

RICHMOND ART GALLERY



SUMMER 2023



Amy-Claire Huestis

MOTHLIKE/silvery-blue

June 29 – August 20

Richmond Art Gallery presents *MOTHLIKE/silvery-blue* by Ladner-based artist Amy-Claire Huestis. In 2022, Huestis and a group of collaborators led a site-specific procession/performance, at Hwlhits'um (Brunswick Point /Canoe Pass), a place of critical ecological importance for migratory birds within the Key Biodiversity Area of the Fraser River Estuary, on the ancestral and present-day lands of the Coast Salish Peoples.

This exhibition is the culmination of years of research and activity at Brunswick Point and along the foreshore of the Fraser River Delta by Huestis. Before the launch of the exhibition, from June 13 to 29, Huestis and her collaborators will follow an experimental score composed of walks on the dike trails, a participatory public performance at Garry Point Park on the summer solstice, and a final dance performance in the Gallery (June 29). The performances involve the collaboration of numerous artists and the participation of community partners from Huestis' public programming: scientists and conservationists, anthropologists, artists, educators, and Indigenous knowledge holders.

MOTHLIKE/silvery-blue tells the mytho-poetic narrative of a fictional character named Silvery Blue, who embodies the land. Artworks, recordings, and costumes from both the performance at Brunswick Point (Hwlhits'um) in 2022 and the Richmond performances in 2023 will be featured in the exhibition. The artworks are created to be re-animated through dance, sound performance, and community involvement where the public is invited to participate in order to unfold Silvery Blue's transformation cycle from woman to butterfly to land.

With Richmond Art Gallery, Huestis has created educational and intergenerational community partnerships and programs to facilitate kinship to the more-than-human world. Huestis has built a "Nest-work" in the gallery as a place for communal action and knowledge. It includes bird-friendly window treatments, artworks, and live footage of a barn owl nest box from Richmond Park's Nest Box Program. Throughout the exhibition, the *Nest-work* will house gatherings, performances and storytelling activities on birds and the river estuary.

Huestis' work celebrates our kinship with birds, the interconnectedness of all things, and the importance of ecological areas currently under threat. It raises awareness about the delicate ecology of the *stál'áw* (Fraser River) estuary—the most important estuary in Western Canada—and the biodiversity loss caused by human development and commercial expansion. This is a particularly timely exhibition given recent federal government approval of the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 in Delta. Scientists predict the port expansion will irreversibly harm the populations of Western Sandpipers, Southern Resident killer whales, and Chinook salmon.

About the Artist

Amy-Claire Huestis's work responds to biodiversity loss with complex collaborative, communal, and personal works made in kinship with the more-than-human world. She has completed residencies in the Bothy Project in Scotland, Gray's Cottage on Sechart Inlet, and the UCLA Art/Science Center. She has performed at the Baryshnikov Art Center in NYC, the Broad Art Centre in Los Angeles, and in the Glasgow International Art Festival. She teaches drawing and painting at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. In 2021, as artist-in-residence at Richmond Art Gallery, Huestis created an art/science educational program at Henry Anderson Elementary School in Richmond with Birds Canada, and co-curated a guided walk project at Hwlhíts'um (Canoe Pass / Brunswick Point) called *walk quietly / ts'ekw'unshun kws qututhun*.

OFF-SITE

walk quietly/ts'ekw'unshun kws qututhun

Self-guided walk / walkquietly.ca

Co-curated by Amy-Claire Huestis and Kim Trainor

Richmond Art Gallery presents a unique off-site project entitled *walk quietly (ts'ekw'unshun kws qututhun)*. Artist Amy-Claire Huestis and poet, Kim Trainor worked with a diverse group of ecologists, anthropologists, artists, Cowichan and Hwlíts'um First Nation knowledge holders to develop a self-guided walk at Hwlhíts'um (Brunswick Point) an integral estuary habitat for migratory birds and a site of ancestral and cultural significance for Indigenous Peoples in Ladner, BC.

The community-guided walk tells the story of the site, as contributors share complex perspectives about this sensitive ecological area via signage with QR codes throughout Brunswick Point, linked to the *walkquietly* website and open-learning resource booklet. This project is made possible through the generous support of Metro Vancouver, KPU, Douglas College, and Hwlíts'um First Nation.





