

explor **ASIAN**

**Festival**  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



V A H M S  
VANCOUVER  
ASIAN  
HERITAGE  
MONTH  
SOCIETY

**2021** 50+ virtual & live stream events 

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# Welcome to explorASIAN



Canada is home to a diverse and multicultural population whose collective cultural wealth has made this country a successful and prosperous one. In British Columbia, and especially in Metro-Vancouver, the vast and continuously growing number of Pan-Asian communities have helped shape our identity, adding vitality and excellence to our cultural life. The celebration of Asian Heritage Month every May is a tangible recognition of the many Asian-Canadian communities that have contributed their knowledge, skills, art, and traditions to strengthen Canadian society. For the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society (VAHMS),

2021 marks our Silver Anniversary of dedicated work supporting and advocating for Pan-Asian Canadian artists and community organizations.

Twenty-five years ago, a group of culture enthusiasts and social advocates, including Jim Wong-Chu and Beverly Nann, joined forces to create the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society, an organization that would speak out for the many Asian-Canadians who had no voice and provide a platform to showcase the richness of their artistic expression. Over the years, VAHMS has demonstrated a level of community spirit connecting all who want to learn about Pan-Asian cultures with those representing these communities. VAHMS has continuously worked towards embracing differences by inviting audiences to reflect on the many Pan-Asian cultural heritages that converge in Canada and the traditional territories of this land's many Indigenous Nations. explorASIAN Festival has been instrumental in carrying out VAHMS' mission of promoting understanding and appreciation of Asian-Canadian arts by providing performances, exhibitions, readings, concerts, workshops, tours, educational symposiums, and conferences directed to promote local talent.

VAHMS and explorASIAN Festival continue to evolve to meet the needs of our society. This year, as we did in 2020, we have adapted to the circumstances by producing all our programming virtually and free for all. The Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Opening Ceremony on May 1st, the complete May program of more than 50 events, and the VAHMS Recognition Awards ceremony in June will feature performers, artists and social advocates who, by coming together, model racial harmony, alliance, recognition and respect for all cultures.

This year and in times of increased anti-Asian sentiment, visibility and inclusiveness are more important than ever. This is why VAHMS' efforts are constantly led by the desire to strengthen cultural identity and emphasize the importance of communicating respectfully. VAHMS stands strong against any discriminatory acts and believes that the solution to ending systemic racism against Asian and other racialized communities must include values of solidarity, tolerance, and inclusive representation.

I commend our Board of Directors, Advisors, Staff, Volunteers, Partner Organizations, Sponsors, and Contributors for their continuous support to keep the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month more vibrant than ever. A special recognition to Beverly Nann, Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society's first president, for her vision and resilient character to speak out and work in support of all Pan-Asian cultures. It is an honour to build upon Bev's work as we continue mentoring the future of the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society and explorASIAN Festival for years to come.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for 25 years of gathering and celebrating Asian Heritage with us. Enjoy our 25th Anniversary events.

Warm Regards,

Leticia Sanchez, *President, VAHMS*

# Festival Schedule

## February

- 11 A Future for Memory: Art and Life After the Great East Japan Earthquake**  
Date: February 11 – September 5  
Time: Tue-Sun, 10am-5pm

## March

- 6 Exploring Care: The Aesthetic of Silence** **I**  
Date: March 6 - May 15  
Time: Thu-Sat, 10am-5pm
- 10 Will Kwan: Exclusion Acts**  
Date: March 10 - May 29  
Time: Thu-Sat, 12pm-6pm

## April

- 3 Wang Qingsong: Fotofest**  
Date: Apr 3 - May 30  
Time: Tue-Sat, 12pm-6pm
- 15 Bird Tracks in the Air: Selected Poems of Wang Anshi** **V**  
Time: 7pm-8:30pm
- Seeing Anew: Earthly Presence - Garrett Andrew Chong**  
Date: April 15 - May 12  
Time: Mon-Fri (11am-8:30pm), Sat-Sun (10:30am-4pm)
- 16 Virtual Japan Market Spring 2021**  
Date: April 16 - 18  
Time: 10am-6pm
- 21 Oceans of Stories: National Canadian Film Day** **V**  
Time: 4:30pm Panel  
5:15pm Screening of 'Continuous Journey'
- 23 Opera in the Garden**  
Time: 5pm-6pm, 6pm-7pm
- Garden Reopening - Artefacts from the Past**  
Date: April 23 - 25
- 24 Yoga at the Garden**  
Time: 9:30am-10:30am
- Union: NANCY LEE 李南屏 AND KIRAN BHUMBER किरणदीप कौर भंडार**  
Date: April 24 - June 5
- 25 Qigong at the Garden**  
Time: 9:30am-10:30am
- 29 Empty Spaces Panel that Fill My Heart**  
Time: 11am-6pm

