

# **RICHMOND ART GALLERY**



**SPRING 2023**



# Amy Ching-Yan Lam with HaeAhn Woo Kwon *a small but comfy house and maybe a dog*

April 22 – June 11, 2023

Curated by Su-Ying Lee

The title of this exhibition comes from a text, “Me in the Future,” that Amy Ching-Yan Lam wrote at age eleven and put in a time capsule, speculating by the age of twenty-five she would be married, have a career, and “a small but comfy house and maybe a dog.” Starting from these childhood fantasies of domestic love and financial stability, Lam presents artworks that explore how these dreams function within the wider context of colonial history. With humour and acuity, she examines the relationships between property, family, institutional power, collections, and theft.

A central part of the exhibition is a series of models created by Lam in collaboration with artist HaeAhn Woo Kwon; together they remake toys, domestic materials, and found objects into a fantasy communal home. The imagined dog is represented by the real story of Looty, a Pekingese dog

taken from China by British troops at the end of the Second Opium War, told through a book and animation. And expanding on how collections are formed and accessed, Lam has worked with the Richmond Public Library to bring a selection of items from their Dr. Kwok-Chu Lee Collection into the gallery. In turn, Richmond Art Gallery participates in a lending program of artworks from their Collection, accessible through the Public Library, over the duration of Lam’s exhibition.

The exhibition will be accompanied by an artist’s book, co-published with UK-based publisher Book Works, in 2024.

**Amy Ching-Yan Lam** is an artist and writer. She makes exhibitions, performances, and public artworks. She was part of the duo *Life of a Craphead* from 2006 to 2020. Lam has presented work at Eastside Projects, Seoul Medi-aCity Biennale, the Western Front, Centre Clark, among numerous other venues, and has participated in residencies at the Macdowell and Delfina Foundations. Her first full-length collection of poetry, *Baby Book*, is forthcoming from Brick Books in April 2023. She was born in Hong Kong and lives in Toronto, which is Mississauga Anishinaabeg treaty territory.

[amylam.me](http://amylam.me)

**HaeAhn Woo Kwon** is an installation artist. Informed by vernacular architecture in the urban environment of South Korea, her practice recombines and transforms disparate objects and means of production, reflecting on the availability of excess goods and the necessity of inventiveness in our current moment. She often collaborates with Paul Kajander as Haeahn Paul Kwon Kajander. She is an Assistant Professor at NSCAD University and represented by Franz Kaka Gallery in Tkaronto. She lives in Kjiptuk, known as Halifax.

[haeahnpaulkwonkajander.info](http://haeahnpaulkwonkajander.info)

**Su-Ying Lee** is an independent curator living in Toronto/Tkaronto/Taranton/Gichi Kiiwenging, Canada. She has also worked in institutions as Assistant Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art (MOCCA), Curator in Residence at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, and Assistant Curator at the Art Gallery of Mississauga. She received a Master's Degree in Curatorial Studies at the University of Toronto and is an alumnus of the Toronto Arts Council/Banff Centre's Cultural Leaders' Lab. Her projects have taken place across Canada, in Hong Kong, Mexico City, and Quezon City (Metro Manila), Philippines where she co-curated the third Kamias Triennial (2020).

[su-yinglee.com](http://su-yinglee.com)







# CAPTURE FESTIVAL

**Public art on the Canada Line**

**On view until February 28, 2024**

Curated by Maria Filipina Palad

In partnership with Richmond Public Art, Capture Photography Festival, and InTransit BC, Richmond Art Gallery presents artworks by artists Jaspal Birdi and Faune Ybarra on the Canada Line. Don't miss this chance to visit their artworks featured at Lansdowne and Aberdeen Stations.