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.

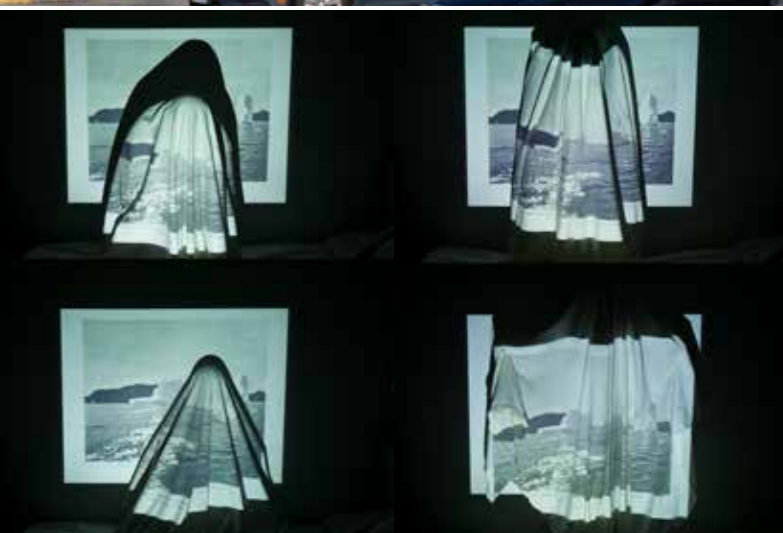
Capture

Jaspal Birdi

11h02m

Lansdowne Station

Jaspal Birdi's *11h02m* harks back to the early days of the pandemic, where she simultaneously felt a sense of helplessness and isolation, and an elevated state of creativity and hope. Photographed with her iPhone from a window in her Toronto home, *11h02* resembles a painting of a blue sky lined with low-lying clouds. 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, then transferred the image onto a gold rescue blanket—a lightweight, portable material that is both delicate yet strong. The result is this ethereal abstracted work offering a window into how the artist navigated a time of unprecedented collective uncertainty.



Faune Ybarra

Iceberg Stranded in My Bed

Aberdeen Station

Originally from Mexico, Faune Ybarra moved to St. John's, Newfoundland, where she lived for four years, and then to Vancouver. While in St. John's, Ybarra became interested in Robert E. Holloway's seminal book, *Through Newfoundland with the Camera (1905)*, now part of the Digital Archives Initiative.

During the pandemic, Ybarra used this digital archive as a point of departure for *Iceberg Stranded in My Bed*. Enshrouded in a blanket, she stands on a mattress in her apartment in Vancouver. Projected onto her is an image of the Holloway photograph "Iceberg Stranded Outside St. John's Harbour for Three Weeks." Through this performative act, she changes the archival image's original identity, creating a new one in the process, one of intimate connection 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.

Julie Pappajohn

Ditch

June 27 – September 19

Drawing from personal memory, collected stories, and archival materials, North Vancouver-based artist Julie Pappajohn's exhibition *Ditch* commemorates her childhood growing up in Richmond from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Pappajohn is a multidisciplinary artist and former arts educator. An avid participant of local arts programs and events, she finds inspiration in routine tasks, chance encounters, and insightful conversations. Working in drawing, painting, photography, and ceramics, she creates work that explores the notion of significance in relation to memory.

Alex Ji 紀鈞譯

Earth's Elegance

July 31 – August 28

Opening Reception: Monday, July 31, 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Richmond-based artist Alex Ji's exhibition *Earth's Elegance* pays tribute to the diverse and ever-changing landscapes of Greater Vancouver. Inspired by the intricacies and complexities of nature, Ji's work attempts to capture nature's beauty in a way that is timeless and universal. From the snow-capped peaks of the North Shore Mountains to the rugged coastline of the Pacific, *Earth's Elegance* conveys Ji's appreciation of this majestic land that he now calls home.

Recipient of multiple painting awards in China, the US, and Canada, Ji immigrated to Canada and set up studios in Richmond and West Vancouver in 2022. He holds a BFA in Painting and an MFA from Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts, and has been teaching painting since 2009.





