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Fall Arts Preview: Local art works part of global and historical conversation

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More from Kevin Griffin

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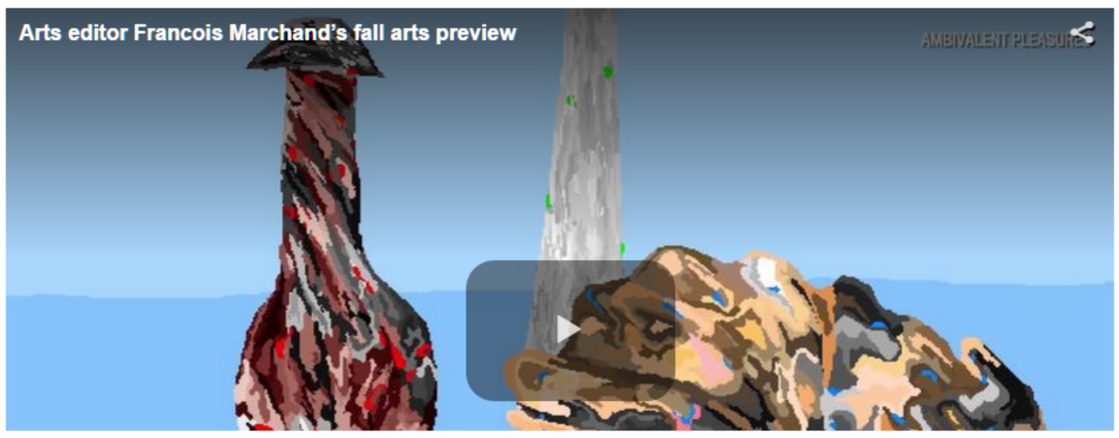

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Artists who make work in Vancouver are usually doing so as part of a global and historical conversation.

Go into a local gallery this fall and you'll see art inspired by the great works of European art history seen through a Northwest Coast filter. Or monochromatic paintings that riff on modernism and the craft of quilting. Or installations that make you wonder whether you've wandered into movie set produced by the dark night of Surrealism.

If art is doing its job, it should make you see the world with new eyes.

PICK OF THE SEASON

Accumulation of Moments Spent Underwater With the Sun and Moon by Charlene Vickers is one of the works in Vancouver Special: Ambivalent Pleasures. TREVOR MILLS, VANCOUVER ART GALLERY / VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver Special: Ambivalent Pleasures

Dec. 3 to April 17, 2017 | Vancouver Art Gallery

Think of Vancouver Special as a snapshot of what local artists have been thinking about and making during the past five years. It's the first iteration of what's planned to be a triennial event surveying contemporary art in Vancouver. Co-curated by Daina Augaitis and Jesse McKee, the first Vancouver Special will feature the work of 40 artists in a range of media including painting, drawing, installation, animations, ceramics and textiles.

Julia Feyrer and Tamara Henderson, Bottles Under the Influence (still), 2012. 16mm film. VANCOUVER SUN

The Last Waves: Julia Feyrer and Tamara Henderson

To Dec. 4 | Morris and Helen Belkin Gallery, University of B.C.

A newspaper that records and categorizes the artists' dreams and glowing vignettes of night time windows are among the visual elements in The Last Waves. The collaborative installation by Julia Feyrer and Tamara Henderson, who have worked together since 2009, immerses the viewer in a sequence of hallucinatory sets designed to evoke locations for escapist films such as a bar, a lab and a hotel. The eerie exhibition explores the states between sleeping and waking — the traditional domain of Surrealism.

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domain of Surrealism.

Colleen Heslin: Somatic Traditions

Sept. 10 to Oct. 8 | Monte Clark Gallery

Heslin makes abstract paintings using experimental dying techniques on second-hand domestic fibres. In her new painting and sculpture works, she explores the meeting place between paintings and sculpture, craft and quilting. Mostly monochromatic with what the gallery calls "moments of contrast," the new canvas and linen paintings are made of dyed and sewn fabrics on traditional painting frames. Heslin is the winner of the 2013 RBC Painting Competition.

Odalisque by Shawn Hunt. *PHOTO CREDIT: BARB CHOIT*

Cultural Conflation: Diyan Achjadi and Shawn Hunt

Oct. 15 to Dec. 31 | Richmond Art Gallery

Cultural Conflation brings together two artists whose work combines several different artistic and cultural traditions. Diyan Achjadi prints and collages are dense with iconographic elements that include references to 18th and 19th-century porcelain paintings and textile designs, medieval bestiaries, chinoiserie motifs and fragments from Dutch maps. Shawn Hunt's sculptural works include elements carved by Hunt or by his father Bradley Hunt and Shawn's brother Dean. One of the outstanding works in the exhibition is Hunt's Odalisque: the traditional exotic female of European art history has been transformed into a confident figure constructed from left over Northwest Coast sculptural parts such as a mask and arms that were maquettes for a totem pole.

Kaigani Haida Chilkat Robe, c 1875-1900, photo by Kyla Bailey, is part of Layers of Influence: Unfolding Across Cultures. *PHOTOGRAPHED BY KYLA BAILEY / VANCOUVER SUN*

Layers of Influence: Unfolding Cloth Across Cultures

Nov. 17 to April 9, 2017 | Museum of Anthropology

Kimonos from Japan, saris from India, and elaborate feather cloaks of the Maori people of New Zealand will be among the 130 cultural garments from around the world in Layers of Influence. Draped and hung throughout the Audain Gallery, the garments will be on display to give people an up close, 360-degree view.

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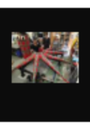

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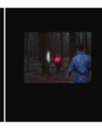

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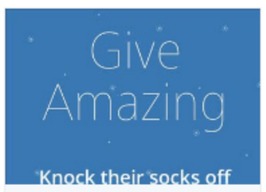

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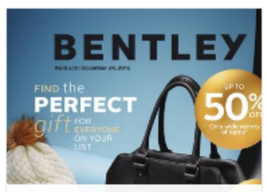

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