

MEDIA RELEASE  
February 20, 2008

*Brown Skin Before Red*  
**CHARLENE VICKERS**  
*Malcolm X / J.D. Salinger*  
**DAN STARLING**



Charlene Vickers, *Kokanee Woman*, 2004  
mixed media, 13"x14"x33"

EXHIBIT DATES: MARCH 8 – APRIL 20, 2008

Richmond Art Gallery presents two new exhibitions, featuring Vancouver artist Dan Starling's first solo exhibition, and Anishinabe artist Charlene Vickers' first solo exhibition on the West Coast.

Charlene Vickers presents two bodies of work in *Brown Skin Before Red*. In *Sleepwalking*, Vickers recontextualizes items often sold as metonymic simulations, or souvenirs of First Nations culture. She re-creates moccasins and blankets with materials that point to current social and cultural conditions in urban First Nations life and combines them with personal artifacts. Her painting series *Supernatural Indian* reinterprets the copper plate photographic portraits of First Nations peoples taken/constructed by Edward Curtis in collaboration with his subjects. Vickers transforms the source images into powerful interrogations of nostalgia, self-identification, the truth-value invested in photography, and the irretrievable losses of pre-contact identity and meaning inflicted upon First Nations cultures by European colonization.

**Charlene Vickers** is an Anishinabe artist born in Kenora, Ontario, raised in Toronto, and currently based in Vancouver, B.C. She attended the Emily Carr Institute for Studio Art (1994) and Simon Fraser University for Critical Studies (1998), and exhibits across Canada and the United States. This is her first solo exhibit on the West Coast.

Emerging artist **Dan Starling** debuts a new body of work entitled *Malcolm X / J.D. Salinger* at the Richmond Art Gallery -- his first solo exhibition. This project focuses on two contemporaneous figures from the Civil Rights era, J.D. Salinger and Malcolm X. Both men stopped speaking publicly and publishing around the same historical moment in 1965. *Malcolm X / J.D. Salinger* is comprised of photographs, a travelogue video, and book works that examine their last public significations. The artist reconfigures these materials and what they might represent in order to consider the formation of cultural memory in a society preoccupied by celebrity, racialization and authenticity.

Dan Starling is a Vancouver artist who works both independently and collaboratively across a variety of mediums ranging from photography, sculpture, and artist books. Since graduating from the Emily Carr Institute with a BFA in 2005, he has shown his work in Montreal at Articule, and in Vancouver at Access ARC and at the Vancouver Public Library. In 2005, he was also the recipient of the Contemporary Art Society Award. He has published articles and interviews in *Pyramid Power* magazine, and collaborated



with Rachelle Sawatsky on the artist book *The Alliance for French & American Relations*. In 2007, he curated the exhibition *Between You and the Thing Itself* at the Or Gallery in Vancouver.

Opening reception is Friday, March 7, 6:30-9:30pm. Music will be provided Chad MacQuarrie and Lee Hutzaluk . Participating artist will be in attendance. An **Artist Talk** will be held on Saturday March 29 at 2pm. The Richmond Art Gallery is located at 180-7700 Minoru Gate in Richmond. Gallery hours are 10:00am to 6:00pm from Monday to Friday and 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

The RAG is operated by the Richmond Art Gallery Association and is the City of Richmond's Public Contemporary Art Gallery under the auspices of the Office of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services. The RAG receives generous and ongoing financial support from the City of Richmond, the BC Arts Council, the BC Gaming Commission and the Canada Council for the Arts.

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**Contact Information**

7700 Minoru Gate  
Richmond V6Y 1R9  
604.247.8300

[www.richmondartgallery.org](http://www.richmondartgallery.org)