## Capture

**Jaspal Birdi**

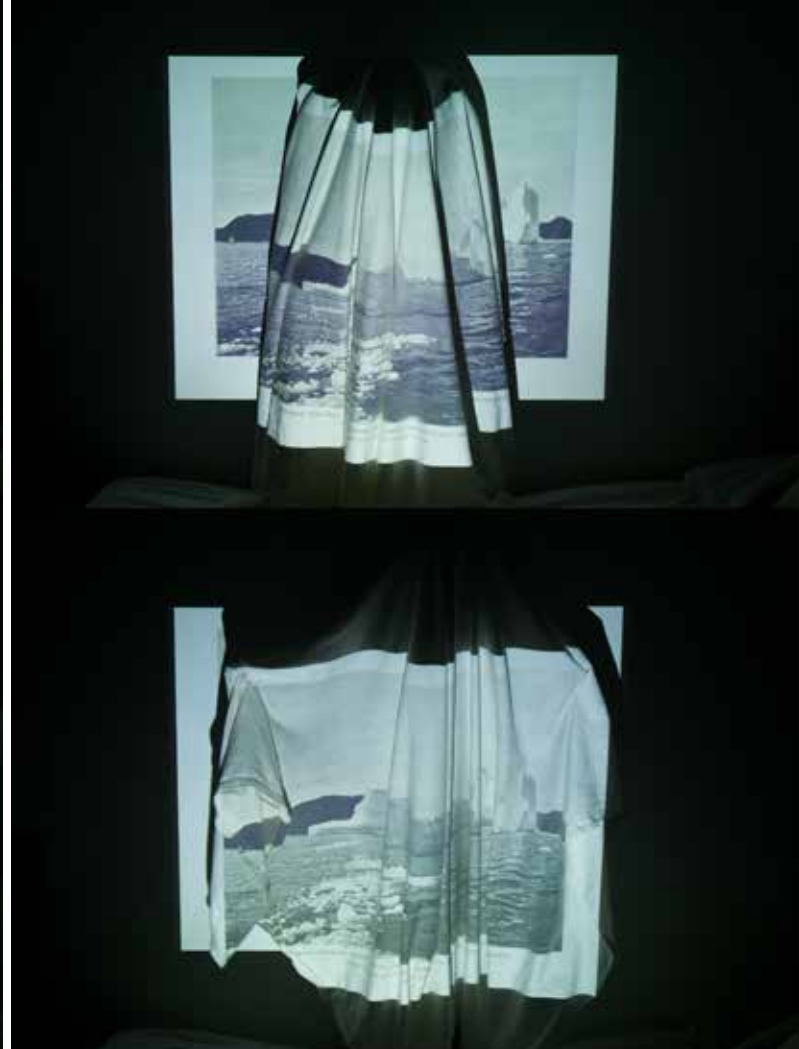
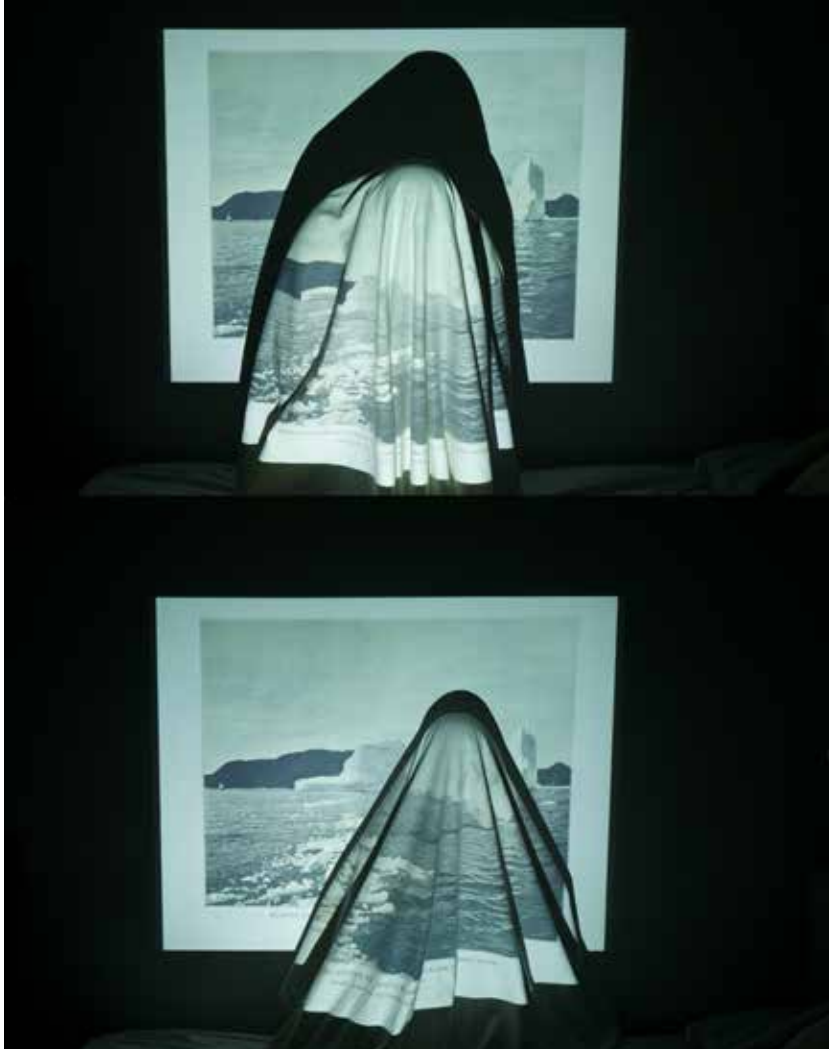
**11h02m**