UPCOMING EXHIBITION

Sonja Ahlers

Classification Crisis

September 9 – November 5

Curated by Godfre Leung

For thirty years, Victoria-based artist Sonja Ahlers has been making books in her distinct visual idiom that is equal parts collage and poetry. *Classification Crisis* is a major survey of her art practice, which emerged from Ahlers's project of the last half-decade to organize her archive. The exhibition includes her Riot Grrrl zines of the nineties, one-of-a-kind chapbooks spanning thirty years, a decade of unseen work after she "quit art" in the wake of the Vancouver art boom, and other artworks and ephemera from a career of collecting images and scraps of language.

Revisiting her career also led Ahlers to produce a new bookwork, *Rabbit-Hole*, which she describes as a "feminist memoir/scrapbook/confessional commentary on the art world and my place within it." Adapted for the exhibition as an installation, *Rabbit-Hole* re-tells the story of her career as a mystery narrative. From the hindsight of the #MeToo reckoning, Ahlers thematizes the collecting and reassembling that sustains her art as a search for clues left behind by her former selves.

Best known for her books *Temper, Temper* (1998)—a compilation of her nineties zines—*The Selves* (2010)—the precursor to her influential work with *Rookie Mag*—and the angora *Fierce Bunnies* she has been making for three decades, Ahlers's work has been a touchstone for multiple generations of feminist culture. The exhibition is accompanied by a lavishly illustrated publication that features essays by contemporaries of Ahlers from throughout her career and her bookwork *Rabbit-Hole*.

The artist would like to acknowledge the support of BC Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts.



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des Arts
du Canada

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

All events are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

Amy-Claire Huestis: For ghosts and swallows

June 21, 8:00 – 9:30 pm

Off-site Performance

Celebrate the summer solstice in a participatory performance in connection and kinship with nature. Following an experimental score, artists and community participants engage in performance and storytelling about swallows and ecological ghosts of the staław (Fraser River) estuary. Everyone is welcome to join in the performance and walk.

Location: q^weya?χ^w (Garry Point Park, Richmond)
Registration: richmondartgallery.org/ghosts-swallows

Amy-Claire Huestis: Performance and Opening Reception

Thursday, June 29, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Opening Reception: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Welcome remarks: 7:00 pm

Performance: 7:30 pm

Artists/Curator talk: 8:30 pm

Join exhibiting artist Amy-Claire Huestis, composer Omar Zubair, and dancer Rachel Harris for a new sound and dance performance titled, *For the ecological ghosts*, to launch the *MOTHLIKE/silvery-blue* exhibition.

Location: Richmond Art Gallery
Registration: eventbrite.ca/e/mothlikesilvery-blue-performance-tickets-648493711147

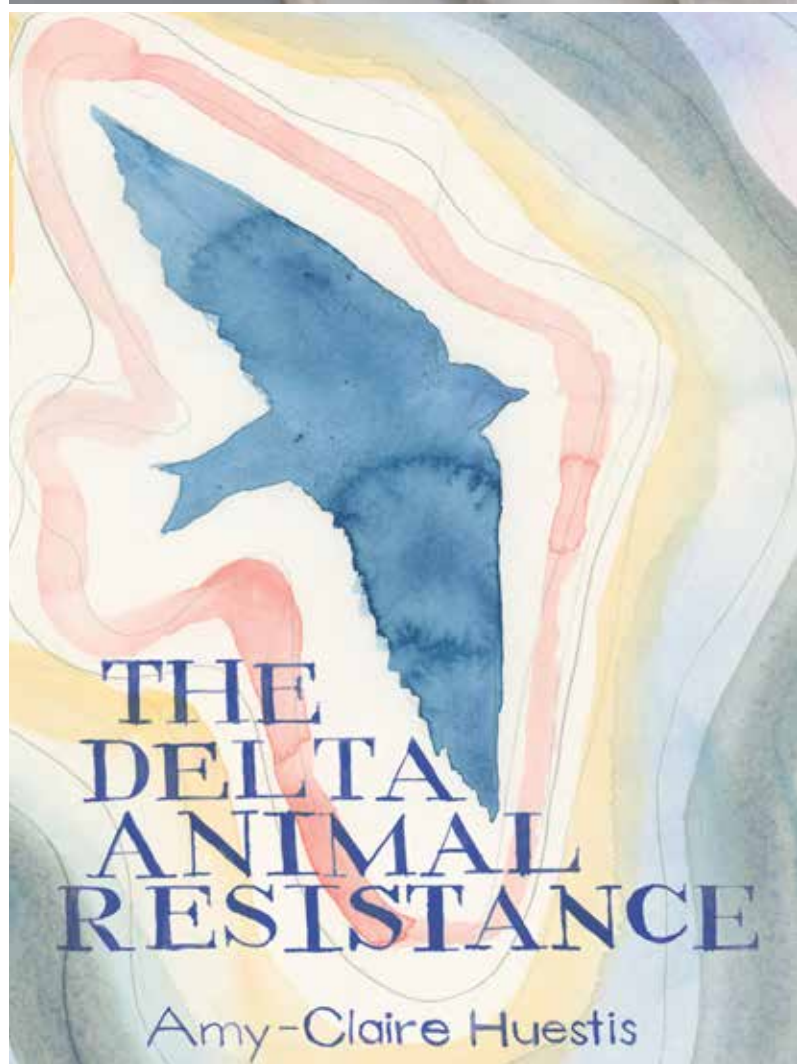
The Delta Animal Resistance: Children's Storytime + Performance

