

Vancouver artist highlights the power of dreams, traditions, and ritual in a new multi-media exhibition

## Cindy Mochizuki

### *Cave To Dream*

September 28 - November 17, 2019

Opening Reception:  
Saturday, September 28, 2019  
6:00 – 9:00 pm

The artist and curator will be in attendance.

Curated by Nan Capogna



Richmond Art Gallery is pleased to present a new body of work by Vancouver artist Cindy Mochizuki. Exploring the passage of time, lifecycles, and the power of dreams, *Cave to Dream* brings together speculative fiction, experimental cinema, Japanese folklore, and live-performance storytelling. Mochizuki skillfully combines these art forms to create a setting for her four fictional stories, *Onyx*, *Salt*, *Shadow*, and *Snow*.

The installation is based on Mochizuki's research in Akita-ken, Japan, where she explored the traditional folklore and performative rituals maintained by the residents of the region. One long-standing practice attracting the artist's attention was the annual visit of the Namahage demon on December 31. Traditionally performed by young men dressed in the frightening masks and straw capes of the Namahage, the demon visits homes to measure how the inhabitants have spent their year. Creatures like the Namahage reflect traditional understandings of the cyclical nature of time, endings and beginnings. In her work Mochizuki draws from these familiar and yet foreign forms of storytelling, myths and the ways in which communities build meaning in their everyday lives and through traditions. The short films *Salt*, *Onyx*, *Shadow* and *Snow* offer conversations around human and creature relationships that invite new ways of interpreting the boundaries of life and death. Mochizuki states: "*Cave to Dream* grounds my interest in spirits, demons and yokai (a class of supernatural spirits) suggesting that each of these creatures stand in for a boundary site or a turning point of a story that we may not be able to grasp in every day life but can be a poignant way of understanding anticipated futures, present-day interpretations of fear, and unobtainable pasts."

Mochizuki's distinctive handwork is evident in the spirited and tender ink and wash drawings that form the animated imagery in the films. Small-scale theatrical sets, masks and porcelain game pieces crafted by the artist for the performance expand her aesthetic expression into a dynamic three-dimensional space. Mochizuki will present two live performances at the Richmond Art Gallery on November 16, 2019. Four performers playing the traditional Akita-ken Namahage will lead visitors through the theatrical spaces created by Mochizuki to experience each story offering different perspectives on life/death and what it means to reset or to start again. "While the traditions Mochizuki explores in *Cave to Dream* are

deeply grounded in Japanese myth and histories, it is anticipated that visitors will recognize customs from their own cultural experiences” states exhibition curator Nan Capogna.

**For high-resolution images or to arrange an interview, please contact:**

**Paula Hickey, Gallery & Exhibition Coordinator:** phickey@richmond.ca, 604-247-8312

## Biography

**Cindy Mochizuki** creates multi-media installations, audio fiction, performance, animation, and drawings. Her works explore the manifestation of story and its relationship to site-specificity, invisible histories, archives, and memory. Her artistic process moves back and forth between multiple sites of cultural production considering language, chance, improvisation and community engagement. She has exhibited, performed and screened her work in Canada, US, and Asia. Mochizuki holds a MFA in Interdisciplinary Studies from the School for Contemporary Arts (2006).

## RAG RICHMOND ART GALLERY

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

*The only public gallery in Richmond, the Richmond Art Gallery (RAG) is a municipal gallery supported by the non-profit Richmond Art Gallery Association. In operation since 1980, the Gallery presents exhibitions by regional, national and international artists, maintains a permanent collection of over 400 works, and presents innovative and diverse programming for children, youth, and adults. Richmond Art Gallery is dedicated to promoting dialogue among Richmond's diverse communities through the presentation of contemporary visual art.*

### LOCATION

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

### CONTACT

[gallery@richmond.ca](mailto:gallery@richmond.ca)  
604-247-8300  
[richmondartgallery.org](http://richmondartgallery.org)

### VISIT US

Monday - Friday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Saturday - Sunday: 10 am - 5 pm  
Free Admission

### FOLLOW US

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Image: Cindy Mochizuki, production still from *Snow performance*, 2019.

## Special events during Mochizuki and Sasaki exhibitions

Events are free and take place at the Gallery unless noted otherwise

**Opening Reception: Cindy Mochizuki and Jon Sasaki With Live 2019 International Performance Art Biennale**

**Saturday, September 28, 6:00 – 9:00 pm**

Join us in celebration of the launch of our fall program and the pre-launch of LIVE 2019 International Performance Art Biennale.

**Nikkei Stories in Richmond: Free Bus Tours  
Sunday, September 29**

Join the Richmond Public Art Program, Richmond Art Gallery and Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site to experience an engaging bus tour of Japanese Canadian stories, art and history in Richmond. Registration required as seating is limited.

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Location: Richmond Art Gallery  
Registration: [www.richmond.ca/register](http://www.richmond.ca/register) or phone 604-276-4300  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm use registration code: 2749891  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm use registration code: 2749890

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**Cindy Mochizuki In Conversation with Makiko Hara**

**Saturday, October 19, 2:00 – 3:00 pm**

Makiko Hara, a Vancouver-based curator from Tokyo has worked with Mochizuki on many projects in the past. Together they will discuss Mochizuki's latest work and reflect on the themes explored in *Cave to Dream*.

**Multilingual Exhibition Tours  
English, Mandarin or Cantonese**

**Sunday, October 20, 12:30 – 2:30 pm**

Drop in for an informal tour of our current exhibitions.

**Curatorial Tour: Nan Capogna & Shaun Dacey  
Saturday, November 2, 1:00 pm**

Exhibition curators Nan Capogna and Shaun Dacey will lead an in-depth tour of Jon Sasaki's, *We First Need a Boat for the Rising Tide to Lift Us* and Cindy Mochizuki's, *Cave to Dream*.

**Cindy Mochizuki: Live Performances Of Cave To Dream**

**Saturday, November 16, 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm**

The installation *Cave to Dream* comes to life with two performances combining film, theatre, animation and storytelling. Limited seating, registration is required through the gallery website.

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Cost: \$10.00

Registration: opens September 28 at [richmondartgallery.org](http://richmondartgallery.org)

Location: Richmond Art Gallery

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