

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Richmond Art Gallery's spring exhibitions showcase Canadian and international artists

*Japanese art collective SIDE CORE makes North American debut*

**MARCH 12, 2026 (VANCOUVER, BC)** — This spring, **Richmond Art Gallery** presents two major exhibitions from **April 18–July 5, 2026**. Curated by Shaun Dacey, ***SIDE CORE: under city*** marks the North American debut of Tokyo-based SIDE CORE, who melds together contemporary art with skate culture and urban infrastructure. Curated by Zoë Chan, ***I digress*** is a group exhibition featuring six Canadian artists who represent a wide range of perspectives and engage in both lived experiences and collective histories in their work.

***SIDE CORE: under city*** features recent work by the eponymous collective, which includes three artists (**Takasu Sakie**, **Matsushita Tohru**, and **Nishihiro Taishi**) and video director **Harimoto Kazunori**. They opened their first major solo show in 2024 at the Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, and have quickly built an international profile for their work. The group often explores urban interventions, transforming materials like guardrails and road construction signs into sculptures that challenge how people perceive public infrastructure.

At the heart of the exhibition is *rode work ver. under city* (2023), a multi-channel video installation created in collaboration with the renowned skate film crew Far East Skate Network during a fellowship at Civic Creative Base Tokyo. The work captures skaters navigating Tokyo's subterranean environments — from stormwater basins to disused transit tunnels and maintenance corridors. Their movements turn the utilitarian spaces into expressive terrains, video edited into one continuous, virtual underground. The installation invites viewers to reflect on the invisible links that connect such distant places as Tokyo and Richmond. Both are built largely on reclaimed land and face the constant risk of natural disasters. Although they are separated by the Pacific Ocean, they share geological conditions as well as cultural and historical connections.

“This project was born against the backdrop of Tokyo’s gentrification triggered by the 2021 Olympics,” says Matsushita. “While skateboarding became an official Olympic sport and athletes became national heroes, the accompanying ‘urban cleanup’ led to stricter crackdowns on street skating. Street culture is being consumed and commodified; for instance, graffiti is now a staple of art auctions. Reclaiming the ‘wildness’ of street culture is difficult, so our project seeks a ‘different possibility.’ Since action is restricted on the city’s surface, we aim to find new sites of expression in the underground.”

***I digress*** features **Simranpreet Anand**, **Jo-Anne Balcaen**, **August Klintberg**, **Anne Koizumi**, **Lindsay McIntyre**, and **Gonzalo Reyes Rodriguez**, whose respective works span photography, 16mm film, video, printmaking, embroidery, collage, and more. Some of the artists embrace an autobiographical or confessional vein, while others mine ephemera found in the public realm,

employing a more anthropological or archival approach. More often, the artists merge the two approaches.

“I was interested in artists who were engaging with elements of archives and autobiography,” says Chan. “I was also inspired by Billy Ray Belcourt, who wrote about creating the ‘kind of memoir that stretches well beyond the boundaries of [their] individual life.’ Many of the artists in *I digress* delve into subjects that are very personal, while also addressing larger questions that impact their communities or broader sociocultural or political contexts. All kinds of topics come up in their work: from the intersection of class shame and diasporic experience to queer coming-of-age in conservative Alberta; the exploitation of Punjabi students and migrant workers in Canada to the trauma of displacement on generations of Inuit families.”

Based in Winnipeg, Balcaen draws on her experiences as an artist and cultural worker, producing text-based works that address the often hidden, yet universal truths of the life of the artist. For the exhibition, she is creating a massive banner that will hang on the exterior of the Richmond Cultural Centre. Its message takes the perspective of an artist desperate to have the public visit the Gallery, where she has several text-based posters on display articulating the hopes, fears, and insecurities that undergird artistic life.

Reyes Rodriguez is presenting *Portrait: Technoir (2021/2026)* in Vancouver for the first time. This two-channel video depicts an archivist carefully cataloging a found photo album on the left, with writer Diego Del Valle and investigative reporter Adriana Gallardo analyzing the same images on the right. The work emphasizes photography’s dual status as both document and projection while touching on broader issues such as the AIDS epidemic.

Also on-view at the same time in the Gallery’s Art Lounge is *Collection Close-up*. Curated by Maria Filipina Palad, this ongoing initiative highlights works from the Gallery’s Permanent Collection that share a formal or thematic connection with the featured exhibitions. This edition of *Collection Close-up* presents Alan Wood’s silkscreen *Beach Walk (1992)*, a landscape inspired by a Gulf Island beach. The artwork will be presented in tandem with studies and notes that Wood donated to the Collection, offering insight into his artistic process. Palad selected this work and its related ephemera for its emphasis on documentation and archive, linking it to the exhibition *I digress*.

*SIDE CORE: under city and I digress* are part of the 2026 Capture Photography Festival Selected Exhibition Program.