**Lansdowne Station**

In 2020, Jaspal Birdi had been working on an art residency in Milan, Italy, when news of lockdowns began circulating. So she had to pursue her work in Toronto. Often working in both countries, Birdi is used to living in between places. The pandemic, however, put a twist on her otherwise mobile life.

*11h02m* was first shown in Birdi's 2020 exhibition, *Can I Play Outside?*. In this work, Birdi draws us back to this time of isolation due to the pandemic, where she simultaneously felt a sense of helplessness and an elevated state of creativity, while struggling with feelings of confinement, longing, and hope. The sameness of looking at the sky every day gave Birdi a sense of separation from those she longed to be with. However, seeing the clouds move collectively also gave her a sense of being among a community and the hope that the world would move on from the crisis together.

This painterly image of a blue sky lined with low-lying clouds is actually a photograph taken using an iPhone, from Birdi's window at her Toronto home. More interested in the imperfect image than the faithful duplication of her shots, Birdi overrides the settings of her printer, which would typically cease printing when the toner runs out. She scanned and enlarged the print and re-printed it in pieces. She transferred the image onto a gold rescue blanket – a lightweight, portable material that is both delicate and stable. The result is this ethereal abstracted image offering a window into how the artist navigated a time of unprecedented collective uncertainty.



## Faune Ybarra

### *Iceberg Stranded in My Bed*

#### Aberdeen Station

Faced with her feelings of displacement and the constant need to adapt to different landscapes, diasporic artist Faune Ybarra aspires to ground herself in the places she chooses to live. Born and raised in Mexico, Ybarra moved to St. John's, Newfoundland, where she lived for four years. She now lives and works in Vancouver. Hoping to acknowledge her presence in a new—albeit potentially transient—place, Ybarra began creating an ongoing multimedia archive of her journeys to weave her story within the broader tapestry of immigrant narratives. This work is a part of Ybarra's archive.

While in St. John's, Ybarra developed an artistic response to Robert E. Holloway's book, *Through Newfoundland with the Camera* (1905). Now part of the Digital Archives Initiative, the seminal book influenced the Canadian's public's perception of the province in the early 1900s. Ybarra contemplates whether her perspective as an immigrant to Canada and as an artist of colour could provide nuance to the evolving history of the province.

