



Richmond Art Gallery

Fall 2025



Manuel Axel Strain

xʷə́niwən ce:p kʷθəθ nəwəyət
 (((Remember your teachings)))

September 13 - November 9

Known for their passionate work rooted in personal experience, artist Manuel Axel Strain embraces and exalts the Coast Salish longhouse to confront the oppressive, racist colonial context surrounding them. Titled *xʷə́niwən ce:p kʷθəθ nəwəyət (((Remember your teachings)))*, their major multi-media exhibition—including paintings, family photographs, video, and installation—promises to transform the Gallery with a dynamic mix of new and recent artworks rendered in their boldly unique style.

The shed-roof longhouses of Coast Salish peoples are central to community life. Built from planks of red cedar, these structures vary in scale, stretching up to several hundred feet in length. Capable of housing multiple and extended families, they serve as gathering places for culturally and spiritually significant events such as naming ceremonies, marriages, and potlatches. Before their attempted erasure by colonial powers, rows of these houses lined the coast. However, the vital cultural, relational, and

ceremonial structures and values the longhouse embodies continue to flourish today.

Of Musqueam, Simpcw, and Syilx descent, Strain celebrates the cedar longhouse not only as an enduring architectural form but also an important spiritual, philosophical, and cultural framework profoundly embedded with the sacred collectivist beliefs of their family members and communities—past, present, and future. At the same time, Strain encourages visitors to the Gallery to critically consider the structures—be they architectural, social, cultural, or otherwise—that are predominantly upheld in contemporary Canadian society. *What colonialist and capitalist values are embedded in these structures? And what can we learn from the longhouse, not only as an architectural typology that continues to inspire contemporary Indigenous architects today, but as a dynamic model for living, working, and learning together?*

Collection Close-up

September 13 – November 9

Susan Point

***Mystical Whorl, No.3*, 1987**

serigraph on paper

Richmond Art Gallery Permanent Collection

In *Mystical Whorl No. 3*, Susan Point draws from her vast knowledge of Coast Salish beliefs, practices, and aesthetics in her celebration of the spindle whorl. She employs a combination of trigons, triangular forms that Point extends and curves to suggest the wings, horn, tail, and beak of the mythical thunderbird, as well as crescent shapes to imply the bird's face, claws, and the tips of its plumage. She skillfully juxtaposes positive and negative spaces of these shapes to create a silhouette of the bird, rather than simply drawing its literal form. The circular arrangement and elongation of shapes to form the thunderbird, a significant supernatural creature in Coast Salish cosmology, would create a mesmerizing image if applied to a spinning disc. In this print, Point's design evokes not only the whorl's metaphysical importance, but also its essential function as a spinning object.

A continual source of inspiration and focus for Point's extensive body of work, the spindle whorl is typically

crafted from the richly grained wood of maple or alder trees. It has long been a cherished tool of Coast Salish women for transforming wool from woolly dogs, and later sheep, into strands of yarn in order to weave clothing and blankets.

The disc traditionally features a surface with carved decorative elements. A hole at its centre cradles the spindle rod, allowing the spinning process to occur. Through her homage to this tool throughout her oeuvre, Point not only celebrates Coast Salish culture but also makes visible the value of the creative contributions of Coast Salish women.

Aan̓ts̓sg̓d̓s̓Aes̓q̓s̓

Susan Point, a widely acclaimed and prolific Musqueam artist has devoted a substantial opus dedicated to the humble spindle whorl, a tool associated with weaving, traditionally women's work. Using this powerful motif, she has created sculptures out of a wide range of materials, as well as prints on paper, which have been widely exhibited and collected. In 2006, Point was awarded Officer of the Order of Canada (OC) for her outstanding achievement and service to Canada,

– Maria Filipina Palad

Collection Close-up is an ongoing initiative where we highlight a work from the Permanent Collection, which has a formal or thematic link to the featured exhibitions. The Gallery acquired *Mystical Whorl No. 3* in 1987.