Sunday, July 8, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

With Amy-Claire Huestis, Omar Zubair and OWL (Orphaned Wildlife Rehab)

Join us for storytelling and performance with artists Amy-Claire Huestis' and Omar Zubair. The artists will lead a reading of their children's book, *The Delta Animal Resistance*, and offer a sound performance in the gallery's "Nest" installation. Children can also meet a live owl with OWL educators. For ages 7-12.

Location: Richmond Art Gallery
Registration: richmondartgallery.org/storytime





Nest-work: Art and Science Gathering

July 15, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Artists and scientists will present on nests and nesting, here in the Fraser River Estuary, and beyond. We will look at local kinds of nests and bird habitat, and see where migratory shorebirds who travel through the Fraser River Key Biodiversity Area go to nest. What kinds of nests do Western Sandpipers make in the arctic?

Location: Richmond Art Gallery

Registration: richmondartgallery.org/nestwork

免費中文導覽: Chinese Language Tour

Saturday, July 22, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Meet the Gallery's Curatorial Assistant Rebecca Wang 王晨鈺 for a tour of the current Richmond Art Gallery exhibition in Mandarin. Learn more about the themes of *MOTHLIKE/silvery-blue* through a guided visit and informal discussion over a cup of tea.

免費中文導覽

日期待定 — 7月22日 星期六, 下午2-3點

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Location: Richmond Art Gallery

Collage Party: Mail Art

Saturday, August 12, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Fun art-making social for adults and youth aged 16+. Inspired by Sonja Ahlers' exhibition, this latest Collage Party is dedicated to mail art—art that is sent through the postal system. We will develop postcard-sized collage artworks using a variety of papers, pictures, and fabrics. Find out about the fascinating history of mail art and how your mail artworks can be featured in an upcoming exhibition to take place in the Gallery's Art Lounge. All materials provided.

Location: Richmond Art Gallery Program Room

Registration: richmondartgallery.org/collageparty-mailart



Alex Ji 紀鈞譯: Artist Talk (in Mandarin)

Monday, July 31, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

In conjunction with his exhibition in the Upper Rotunda Gallery, Ji will give a public presentation on his painting practice and pedagogical experience as an art teacher, as well as highlight the Impressionist and Realist works influential to his practice. A reception will follow from 12:00 to 1:30 pm.

Location: Performance Hall, Richmond Art Centre

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Art at Work: Preparing Exhibition Proposals with Shaun Dacey, RAG Director

Thursday, July 6, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

This free workshop invites participants to focus on the fundamentals of crafting an exhibition proposal for non-profit galleries, artist-run centres and community art spaces. Participants are invited to submit a draft exhibition proposal to the Richmond Art Gallery by June 28, and a few will be selected to develop it further with the facilitator and writing group. Limited to 15 participants.

Location: Performance Hall, Richmond Cultural Centre

Registration: richmondartgallery.org/exhibproposals

Artist Salon

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.