In 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic, Ybarra, unable to get to the physical archives in St. John's, used its digital archive as a point of departure for *Iceberg Stranded in*

*My Bed*. Enshrouded in a white blanket, she stands on a mattress situated in her apartment in Vancouver. Projected on her is an image of the Holloway photograph "Iceberg Stranded Outside St. John's Harbour for Three Weeks." Ybarra's movement and the shape of her covered self change the original archival image's identity, creating a new one in the process, one of intimate connection, impermanence, and confinement.





# OFF-SITE

## CITY HALL GALLERIA

Located just across the street from the Richmond Art Gallery, City Hall Galleria is an off-site exhibition space. As part of its outreach to the local community, City Hall Galleria highlights artists primarily from Richmond and/or artworks with a close connection to Richmond in terms of themes and subject matter. City Hall Galleria does occasional calls and accepts submissions throughout the year.

### JANETTE CALUBAD

January 17 – May 1

*Journey* is a series of five acrylic paintings that depicts the clouds of British Columbia using what Calubad describes as a “hyper-impressionistic” approach, in which she pays special attention to texture, movement, and light. Rendered with a seemingly flattened perspective, these paintings are nonetheless filled with layers that convey emotions and sentiments that Calubad restrains from expressing in her daily life. Treating her art practice as an escape from reality, Calubad hopes to transport herself and viewers to a semi-fantastical world through her landscape paintings.

Born and raised in the Philippines, Calubad graduated from the College of the Holy Spirit Manila with a degree in advertising in 1999. In addition to working in her primary medium of painting, Calubad enjoys sewing and crafting. As an entrepreneur, she channels her creativity into running her restaurant and art workshop business in the Philippines. Currently based in Richmond, Calubad recently immigrated to Canada to explore the career path of being an artist.

### KAREN LEON

January 17 – May 1

*Home* is a series of three acrylic paintings that showcases Leon’s Ecuadorian background in tandem with nostalgic memories of her childhood in Richmond. Growing up in Canada, Leon did not see much representation of Ecuadorian—or Latin American—culture in general. She aims to make space for anyone who might recognize elements of their culture in her work. Inspired by everyday experiences, *Home* attempts to capture the essence of Leon’s childhood neighbourhood before it is completely changed due to gentrification.

Originally from Ecuador, Leon grew up in Richmond and is now in her second year of the Fine Arts Diploma program at Langara College, where she works primarily with acrylic, ceramics, and serigraphy. In some of her other works, she focuses on portraying her Ecuadorian culture within domestic settings.



# UPCOMING EXHIBITION

**Amy-Claire Huestis**

***MOTHLIKE/silvery-blue***

**June 24 – August 20**

This exhibition is the culmination of years of research and activity along the foreshore of the Fraser River Delta by Ladner-based artist Amy-Claire Huestis. It celebrates our kinship with birds, the interconnectedness of all things, and the importance of ecological areas currently under threat due to human development.

In 2022, Huestis and a group of community collaborators led a site-specific procession/performance in the Key Biodiversity Area of Hwuli'tth'um (Brunswick Point in Ladner), an area of critical ecological importance for migratory birds within the Fraser River Estuary, in the ancestral and present-day lands of the Coast Salish Peoples.

At Richmond Art Gallery, the artist presents new art work and documentation from the original performance while also welcoming the public to participate in new actions at the gallery and along Richmond's foreshore.

***Walk Quietly (t'ásxelem)***

**Self-guided walk / [walkquietly.ca](http://walkquietly.ca)**

Organized by Amy-Claire Huestis

Richmond Art Gallery presents a unique off-site project entitled *Walk Quietly (t'ásxelem)*. Ladner-based artist Amy-Claire Huestis collaborated with a diverse group of ecologists, Hwlistsum elders and local residents to develop a self-guided walk of Brunswick Point, an integral ecosystem for migratory birds and a site of cultural significance for the Hwlistsum First Nation in Ladner, BC.