ArtRich 2025

November 28 – December 31

Opening Reception: November 28, 6:00 pm

Richmond Arts Coalition (RAC), in partnership with Richmond Art Gallery, is proud to present the sixth edition of *ArtRich*. Presented every two years, this vibrant showcase offers a stunning window into the artistic milieu of Richmond, Lower Mainland, and nearby regions, with a diverse array of emerging and established artists working in an eclectic range of styles and subject matter. This year, *ArtRich 2025* is juried by Jas Lally, Maria Filipina Palad, and Zoë Chan.

RAC is a voice for artists and the arts in Richmond. A volunteer-led organization, it offers opportunities for artists and the arts within Richmond; informs artists and assists with innovative ideas; connects artists, businesses, and audiences; and engages and advocates for the arts community.

Richmond Art Gallery thanks Andrew Wade, RAC's Executive Director, RAC, and *ArtRich 2025*'s external juror Jas Lally.

Off-Site Exhibitions

In partnership with Richmond Public Art, Capture Photography Festival, and InTransit BC, Richmond Art Gallery presents three striking public artworks respectively by Khim Hipol, Lauraine Mak, and Mary Sui Yee Wong on the Canada Line, on view until March 2026.



Khim Mata Hipol

Eroplanong Papel at Bangkang Papel

Aberdeen Station, Canada Line

Activating memories through movement, artist Khim Mata Hipol folds migrant rituals into *Eroplanong Papel at Bangkang Papel*, evoking the childhood innocence of paper airplanes and boats. The photograms, prised through an origami of light and shadow, become a yantra for migration, where striking minimalism amplifies the vulnerability of new beginnings.

Mary Sui Yee Wong

TREASURE II

Lansdowne Station, Canada Line

Mary Sui Yee Wong's *TREASURE* (1999) was originally a public art commission as part of Québec's Integration of Art and Architecture program, and currently sits in the foyer of a hospital located in Montréal's Chinatown. Wong intended for the installation to bring the atmosphere of a natural setting into the sterile interior space for the residents to enjoy. It consists of a four-panel mural depicting the sky bracketing a landscape drawing, while the Chinese character 宝 for "treasure"—rendered in glass—sits in a shallow basin of water below. *TREASURE II* (2025), a striking new iteration of the work, features a vivid blue sky and billowing clouds, which frame a black-and-white detail of the classical Chinese landscape painting *Buddhist Temples amid Autumn Mountains*.

Lauraine Mak

Levels

Brighthouse Station, Canada Line

Levels is an ongoing series of works centering around the concept of measurement as a means to justify and understand phenomena. These photos capture an uncertain moment in time grounded by a tiny bubble of air at the center of a precision bubble level. The instrument negotiates a version of truth with the observer which is contingent on gravity, orientation, and precise reading, thus rendering an indisputable analytical truth. Is objective positionality unquestionable? Are instruments of measurement infallible? The inconspicuous bubble level is a powerful tool that symbolizes the logical order imposed on daily life and motion; a reminder that all things follow earthly physics in one way or another.

The Annex Gallery

Sofiya Mukhachova and Quinton Qiu

Cosmos and Companionship

September 15, 2025 – January 4, 2026

Bringing together the works of Belarus-born artist Sofiya Mukhachova and Cantonese artist Quinton Qiu, this exhibition presents whimsical cosmic dreamscapes (with a companion pet) and intimate visual diaries. Through contrasting yet complementary approaches, Mukhachova's and Qiu's works illuminate both the intimate and infinite dimensions of being—from celestial meditations to



everyday affection. These two Richmond-based artists work invites us to enter their worlds, and to reflect on how the personal and the universal continually fold into one another.

Located in the Cultural Centre Annex, 7660 Minoru Gate
Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 9:00 pm;
Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

City Hall Galleria

Aspire Richmond

Magnificent Kingdom

September 16 – November 10

Every fall, Richmond Art Gallery collaborates with Aspire Richmond to present an exhibition at the City Hall Galleria, celebrating the creativity and talents of participants in Aspire Richmond's Avenues Day Program.

This year's exhibition, *Magnificent Kingdom*, showcases a vibrant collection of mixed-media paintings that reflect the imagination, dedication, and enthusiasm of the artists. Rooted in personal connections to place, memory, and culture, these works offer heartfelt reflections on identity, community, and lived experience. For many of the participants, art-making is not only a creative outlet, but also a meaningful way to communicate stories and emotions that may be difficult to express otherwise. In doing so, their work fosters connection and invites viewers to see the world through different perspectives.