More info: richmondartgallery.org/artist-salon-series

Artist Salon: Tracey-Mae Chambers on Travelling Exhibitions

Wednesday, June 28, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Métis artist Tracey-Mae Chambers is traveling Canada and the USA to create site-specific art installations at residential school historical sites, cultural centres, museums, art galleries, and other public spaces. Learn about her journey in developing and funding this ongoing project with tips and advice for artists seeking to exhibit in various spaces across the country.

Location: Richmond Art Gallery

Registration: richmondartgallery.org/salon-travelling





Artist Salon: Mail Art Social

Wednesday, August 30, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Hands-on art making social for artists! Inspired by our featured fall artist Sonja Ahlers's early work with mail art, participants will develop their own postcard-sized artworks using a variety of drawing, collaging, stitching, and painting techniques. Find out about the fascinating history of mail art and how your mail artworks can be featured in an upcoming exhibition to take place in the Gallery's Art Lounge in tandem with Ahlers' exhibition *Classification Crisis*. All materials provided.

Location: Richmond Cultural Centre Atrium

Registration: richmondartgallery.org/artist-salon-social

OPEN CALL FOR MAIL ART EXHIBITION & FUNDRAISER AUCTION

Show your support for Richmond Art Gallery Association's programming! Open to artists from anywhere in the world to contribute one work of mail art in response to the theme of collecting and reassembling. No fees, no returns. All 2-D media accepted, must be original artworks.

All artworks received will be included in the online art gallery and auction, with select works on display in the Gallery's Art Lounge during Sonja Ahlers exhibition *Classification Crisis* from September 9 – November 5. All works will go to online auction after November 5, and all proceeds raised in the sale of works will go to support Gallery programming.

Required dimensions: 13.0 cm x 17.5 cm (5.0 in x 7.0 in)

Deadline: Artwork must arrive by August 31 for exhibition in the gallery. Artwork postmarked by August 31, but arriving after, will be included in the online exhibition only.

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



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 Anna Wong, Wayne Ngan, Susan Point, Greg Girard, 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

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 upcoming school year, we are offering, 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.

Registration: richmondartgallery.org/schools



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!

Cost: Memberships start at \$25.00

Info: richmondartgallery.org/membership

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

Admission is free or by donation

LOCATION

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



CONTACT

gallery@richmond.ca

604-247-8363

richmondartgallery.org



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ARTS COUNCIL
An agency of the Province of British Columbia



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Supported by the Province of British Columbia



Credits – All images courtesy of the artists unless otherwise noted. Cover (top): Amy-Claire Huestis, *MOTHLIKE/Silvery-blue*, 2022 (performance), Photo: Ya-Wei Lin; p. 1: Amy-Claire Huestis, *The Delta Animal Resistance Flag*, 2022; p. 3 (top to bottom, a-d): (a) Jaspal Birdi, *11h02*, 2020, (b) installation view at Landsdowne Station, Photo: RAG Staff, (c) Faune Ybarra, *Iceberg Stranded in My Bed*, 2022/2023, (d) installation view at Aberdeen Station, Photo: RAG Staff; p. 4 (top): Photo: Rebecca Wang 王晨鈺; p. 4 (bottom): Alex Ji 紀鈞譯, *Childhood Innocence*, 2014; p. 5 (top): Sonja Ahlers, *Diana*, 2022; p. 5 (bottom): Sonja Ahlers, *Lacemaker*, 2017; p. 6 (top): Cessna the Owl from Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (owlrehab.org); p. 6 (bottom): Amy-Claire Huestis, *The Delta Animal Resistance*, 2023 (book cover); p. 7 (top): Western Sandpiper, Photo: Mick Thompson; p. 7 (bottom), p. 9 (bottom): *Memory: International Mail Art Exhibition and Swap*, Richmond Art Gallery, 2013-2014 (installation details); p.8 (top): Photo: Joanna Liang; p. 8 (bottom): Tracey-Mae Chambers installing *#hopeandhealingcanada*; p. 9 (top): Sonja Ahlers, *Rabbit Queen*, 2020; p. 10 (top): Evan Lee, *Ginseng Root Study*, 2004/2014, Richmond Art Gallery Permanent Collection, Photo: Michael Love; p. 10 (bottom): Photo: Melanie Devoy