Huestis and her collaborators share ecological and cultural stories about this sensitive ecological area via signage with QR codes throughout Brunswick Point. The project celebrates our kinship with birds, the interconnectedness of all things, and the importance of a biodiverse area currently under ecological threat due to human development.

This project is made possible through the generous support of Metro Vancouver.



metrovancover

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**Location:** Brunswick Point, Ladner

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# PUBLIC PROGRAMS

## TOUR & OPENING RECEPTION WITH AMY CHING-YAN LAM, HAEAHN WOO KWON & SU-YING LEE

Saturday, April 22, 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Artist and Curator Talk & Tour: 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Opening Reception: 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Join our exhibiting artists and guest curator for an informal tour of a *small but comfy house and maybe a dog*. Opening launch to immediately follow. Everyone is welcome.

## CANADA LINE EXHIBITION WALKING TOUR

Sunday, April 23, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

As part of the 2023 Capture Photography Festival, artists Jaspal Birdi and Faune Ybarra will take visitors on a walking tour of their public artworks currently installed at Canada Line stations. The artists will discuss their works on display at Aberdeen and Lansdowne stations.

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**Location:** Meet at Aberdeen Station (4100 No. 3 Road)

**Info/register:** [richmondartgallery.org/capturetour](http://richmondartgallery.org/capturetour)

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## BOOK LAUNCH WITH AMY CHING-YAN LAM

Tuesday, April 25, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Co-Presented with READ Books

Join artist Amy Ching-Yan Lam and guests Andrea Actis, Ido Radon, and Christian Vistan for the launch of Lam's new poetry book, *Baby Book*.

Direct and humorous, *Baby Book* stacks story upon story to explore how beliefs are first formed. From a discount bus tour family vacation to a cosmogony based on cheese, these poems accumulate around principles of contingency and revelation. Lam describes the vivid tactility of growth and death—how everything is constantly, painfully remade—offering a vision against the stuck narratives of property and inheritance. Power is located in the senses, in wind: multiple and restless.

READ

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**Location:** READ Books, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, 520 E 1st Ave

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## DR. SARAH CHEANG ON PEKINGESE DOGS

Saturday, May 27, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Amy Lam's artwork *Looty Goes to Heaven* reimagines Looty's story, a small Pekingese dog that was taken from China to England during the looting of the Second





Opium War and was gifted to Queen Victoria. In response to the exhibition, Dr. Sarah Cheang, historian of Chinese material culture at Royal College of Art, UK, will talk with Amy about the history of the Pekingese dog, dog breeding, and colonial trade.

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**Location:** Online

**Info/register:** [richmondartgallery.org/pekingesedogs](http://richmondartgallery.org/pekingesedogs)

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## TALKBACK TOURS

An ongoing series of exhibition tours led by community members sharing their responses and ideas of our exhibitions.

### **DR. MELISSA KARMEN LEE, CEO, CHINESE CANADA MUSEUM**

**Saturday, May 13, 3:00 – 4:00 pm**

Join Dr. Melissa Karmen Lee as she reflects on a *small but comfy house and maybe a dog*.

Dr. Melissa Karmen Lee (Ph.D) 李林嘉敏 is a visual arts and literature scholar, curator, archivist and storyteller with research interests in public art and social engagement. She currently holds the appointment of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Chinese Canadian Museum in Vancouver. From 2019 to 2022, she was the Director of Education and Public Programs at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

## TEA AND TOUR OF OFF-SITE INSTALLATIONS

**Saturday, June 3, 1:30 – 3:00 PM**

Join us for a walking tour of two public art installations featured in this year's Capture Festival, followed by tea and conversation. Learn more about two new Canada Line Public Art installations by artists Jaspal Birdie and Faune Ybarra in an informal tour led by Guest Curator, Maria Filipina Palad. The tour begins at Aberdeen Station, continues to Lansdowne Station, then ends at the Art Gallery for a warming cup of tea to discuss all the art you've seen along the way. Free admission.

