

Richmond Art Gallery and Richmond Public Art present two artists for Capture Photography Festival at Canada Line Station Installations in Richmond

Brendan Fernandes & Chun Hua Catherine Dong

April 12 – September 1, 2021

Richmond Art Gallery in partnership with Richmond Public Art present two unique and innovative photo-based artworks as part of Capture Photography Festival. The public installations can be seen at Aberdeen and Lansdowne Canada Line stations in Richmond.

At Lansdowne Station, *The Left Space* by Brendan Fernandes uses historically significant patterns to tell stories of power, camouflage, and resistance. Evoking a sense of urgency and emergency, "dazzle" patterns, which were painted on warships to confuse the enemy, are coupled with purple and magenta plaid, which at once symbolizes British colonial rule in Kenya, a warning to predators in the wild, and the flashing of police lights. Fernandes playfully wraps this symbolic print across Lansdowne Station. The gesture offers a moment to contemplate solidarity, resiliency, protection, and care during these trying times.

At Aberdeen Station, *The Misfits* by Chun Hua Catherine Dong utilizes digital techniques and photography to illustrate the rich symbolic value of Chinese textiles to explore issues of gender and culture. The phoenix and dragon are interconnected symbols in Chinese culture and are often used together to symbolize auspicious and blissful relations between husband and wife. In ancient Chinese history, the phoenix could be male or female. However, as the dragon became associated with Chinese emperors as an imperial symbol, the phoenix became exclusively associated with female identities.

Within this diptych installed at Aberdeen Station, Dong envisions the phoenix and the dragon not as opposites but as mirrors of each other. Adding her own twist to a traditional medium, the artist uses blue to return masculinity to the phoenix and plum blossoms to offer femininity to the dragon. By placing these symbols within the rainbowed sea and mountain patterns, the artist suggests a contemporary perspective on Chinese tradition.

Each image is animated with augmented reality through a free app that can be downloaded on a mobile phone or tablet. Once the image and sound are activated, graphic elements begin to dance, paired with an ethereal score of traditional Chinese music.

Join Chun Hua Catherine Dong for a virtual artist talk in conjunction with her public art installation at Aberdeen Canada Line Station on Saturday, April 17 at 2:00 pm. Register for this event at richmondartgallery.org/atcd



Chun Hua Catherine Dong, *The Misfits*, 2020. Courtesy of the Artist.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Born in Nairobi, Kenya, and currently based in Chicago, **Brendan Fernandes** is an internationally recognized artist working at the intersection of dance and visual arts. He is currently an artist-in-residence and a member of faculty in the Department of Art, Theory and Practice at Northwestern University. Fernandes addresses issues of freedom, sanctuary and social solidarity in his work, which has been shown at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, MOMA, the Getty Museum in LA., the National Gallery of Canada, the 2019 Whitney Biennial and many more. Fernandes is working on a new piece commissioned by the Richmond Art Gallery at Capture Photography Festival in April 2021. Brendan is represented by Monique Meloche Gallery in Chicago.

Chun Hua Catherine Dong is a Chinese-born Montreal-based artist working with performance, photography, and video. She received an MFA from Concordia University and BFA from Emily Carr University Art + Design. She has exhibited works in multiple national and international venues, such as Quebec City Biennial, MOMENTA | Biennale de l'image, Kaunas Biennial, The Musée d'Art Contemporain du Val-de-Marne in Paris, Museo de la Cancillería in Mexico City, Canadian Cultural Centre Pairs, the Museum of University of Toronto, HuBei Museum of Art in China, and so on. Among many other grants and awards, she was the recipient of the Franklin Furnace Award for contemporary avant-garde art in New York (2014), and listed the "10 Artists Who Are Reinventing History" by Canadian Art (2017). She was also named Artist of the Year at the *DongGang International Photo Festival* in South Korea (2018), and a finalist for Contemporary Art Award at Le Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (Prix en art actuel du MNBAQ) 2020.

SPECIAL EVENT

Artist Talk by Chun Hua Catherine Dong

Saturday, April 17, 2021, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Join Richmond Art Gallery Director, Shaun Dacey and Richmond Public Art Planner, Biliana Velkova for an artist talk by Chun Hua Catherine Dong in conjunction with her public art installation at Aberdeen Canada Line Station as part of Capture Photography Festival.

See richmondartgallery.ca/atcd for more details.

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

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Capture Photography Festival

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND



Richmond

CONTACT

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GALLERY HOURS

Monday–Friday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Admission is free or by donation

LOCATION

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

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