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Art, on and off the wall

By Adriana Barton

GO FIGURE

The human form has fascinated artists since prehistory—just look at the rotund Venus of Willendorf—but today's works are a far cry from that paleolithic statuette. In *Body Slam*, a quartet of exhibitions at the **Vancouver Art**

Gallery, Chinese artist **Wang Du** presents gigantic, cartoonish statues of females he's pulled from a pornographic website. In another room, Austrian artist **Franz West** offers sculptural implements that viewers can try on as cyborg-style appendages. Vancouver artist

Theodore Wan, who died of cancer at 34, muses on the body's vulnerability in works based on medical intervention. Then there's a collection of in-

BLUE-MOVIE BELLE?: A NEAR LIFE-SIZED SCULPTURE BY WANG DU AT VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

your-face videos, photography and installations by young British artists. Some of the works are sexy, others grotesque, but none are as lifelike as the 60 bronze figures in *Rodin: A Magnificent Obsession*—also at the VAG through Jul. (**page 38**).

AGAINST THE GRAIN

Wood-working in Vancouver is anything but run-of-the-mill. Designer **Sabina Hill** teams up with First Nations artist **Steve Smith** to create remarkable furniture and decorative pieces, combining traditional imagery with sleek, contemporary lines. Their latest pieces will be unveiled at the **Inuit Gallery** Jul. 16 (**page 42**).

DYNAMIC DUO: SABINA HILL AND NATIVE ARTIST STEVE SMITH LAY TRADITION ON THE TABLE AT INUIT GALLERY