Located in Richmond City Hall, 6911 No. 3 Rd
Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:15 am – 5:00 pm.
Closed on holidays.







Public Programs

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

Tour and Opening Reception

Saturday, September 13, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Tour: 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Opening Reception: 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Join exhibiting artist Manuel Axel Strain and Gallery curator Zoë Chan for an informal introduction to the exhibition. Musqueam elder Mary Point will inaugurate the reception with a special welcome. Opening launch to immediately follow.

Manuel Axel Strain Artist Talk

Wednesday, September 17, 3:30 pm

Join us at Emily Carr University of Art & Design for an artist talk with exhibiting artist Manuel Axel Strain.

The session will include time for Q+A with the artist.

Կոնգրեսը> Emily Carr University, 520 East 1st Avenue
Լեռն 003 ֆյուրձե> richmondartgallery.org/strain-talk



Culture Days - Opening Weekend Kick-off

September 20 and 21

Join Richmond Art Gallery as we kick-off Culture Days month, a national event that celebrates arts and culture from September 19 – October 12.

Tile-Making with Fraser River Clay

Saturday, September 20, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Branscombe House Artist in Residence Cat Hart hosts a hands-on workshop using clay sourced locally from the Fraser River to create decorative tiles. Using real leaves, flowers, and natural materials, participants will press organic patterns into clay to make one-of-a-kind tiles that will be fired at a later date. All materials provided. Registration required, limited spaces available.

Qd3fyr̄sd3ø> <http://bit.ly/3HHTqwW>

Collaborative Drawing with Manuel Axel Strain

Sunday, September 21, 12:00 – 3:00 pm

Drop into the gallery and join in a large-scale drawing project with exhibiting artist Manuel Axel Strain. This will be a community collaborative activity for everyone to explore mark-making, colouring, and drawing on a grand scale.

lləŋ0ədʒfyr̥sdʒə> richmondartgallery.org/cd-drawing



Exhibition Tour in Mandarin

Saturday, September 27, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Drop in for a tour of our current exhibition in Mandarin. Learn more about the themes through a guided visit and informal discussion over a cup of tea. Limited spaces, RSVP required.

國語導覽

9月27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，需預約。

更多信息及註冊: richmondartgallery.org/strain-mandarin

Art After Dark: Youth Event for ages 13 – 24

Friday, October 17, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

In partnership with Richmond Youth Services, we invite youth and young creatives to this fun drop-in event at the Gallery. This after-hours, youth-only evening will feature an interactive and collaborative celebration complete with art, community, and music. Meet exhibiting artist Manuel Axel Strain and join in an interactive art activity with them while immersed in the exhibition. Have some snacks and chill to the music while you capture a fun, exciting evening with friends at our digital photo booth. Registration and/or an RSVP is strongly encouraged.

To register: richmondartgallery.org/art-after-dark-youth



Art Talkback Series

Featured artist Manuel Axel Strain has invited local artists and cultural workers to join them in the Gallery for an informal discussion of the artworks, including time for discussion with participants. Learn more about the art and socialize with other artists and art lovers at this informal art series. Limited seating, RSVP is appreciated.

Sunday, September 28, 2:00 – 3:30 pm:

SF Ho, Multidisciplinary Artist

Sunday, October 5, 2:00 – 3:30 pm:

Zoe Kompst, Musqueam Artist

Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 – 8:30 pm:

Elliott Ramsey, Polygon Gallery Curator

||æŋ0æðƒʏŕsdʒæ> richmondartgallery.org/upcoming-events

Ongoing Programs

RAG Collage Club

October 2, November 6, December 4,
6:30 – 8:30 pm

Get together with friends and make some art! Open studio time led by Gallery staff for participants to cut and paste while you chat, listen to music, and sip some tea at our highly popular Collage Club artist social. Monthly themes and basic technical instruction provided. All levels of artistic skill are welcome, for ages 16+.