### **Public programming**

Visit the Gallery’s website and social media for the most up-to-date information on upcoming programs and registration: <https://www.richmondartgallery.org/upcoming-events>.

#### Lulu Series: Rode Work/Under City

Thursday, April 16, 6pm

Richmond Cultural Centre, Theatre Under the Stairs

Japanese artist collective SIDE CORE is known for site-specific public projects that blur the boundaries between contemporary art, skate culture and urban infrastructure. Join the artists as they speak about their multi-channel video installation *rode work ver. under city*.

### Opening Reception and Tour

*Saturday, April 18, 2–4pm*

- *Artists and Curator Talk and Tour: 2–3pm*
- *Opening Reception: 3–4 pm*

Join several of the exhibiting artists along with curators Zoë Chan and Shaun Dacey for a tour of *I digress* and *SIDE CORE: under city*.

### Art After Dark: Youth Week Takeover

*Thursday, May 7, 5–8pm*

Celebrate BC Youth Week with a free after-hours skate-culture takeover, exclusively for ages 13–24. Explore skate-inspired art, create short stop-motion skate videos, make your own zines, vibe to a live DJ, and capture the night in the digital photo booth.

### World Collage Day: Printmaking and Collage with Kai Liu

*Saturday, May 9, 1–4pm*

Celebrate World Collage Day with Kai Liu, the 2026 Branscombe House Artist in Residence. Adults are welcome to experiment with monotype print techniques to create textured and patterned papers to use in your own collage artwork. No experience needed, just curiosity and a willingness to explore.

### Talkback Tour with August Klintberg and Aaron Chan

*Saturday, May 16, 2–3pm*

Join exhibiting artist August Klintberg and 2026 Richmond Writer in Residence Aaron Chan for a special Talkback Tour exploring how both creators use personal storytelling and queer perspectives to examine identity, place, and community.

### Exhibition Tour in Mandarin

*Saturday, May 23, 2–3pm*

Drop in for a tour of the current Richmond Art Gallery exhibition in Mandarin. Learn more about the themes of the exhibition through a guided visit and informal discussion over a cup of tea. Limited spaces, RSVP to reserve a seat.

### 國語導覽

3月23日, 星期六, 下午2-3點

歡迎參加列治文美術館當前展覽的國語導覽！通過導覽與輕鬆的對話更多地了解展覽主題。提供茶水, 位置有限, 請前往以下網址預約。

### Artist Salon: Online Talk with Guest Artist Jo-Anne Balcaen

*Wednesday, May 27, 7–8pm*

Join Jo-Anne Balcaen for a candid conversation on the less visible side of artistic practice: navigating judgment, self-doubt, and the pressures of defining success. Drawing from her own work and experiences, Balcaen explores why vulnerability is often hidden in the arts, how perceptions of success and failure shape our careers, and what it means to sustain a creative life over time.

### Doors Open Richmond: Capture Festival Canada Line Walking Tour

*Saturday, June 6, 1–3pm*

As part of Doors Open Richmond, get an insider's view to the public art presented on the Canada Line. Capture Photography Festival artists Keely O'Brien, Michael Love, Sylvan Hamburger, and Richmond Public Art Planner Biliana Velkova will take visitors on a walking tour of their public artworks currently installed at Canada Line stations in Richmond.

### Exhibition Tour in Japanese

*Sunday, June 7, 2pm*

Drop in for a tour of the current Richmond Art Gallery exhibitions in Japanese. Learn more about the themes of the exhibition through a guided visit and informal discussion over a cup of tea. Limited spaces, RSVP to reserve a seat.

### 無料イベント: 日本語ガイドツアー

開催日時: 6月7日(日)午後2時

リッチモンド・アートギャラリーにて現在展示中の作品を日本語解説付きで巡るガイドツアーを開催します。この無料ギャラリーツアーでは、日本語ガイドとともに展覧会を見学後、お茶を楽しみながらのカジュアルなディスカッションを通して、展覧会のテーマについてより理解を深めることができます。

当日のご参加も可能ですが、定員に限りがございますので、ご予約はお早めをお願いいたします。

### **About Richmond Art Gallery**

Richmond Art Gallery (RAG) is a non-profit municipal art gallery established in 1980. The Gallery produces an array of exhibitions and programs that connect, empower, and provoke conversation with our diverse Richmond, BC communities. RAG actively contributes to Richmond's cultural communities through our commitment to supporting artists via its exhibitions, educational programs, publications, and permanent collection.

### **Address**

Richmond Art Gallery  
Richmond Cultural Centre  
7700 Minoru Gate  
Richmond, BC V6Y 1R8

### **Hours**

Monday–Friday from 10am–6pm  
Saturday–Sunday from 12–5pm

### **Press kit and photos**

[Click here](#)

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