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CONTACT Selina Rajani, 604-331-4824
srajani@vancouveropera.ca

VANCOUVER OPERA SNOWBOARD AUCTION OPENS TODAY

'Rideable art' snowboards feature illustrations by award-winning artist
Edel Rodriguez

Vancouver, BC ~ Beginning this week, four exclusive custom snowboards, illustrated by internationally-renowned artist **Edel Rodriguez**, will be put on the international auction block to raise funds for VO's Young Artist Coaching Intensive program.

Each of the four snowboards features award-winning artwork from Vancouver Opera's Golden Anniversary Season: *Norma*, *Nixon in China*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Madama Butterfly*. All four boards are signed by the artist.

"We thought Edel's artwork was too cool to not use in some new way," said **Christopher Libby**, Managing Director of Vancouver Opera. "The world doesn't need another coffee mug. The bold graphics are just perfect for snowboards."

The one-of-a-kind boards, designed by VO's graphic designer Annie Mack and produced by Prior Snowboards of Whistler, BC, can also be fitted with bindings if desired. "This is probably one of the cooler projects we've worked on," said Prior owner Dean Thompson, "The artwork is just amazing. We'd love to do more like these."

The VO Golden Anniversary Snowboard Auction is open to all. The four snowboards can be viewed and bid on at at Vancouver Opera's eBay Charity Auction site: <http://members.ebay.ca/aboutme/vancouveropera>. The auction runs February 15th – 25th , 2010.

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