Fððð> \$5.00 which includes art supplies and tools

||æŋ0æðƒʏŕsdʒæ> richmondartgallery.org/workshops



Artist Salon Series

Every fourth Wednesday of the month

Designed for visual artists of all levels, this free program features guest artists, curators, and arts workers leading free talks or workshops for visual artists to professionalize, socialize, and grow their art practice and community connections. Sessions occur online or in-person. This fall and winter, all sessions will be hosted online.

Aysha McConkey, Junior Biologist & Mural Artist & Biliانا Velkova, Richmond Public Art Planner

September 25, 7:00 pm

Learn how this junior biologist and BC's Bat Ambassador uses her nature research to develop illustrations and murals into a growing art practice. Richmond Public Art Planner Biliانا Velkova joins in the conversation to share more about the Richmond Community Mural Program.

Iləŋ0ədʒfyr̩sdʒə> richmondartgallery.org/salon-mcconkey

Manuel Axel Strain, Multidisciplinary Artist and Cultural Worker

October 22, 7:00 pm

Exhibiting artist Manuel Axel Strain shares insights into their art practice that includes exhibiting work, presenting workshops, and coordinating an art festival.

llən0ədʒfyr̥sdʒə> richmondartgallery.org/salon-strain



Cat Hart, 2025 Branscombe House Artist in Residence

November 26, 7:00 pm

Cat Hart shares her experiences with various artist residencies and how to work within their differing expectations, locations, and budgets.

Iləŋ0ədʒfɪrɪsdʒə> richmondartgallery.org/salon-hart

Art at Work Series

Art at Work is a series of free professional development workshops designed for artists and arts organizations practicing in any artistic medium. The program is presented in partnership by the City of Richmond Arts Services, Richmond Public Art, and Richmond Art Gallery. *Art at Work* offers workshops from February through October each year.

Richmond Arts and Culture Grant Program Information Session

Thursday, September 25, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

If your experience filling out grant applications is limited or your previous applications have been less successful than you'd like, this workshop will take you through the basics of articulating a compelling case for your projects, creating a realistic budget, assembling relevant support materials and more.

ΚηβΖσϣηλ> Richmond Cultural Centre Theatre Under the Stairs

Iləŋ0ədʒfyr̩sdʒə> richmondartgallery.org/upcoming-events



Writing Proposals for Art Exhibitions with Maria Filipina Palad

Saturday, October 4, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

This free workshop will convene a small group of 12 participants and focus on the fundamentals of crafting an exhibition proposal for non-profit galleries, artist-run centres, and community art spaces. Participants must submit a written proposal prior to the event in order for the host to review and provide feedback.

Iləŋ0əɖɟɟɟɟɟ> richmondartgallery.org/upcoming-events

Youth & Children Programs

Youth Art + Culture Lab:

Art Program for Ages 12 – 14

Sunday afternoons from

October 19, 2025 – March 8, 2026

Registration closes in October for our upcoming YACL season! *Youth Art + Culture Lab* is an exciting partnership between Emily Carr University and Richmond Art Gallery. The program provides youth ages 12 – 14 with the opportunity to build confidence and develop diverse creative skills through hands-on and interactive sessions with local and international artists, gallery educators and Emily Carr University instructors. Registration fee includes all art materials, snacks, and a sketchbook.

Fɖɟɟ> \$525.00

Iləŋ0əɖɟɟɟɟɟ> ecuad.ca/academics/teen-programs/yac



RAGA School Art Program:

Tours, Workshops, and Classroom Kits

The School Art Program has an exciting line-up of art workshops for schools and teachers in the 2025 – 2026 school year. Visit the gallery website for full descriptions of our upcoming art workshops, and to download our schools brochure. Bring the gallery to you with one of our popular classroom art kits. These kits include video interviews with artists and video art lessons, and are packed with everything you need including quality art supplies and tools for a successful classroom art unit.

Please book your gallery visit or classroom art kit at least three weeks in advance by contacting our School Art Program Coordinator, Melanie Devoy at mdevoy@richmond.ca.