## May

- 1 A First Time For Everything: Writers and their First Books**  
Time: 12pm
- Ancestors in our Attics**  
Time: 5:15 pm-6:45 pm
- explorASIAN Virtual Opening Ceremony** **V**  
Time: 8pm-9pm
- Uzume Taiko & Friends: Intimate Portraits**  
Date: May 1, May 15, May 29  
Time: 8pm
- A Place to Call Home - Chinese Paintings of Tinyan CHAN and Xingjian LI** **I**  
Date: May 1 - 16  
Time: 11am-5pm
- Hidden Figures, Vol. 2**  
Date: May 1 - 31
- Firehorse and Shadow** **V**  
Date: May 1 - 31
- Interconnections in a New World** **I**  
Date: May 1 - June 30  
Time: Mon-Sat (by appointment)
- 4 Ching Shih: How a Woman Pirate Ruled the South China Seas**  
Date & Time: May 4 (1:30pm-2:30pm)  
May 12 (9:30am-10:30am)
- Encounters - Asian Fusion** **I**  
Date: May 4 - 27
- 5 VJLS-JH x The Hafu It: A Homemade Pilgrimage Podcast Series**  
Time: 10am
- Exhibition:【长乐未央】JOY NEVER ENDS - Painting and Chinese Seal Engraving Art by Jiangang Su**  
Date: May 5 - 26  
Time: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm
- 6 Exploring Asian Heritage in Vancouver** **V**  
Time: 5pm-6pm
- 8 Independent Authors or Self-Published Authors? Stories that We Live to Write About**  
Time: 12pm
- 11 Exploring Vancouver's Asian Heritage through Art** **I**  
Time: 7:30pm



**13 World Poetry Zoom Radio Show Celebrates Asian Heritage Month**

Time: 1pm

**Artist Talk: FakeKnot**

Time: 5pm

**14 Asian Stages: Asian Opera in Canada**

Time: 5pm-6:30pm



**15 Writing Nunsutara - Transcending Language and Borders**

Time: 12pm

**Deconstructing the Model Minority Myth**

Time: 1pm

**ARTIST TALK WITH NANCY LEE 李南屏 AND KIRAN BHUMBER ਕਰਿਨਦੀਪ ਕੌਰ ਭੰਬਰ**

Time: 2pm

**16 Vancouver Chinatown Walkabout**

Time: 10am-11am



**18 MOVirtual: A Seat at the Table – Artist Tour with Paul Wong**

Time: 5:30pm

**20 Exploration on Chinese Works of Art**

Date: May 20 - June 6

Time: 11am-5pm

**Harnessing the Power of Colour for Wellbeing**

Date: May 20 - June 20

Time: Mon-Fri (11am-8:30pm), Sat-Sun (10:30am-4pm)

**21 MVOH 2021 Cantonese Opera Benefit Concert**

Date & Time: May 21 (10pm), May 23 (7am)

**Re-Discover the Stories of Japanese Canadians in Surrey**

Time: 5pm

**Scripting Aloud Online Edition**

Time: 5pm

**Virtual Screening of Shefu: Building Immunity through Tai Chi during COVID-19 Pandemic**

**22 Creating from Scratch: Asian Canadian Literary Publications and their Role in Publishing and the Community**

Time: 12pm

**Play Reading of Geomancer by Leslie Lum**

Date: May 22 - 29

**23 Unity in Diversity - Alireza Ahmadian's Living Legacy**

Time: 6pm-7:30pm



**27 Historic Powell Street Walking Tours**

Time: Thu & Sat (11am)

**28 Departure**

Date & Time: May 28 (8pm)

May 29 (3pm, 8pm)

**Vancouver Asian Film Festival Diversity Panels**

Date: May 28 & 29

**29 The Pender Guy Radio Collective, 1976-1981: The Reunion Show**

Time: 12pm

**On the Move: A National Asian Heritage Month Showcase**

Time: 5pm-6:30pm



**30 Eid Mehfil Online**

Time: 5pm

**June**

**10 Recognition Awards Ceremony, explorASIAN 25th Anniversary**

Time: 7pm-9pm



**To Be Announced**

**Cross Cultural Walking Tours**



**Quarantine Qapsule (summer)**



**Interconnected Project**



**VAHMSconnections**







**Global BC™ & 980 CKNW**

Congratulations on  
**25 years of  
explorASIAN!**



# Interconnected Virtual Artist Spotlights

## Debra Zhou > [Link](#)



Metro Vancouver-based artist Debra Zhou started her art journey as a child growing up in Shanghai, China, where the interconnection of Eastern and Western culture has been woven into the fabric of the city for generations. Art naturally came to her at a young age, and she excelled in painting and drawing throughout her school years. Moving to Canada as she turned 18 was a major transition, and the need for self-discovery and expression

led her to pursue a degree in Psychology, a subject that was not popular among first-generation Chinese immigrants. However, art remained a constant passion for her as she continued to develop her artistic voice.

