a letter writing campaign to the Management and Directors of the Art Gallery. We also urged people to tell the SPCA to immediately seize the animals because the SPCA agreed that the captives could die.

"The species are from different ecosystems and are subjected to a forced predator/prey relationship. Society must not condone promoting violence and cruelty in our society and to other sentient creatures, stated Peter Hamilton, Lifeforce Director, "Forcing animals to fight is not art, it is sadistic".

Vancouver has been a leader in recognizing Animal Rights Day and implementing animal protection laws. If the Vancouver Art Gallery curators continued this cruelty, they would be impeding the progress towards developing a compassionate society for all life.

BCCTV reported that the Art Gallery would keep the "cage" in the exhibit as a "protest". Our response is that it is unfortunate that the Art Gallery doesn't fully respect the rights of animals. If they keep the death trap, they should paint it red in respect of the animals who would have died. However, they should remove the offensive cage and deem the space a "Memorial Against Animal Cruelty".

For further info:

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