Iləŋ> richmondartgallery.org/schools

Art for Teachers:

Professional Development Day

Friday, October 24, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Join us for a creativity packed day of classroom-friendly art projects. The annual Teacher Pro-D day at the gallery this year draws inspiration from our current exhibition, *xʷən iwən ce:p kʷəθ nəw eyəl* (((Remember your teachings))).

Iləŋ0əɖɟɟɟɟɟ> richmondartgallery.org/teacher-pro-d



Volunteer with Us!

Richmond Art Gallery Association (RAGA) is seeking volunteers aged 18+ to assist with our Public Programs and School Art Program that start up in the fall season. Join our volunteer team to meet new people, learn more about contemporary art practices, and to help RAGA keep our programming free and accessible.

lləŋ> richmondartgallery.org/volunteer



Credits: All images courtesy of the artist unless otherwise noted.

Cover: Manuel Axel Strain, *Everything will be okay until coyote is here*, 2025, oil and chalk pastel on paper affixed on MDF panel (detail), Oxygen Art Centre, Photo: Kenton Doupe; **p.2, p.8 (left):** Manuel Axel Strain, *x"almex" child*, 2025 (exhibition detail), The Polygon Gallery, Photo: Akeem Nermo; **p.3:** Susan Point, *Mystical Whorl*, No.3, 1987, serigraph on paper (detail), Richmond Art Gallery Permanent Collection; **p.4 (left):** Mary Sui Yee Wong, *TREASURE II*, 2025 (installation view), Landsdowne Station, Photo: Michael Love; **p.4 (right):** Maria Coletsis, *Seamless: Clouds*, 2025, Giclee digital print; **p.5 (left):** Hadeeb Hamidi, *Mystical Birds*, 2024, acrylic on canvas; **p.5 (right):** Quinton Qiu, *Voices*, 2024, print on canvas; **centerfold:** Manuel Axel Strain, *Everything will be okay until coyote is here*, 2025, oil and chalk pastel on paper affixed on hanging MDF panel (recto verso), Oxygen Art Centre, Photo: Kenton Doupe; **p.8 (left):** Mary Point at the opening reception for Mary Sui Yee Wong's exhibition *Restless by Nature* (detail), Photo: Jon Benjamin Photography; **p.8 (right):** Portrait of Manuel Axel Smith at opening for *Why does this land seem so small?*, 2023, College Art Gallery 1, University of Saskatchewan (detail), Photo: Carey Shaw; **p.9 (left), p.11 (left):** Collage Club participant, Richmond Art Gallery, August 7, 2025, Photo: Jon Benjamin Photography; **p.9 (right):** Rebecca Wang giving a tour of Mary Sui Yee Wong's exhibition *Restless by Nature*, Photo: RAGA Staff; **p.10 (left):** Portrait of Aysha McConkey; **p.10 (right):** Portrait of Cat Hart; **p.11 (right):** Portrait of Maria Filipina Palad; **Back cover:** Portrait of Kathy Tycholis, Photo: Jon Benjamin Photography

RAG 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 communities. RAG actively contributes to Richmond's cultural life through our commitment to supporting artists via its exhibitions, educational programs, publications, and permanent collection.

We respectfully acknowledge and thank the First Peoples of the hən̓qəmin̓əm̓ on whose traditional and unceded territories we work.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: @richmondartgallerybc
Facebook: richmondartgallerybc
Youtube: richmondartgallery
X: rag_gallery_bc
Tag us: #richmondartgallerybc

GALLERY HOURS

Monday – Friday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Saturday – Sunday: 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

More info: richmondartgallery.org/visit-us

Admission is free or by donation

LOCATION

Richmond Cultural Centre
7700 Minoru Gate
Richmond, BC, V6Y 1R9, Canada

ACCESSIBILITY

- 4 accessible parking spaces in the Cultural Centre parkade
- Cultural Centre and Gallery spaces accessible by ramp
- Automated entrance and interior doors
- Accessible washrooms in the Cultural Centre with wide stalls and grab bars
- Sensory support kit available at reception



CONTACT

galler@richmond.ca
604-247-8363
richmondartgallery.org



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL
An agency of the Province of British Columbia



BRITISH COLUMBIA
Supported by the Province of British Columbia