## Lulu Zyl > [Link](#)



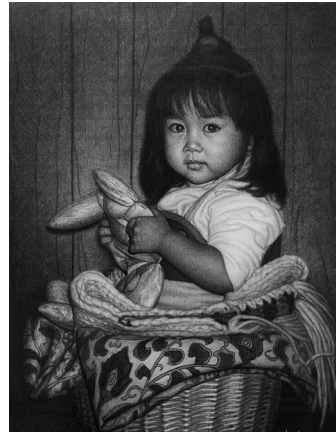
Vancouver based photographer, Lulu Zyl, has been honing her skills in photography for the last several years. Originally a graphic designer, she added video animation to her skills, becoming a VJ doing live video for music performances. Lulu blended her photography skills with her twenty-four years of animation and graphics experience, bringing about a perfect marriage of her two passions. She loves to combine music and visual rhythm, using pictures to describe music and emotions.

## Celia Leung > [Link](#)



Celia Leung was born in Hong Kong and moved to Canada with her family in 1997. She loves painting, calligraphy and stone-seal engraving. She learnt these three forms of Art through the teaching of Mr. Yukman Lai from 1998 to 2013. After the passing of her teacher and mentor, she continued to enjoy sharing her artworks with others. She appreciates the beauty of nature crafted by God.

## Leo Cunanan, Jr. > [Link](#)



Leo Cunanan, Jr. was born in the Philippines and moved with his family to Canada when he was 9 years old. His early interest was in music and he took up drum lessons from Drums Only at age 13. At 21, he joined a band as a drummer and toured with Butch and The Sundance Kids professionally for a number of years. In the late 90s, he studied graphic arts and worked as an in-house graphic artist for a family-owned publication, Da-hong Pilipino, the Filipino Canadian Community and Business Directory, of which he is now the president and publisher.

Leo developed a strong interest in fine arts upon meeting the maestro SYM Mendoza who provided him the inspiration to pursue an art career. "Everything I know in art, I learned from Tito SYM; he opened the door for me to discover my potentials and really enjoy painting more than anything else." Leo works in pastel, charcoal, oil, and watercolour. He also enjoys creating digital art.

Leo is the President of DIMASALANG III International Artist Group, founded by SYM Mendoza, Active Member of the Federation Of Canadian Artists and Member of The Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN).

## Bert Monterona > [Link](#)



Bert Monterona is a Filipino-Canadian visual artist living in West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Monterona is actively involved as an educator, cultural worker, and active artist working in a wide variety of practices, including design, illustration, painting, murals, sculpture, and installations. He also makes sets and builds props for stage performances and television shows.

He just recently exhibited his Tapestry paintings in Gisors, France as a guest artist during the GRAND BAZ' ART International Art Festival and in Hong Kong at Jockey Club Creative Arts Center. Internationally acclaimed, Monterona is a recipient of numerous grants and residencies between 1995 and the present, including the Western Australia Department of the Arts and the Australia Council for the Arts Grant; the University of Western Australia School of Architecture and Fine Arts and the Australian Embassy Philippines Residency Grant; and, the Asian Artists Award of Vermont Studio Centre and the Freeman Foundation, U.S.A. Aside from his studio painting activities for galleries and art collectors, he is also active in social development advocacy work for non-governmental organizations and institutions by giving arts and cultural services for their education and information programs and campaigns.

# Feb 11 - Mar 10



## A Future for Memory: Art and Life after the Great East Japan Earthquake

Ten years ago, on March 11, 2011, a massive triple disaster struck the eastern region of Japan—a 9.0 magnitude earthquake off the Pacific coast of Tohoku was followed by a devastating tsunami and led to a nuclear disaster. In the tenth anniversary year of this disaster, the Museum of Anthropology at UBC shares a timely new bilingual exhibition supported by the Japan Foundation and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council—A Future for Memory: Art and Life After the Great East Japan Earthquake. The works in the exhibition trigger memories, emotions and imagination. They serve as more than objects of memory; they remind us of the force of nature and the continuous efforts of survivors to rebuild their lives. Image Credit: From Atsunobu Katagiri's *Sacrifice* series, 2013-2014.