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**Info/register:** [richmondartgallery.org/tea-and-tour-offsite](http://richmondartgallery.org/tea-and-tour-offsite)

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## ARTIST SALON SERIES

**Last Wednesday of each month, 7:00 pm**

**February – November 2023**

Designed for visual artists of all levels, this program features guest artists, curators, and arts workers leading talks or workshops for visual artists to professionalize and grow their art practice.

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**Info:** [richmondartgallery.org/artist-salon-series](http://richmondartgallery.org/artist-salon-series)

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**ARTIST SALON:  
ASK ME ANYTHING WITH PENNYLANE SHEN**

**Wednesday, April 26, 7:00 – 8:00 pm**

Artist advisor Pennylane Shen of *Dazed & Confucius* is here to answer any burning questions you have about navigating the art industry. Join us and bring your questions to this online session to learn tips on marketing, exhibiting, visibility, social media, building a cohesive portfolio, or any other topics to help support your artistic journey.

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**Location:** Online - [richmondartgallery.org/pennylaneshen](http://richmondartgallery.org/pennylaneshen)

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**ARTIST SALON:  
JASPAL BIRDI ON ARTIST GRANTS**

**Wednesday, May 31, 7:00 – 8:00 pm**

Toronto-based artist Jaspal Birdi joins us online to share her experiences in writing artist grants for travel, art projects, and residencies. Learn from her artistic trajectory and her tips on how to successfully apply for grants to further your art career.

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**Location:** Online - [richmondartgallery.org/jaspal-birdi](http://richmondartgallery.org/jaspal-birdi)

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## ONGOING PROGRAMS

### FREE EXHIBITION TOURS FOR GROUPS

In-person or online exhibition tours can be booked for a tour and discussion with your group or adult class of up to thirty participants. RAG staff provide insight and discussion for each exhibition, based on the needs of your group. Mandarin tours are available upon request and subject to staff availability. Book your weekday or weekend group visit at least three weeks in advance by contacting our Education & Public Programs Coordinator, Kathy Tycholis: [ktycholis@richmond.ca](mailto:ktycholis@richmond.ca)

### PAGE HOPE SMITH ART LOUNGE

The Page Hope Smith Art Lounge provides a friendly and comfortable space for visitors of all ages to further explore our exhibitions. Discover the Gallery's collection of publications, interviews with featured artists, a children's reading nook, hands-on art-making activities, and a community art wall. The space changes with each exhibition, so make sure to stop in every time you visit!





# PERMANENT COLLECTION

Discover our collection digitally! Richmond Art Gallery has launched a new digital database of our permanent collection. Containing nearly four hundred works of art in a variety of media collected from 1982 to 2020, our collection is representative of the history of our exhibitions and a broader history of artistic production in British Columbia and beyond.

The permanent collection includes works by established BC artists such as Greg Girard, Wayne Ngan, Susan Point, Anna Wong, and Gu Xiong among numerous others. Our collection tells the story of local artists, ambitious exhibition projects, and a dedicated community. Most works were donated by artists who exhibited at the Gallery, while others were purchased by the Gallery or donated by members of the community.

[richmondartgallery.org/ragcollection](http://richmondartgallery.org/ragcollection)

## COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

### TONI ONLEY

b. 1928; d. 2004

(top to bottom)

*Drift Log and Rock, East Point Saturna, 1980, 1980*  
watercolour on paper

*Untitled 212, 1963*  
oil on canvas

Donation of Jacques and Margaret Barbeau, Richmond Art Gallery Permanent Collection

BC artist Toni Onley (b. 1928; d. 2004) is known for his elegantly spare abstract paintings and muted palette. While in the late 1950s he was influenced by the vigorous mark-making of Abstract Expressionism, by the 1960s, he was using a pared-down approach, creating what he called "archetypal" landscapes, devoid of geographic detail, reduced to simple configurations of colour and shape. Alongside a generation of west coast painters including Gordon Smith and Takao Tanabe, Onley is known for his unique contributions to the landscape genre—aptly described by Canadian curator David Burnett and art historian Marilyn Schiff as expressing "a sensibility of landscape rather than a description."



