

## MEDIA RELEASE

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Deborah Koenker, *Missing / Las Desaparecidas*, detail 2004-2006, collaborative installation.  
Photo credit: Roberto Panheco

### Amy Chang: *Donated Organ* + Tomoyo Ihaya: *Water, Rice and Bowl* Deborah Koenker: *Missing / Las Desaparecidas*

**Opening Reception:** Friday 25 April at 6:30pm  
*Participating artist will be in attendance, everyone is welcome*  
Exhibition runs until 6 July 2008

In recognition of Asian Heritage Month, Richmond Art Gallery presents three exhibitions exploring aspects of our world's ever-changing conditions. The work presented reflects on our responsibilities as global citizens, as the flow of people, goods, and information becomes ever more rapid.

**Amy Chang's** *Donated Organ* and **Tomoyo Ihaya's** *Water, Rice and Bowl* consider the implications of a world in which elements of basic human survival have become commodities. **Chang's** ceramic objects represent severed human organs. Evoking the anonymous and often destitute people preyed upon to supply a constant demand for organ transplants, they are also signifiers for life, the life-cycle and social relations: the tubes connecting these organs point to the interconnectedness of human lives.

**Ihaya's** combination of works on paper and a documentary film focuses our attention on the process whereby water is collected, drip by drip, in Ladakh, India, for use in daily cooking and washing rituals. This work reminds us of the preciousness of water, an increasingly scarce essential resource.

**Deborah Koenker's** *Missing / Las Desaparecidas*, memorializes hundreds of young female factory workers who have disappeared from in and around the US/Mexico border town of Juarez. In solidarity with the families of the disappeared, the artist and 84 people from the village of Tapalpa made embroidered images of enlarged fingerprints representing the missing women. Including photographs and the names of the missing, the installation points to and questions the lack of apparent interest from the Juarez authorities who represent and are responsible for justice and well-being in a town where tax and

duty free factories needing cheap labour have radically disrupted societal structures, created danger, and not been held accountable.

Amy Chang received a Bachelor of Business in Taiwan in 1980, worked for the Cloisonné Company for eight years, received a Diploma in Studio Art from Capilano College in 2003, and completed a BFA from Emily Carr Institute in 2007.

Tomoyo Ihaya received a BA in German Literature at Rikkyo University in 1994 then attended Mount Allison University's Fine Arts Program, received an MFA from University of Alberta in 2002. Tomoyo Ihaya wishes to acknowledge the support of the BC Arts Council.

Deborah Koenker received a BA from the University of California, did post-graduate work at Central St. Martins, and earned an MFA from Claremont Graduate University. She is an Associate Professor at Emily Carr Institute. Deborah Koenker wishes to acknowledge the support of the BC Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts, and Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design + Media.

The public is invited to attend the **Artists' Tours on Saturday 24 May at 2pm**. Exhibition text will be available at the opening.

**Gallery hours** are 10:00am to 6:00pm from Monday to Friday and 10:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday & Sunday. For updated information on events and programming, visit the website at [www.richmondartgallery.org](http://www.richmondartgallery.org)

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 the RAG for digital images or other requests at:

**Richmond Art Gallery**  
180-7700 Minoru Gate  
Richmond V6Y 1R9  
t. 604.247.8312 or 8310  
gallery@richmond.ca  
[www.richmondartgallery.org](http://www.richmondartgallery.org)