

Diyan Achjadi and Shawn Hunt ***Cultural Conflation***

October 15 – December 31, 2016

Reception: October 14, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Curator: Nan Capogna

Vancouver artists Diyan Achjadi and Shawn Hunt explore art forms that have been appropriated from other cultures, often resulting in a conflation of sources. Achjadi examines colonial histories and migration through her prints and drawings derived from a multitude of references that include 18th- and 19th-century porcelain paintings, textile designs, medieval bestiaries, chinoiserie motifs, Javanese batik patterns, and fragments of Dutch maps. By reordering these iconographic components in her meticulously made artworks Achjadi prompts a shifting of perspectives that encourage new readings of these multilayered works. Included in the exhibition are Achjadi's new and older multi-media drawings and collages, lithographic prints, printed "toile" on Tyvek, and animations that have not been exhibited in western Canada. Shawn Hunt's sculptural works draw from Western art history and combine with traditional Northwest Coast carved forms.

The forms, carved primarily by Hunt, also include ones procured from his father, J. Bradley Hunt, a carver; they include components such as model totem poles, canoes, masks, panels, feast dishes and tool handles. In these new constructions Hunt reimagines artworks from the canon of Western art, reclaiming a dissected First Nations history. With one exception, Hunt will present all new sculptural works for this exhibition. Achjadi's drawings and prints and Hunt's new constructions provide a rich fusion of cultures that call forward complex and sometimes contentious histories.

Achjadi holds a BFA from the Cooper Union School of Art in New York and a MFA from Concordia University in Montreal. She has exhibited widely at galleries and film festivals nationally and internation-



ally. She is an Associate Professor of Visual Arts and Material Practice at the Emily Carr University of Art + Design. Born in Jakarta, Achjadi is of Indonesian and Canadian parentage; she grew up moving between Jakarta, Hong Kong, London, and Washington DC.

Shawn Hunt received a diploma in studio art from Capilano College and holds a BFA from the University of British Columbia where he majored in sculpture and drawing. Hunt comes from a family of artists; his father is J. Bradley Hunt, a prominent Heiltsuk artist with whom Shawn apprenticed for five years, learning wood and jewelry carving as well as traditional design. His most recent exhibition *Line as Language* was at Burrard Arts Foundation, Vancouver and he has exhibited nationally and internationally. Hunt is represented by the Macaulay & Co. Fine Art in Vancouver. He was born in Vancouver, BC and is of Heiltsuk, French and Scottish ancestry.

The artists will be in attendance at the opening reception on Friday, October 14. An afternoon discussion with the artists will be held on Saturday, October 29 at 2pm. The exhibition is on view until December 31, 2016. Diyan Achjadi has produced a limited edition print to benefit the Gallery. The print, *Betwixt and Between*, 2016 may be viewed and purchased at the Richmond Art Gallery. For more detailed information, please visit the gallery website www.richmondartgallery.org

The Richmond Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges the on-going support of the City of Richmond, the Richmond Art Gallery Association, the British Columbia Arts Council, and the Province of British Columbia. The artist Shawn Hunt received a Canada Council grant in support of this exhibition. Many thanks to PriceSmart Foods, Richmond and Peller Estates for providing refreshments and wine for opening receptions, and Driftwood Brewery for being our beer sponsor on October 14th.

Images:

Diyan Achjadi, *Please*, 2013, ink, gouache, silkscreen collage on paper, 22 x 30 inches. Photo: Paul Litherland.

Shawn Hunt, *Odalisque*, 2014, red cedar, yellow cedar, horsehair, 50 x 41 x 21 inches. Photo courtesy of Macaulay & Co. Fine Art. Collection: Kathleen & Laing Brown, courtesy: BrownArtConsulting Inc.

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