# RAGA SCHOOL ART PROGRAM

## TOURS, WORKSHOPS & TEACHERS RESOURCES

The School Art Program introduces students and teachers to the exciting world of contemporary art. Led by professional art educators, our programs teach inquiry-based art-viewing strategies that encourage students to make personal connections with art while developing visual literacy. For the 2022/23 school year, we are offering online art lessons, classroom art kits for rent, and in-person gallery tours with hands-on workshops for K to 12 students. Please book your visit or classroom art kit at least three weeks in advance by contacting our School Art Program Coordinator, Melanie Devoy at [mdevoy@richmond.ca](mailto:mdevoy@richmond.ca).

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**Info/register:** [richmondartgallery.org/schools](http://richmondartgallery.org/schools)

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## BECOME A RAGA MEMBER

Members are an important part of the Richmond Art Gallery Association and contribute to the Gallery's growth and vitality by supporting our educational and outreach programming. Join our growing membership and become a supporter of the visual arts.

### Members enjoy the following benefits:

- Invitations to members-only events
- 10% discount on Gallery programs and events
- 20% discount on Gallery publications
- And much more!

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**Cost:** Memberships start at \$25.00

**Info:** [richmondartgallery.org/membership](http://richmondartgallery.org/membership)

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## 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, 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.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: [richmondartgallerybc](https://www.facebook.com/richmondartgallerybc)

Twitter: [rag\\_gallery\\_bc](https://twitter.com/rag_gallery_bc)

Instagram: [richmondartgallerybc](https://www.instagram.com/richmondartgallerybc)

Youtube: [richmondartgallery](https://www.youtube.com/richmondartgallery)

Tag us: [#richmondartgallerybc](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/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](http://richmondartgallery.org/visit-us)

Admission is free or by donation

### LOCATION

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



### CONTACT

[gallery@richmond.ca](mailto:gallery@richmond.ca)

604-247-8363

[richmondartgallery.org](http://richmondartgallery.org)



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



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**Credits** – All images courtesy of the artists unless otherwise noted. Cover (top): Amy Ching-Yan Lam, *Looty Goes to Heaven*, 2022 (video still); p. 1: Amy Ching-Yan Lam and HaeAhn Woo Kwon, *Teapot Bathhouse*, 2023 (detail), Courtesy of the artists; p. 2: Amy Ching-Yan Lam, *Time Capsule* (1994), 2023 (digital image); p. 3: Faune Ybarra, *Iceberg Stranded in My Bed*, 2022/2023; p. 4: Jaspal Birdi, *11h02m*, 2020; p. 4 (top to bottom): Janette Calubud, *JOURNEY*, 2022; installation view of paintings by Janette Calubud at City Hall Galleria; Karen Leon, *Home pt. 2*, 2021; installation view of Karen Leon, *Home*, 2021 at City Hall Galleria; Amy-Claire Huestis, *MOTHLIKE/Silvery-blue*, 2022, Photo: Ya-Wei Lin, Courtesy of Richmond Art Gallery; p. 7 (top): Amy Ching-Yan Lam, Photo: Marvin Luvualu António; p. 7 (bottom): Courtesy of Dr. Sarah Cheang, p. 8 (top): Courtesy of Dr. Melissa Karmen Lee; p. 8 (bottom): Courtesy of Maria Filipina Palad; p. 9 (top): Pennylane Shen, Photo: Courtesy of Dazed and Confucius; p. 9 (bottom): Page Hope Smith Art Lounge, Photo: Ya-Wei Lin; p. 10: Photo: Michael Love; Courtesy of Richmond Art Gallery