**Date:** February 11-September 5

**Time:** Tue-Sun, 10am-5pm

**Venue:** Museum of Anthropology at UBC

**Address:** 6393 NW Marine Drive, V6T 1Z2

► <https://moa.ubc.ca/exhibition/a-future-for-memory/>



## Exploring Care: The Aesthetic of Silence

### Interconnected Exhibitions

This three part group exhibition aims to explore the relationship between the ethics of taking care as related to art practices and professions, prioritizing the self and the fatigue that results from community members sharing their experiences and educating the public. The aim of the exhibition is to create a space of safety and knowledge where people feel welcome to share their experiences and connect with others around issues pertinent to mental and physical well-being.

**Date:** March 6-May 15

**Time:** Thu-Sat, 10am-5pm

**Venue:** Campbell River Art Gallery

**Address:** 1235 Shoppers Row, Campbell River, BC, V9W 2C7

► <https://crartgallery.ca/exhibitions/>



### EXPLORING CARE the aesthetic of silence

Shelley Vanderbyl and Lam Wong  
March 6 to May 15, 2021

This three part group exhibition aims to explore the relationship between the ethics of taking care, taking care as related to art practices and professions, prioritizing the self and the fatigue that results from community members sharing their experiences, and educating the public. The aim of the exhibition is to create a space of safety and knowledge where people feel welcome to share their experiences and connect with others around issues pertinent to mental and physical well-being.

CAMPBELL RIVER  
ART GALLERY



## Will Kwan: Exclusion Acts

This exhibition brings together a number of new photo, text and media-based works that take an unflinching look at the systemic and absurd ways that economic ideology shapes social relations and beliefs. The works examine a range of conditions, from the racialization of low wage and precarious labour, to the financialization of housing by private equity, to the fanatical neoliberal rhetoric used to support the supremacy of the economy. Seen in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, the works in the exhibition portray not an inflection point, but systems and minds trapped in a recursive state—inertia, entrenchment, business as usual. Will Kwan is a Hong Kong-born Canadian artist whose work examines the diverse ways that hegemony is produced through economic systems and cultural narratives.

**Date:** March 10-May 29

**Time:** Thu-Sat, 12pm-6pm

**Venue:** Centre A: Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

**Address:** 205-268 Keefer St, Vancouver, BC, V6A 1X5

► <https://centrea.org/>



# Apr 3 - 16



## Wang Qingsong: Fotofest

In China, this phenomenon of conflating culture and commerce is referred to as “culture performed on the stage built by economy.” Increasingly influenced by contemporary Western culture, life has become more uncanny, and ironic in China; Wang Qingsong’s work is deeply engaged with these shifts in cultural life in contemporary China. In his exhibition Fotofest, a title taken from Wang’s work of the same name, he asks viewers to consider the rapidly changing tenor of contemporary Chinese society through photography, employing grand scales, civilian perspectives and gaudy popular aesthetics, combined with painting and staging amongst other visual languages.

\*This exhibition contains work that may not be suitable for some viewers.

**Date:** April 3-May 30

**Venue:** Canton-sardine

**Time:** Tue-Sat, 12pm-6pm

**Address:** 071-268 Keefer St, Vancouver, BC

► <https://canton-sardine.com/>



## Bird Tracks in the Air: Selected Poems of Wang Anshi

**VAHMS Collaboration**

The Canadian Society for Asian Arts and VAHMS are presenting an online launch of ‘Bird Tracks in the Air: Selected Poems by Wang Anshi’ by Chinese language and literature scholars and Professors Jan Walls and Yvonne Walls, who have edited and translated poems of revered poet Wang Anshi. Illustrations by artist Liu Lingling enhance the poetry. Wang Anshi (1021-1086) has always been known as a leading Song Dynasty political reformer, and as one of the ‘Eight Great Essayists of the Tang and Song Periods’ in China, but he was also a master composer of the shorter Chinese verse forms. The program presents poems illustrating Wang’s various levels of awareness and enlightenment, from commemorating conventional occasions to sharing a mystical awareness of the human situation.

**Date:** April 15

**Venue:** Zoom

**Time:** 7pm–8:30pm

► [Registration Link](#)



## Seeing Anew: Earthly Presence - Garrett Andrew Chong

Excursions to the ancestral ruins of China inspired Garrett Andrew Chong to pursue a spiritual path as an artistic expression. He has journeyed through the ancient civilizations of South East Asia, Peru and Mexico, the historical environments of the European Union, and the natural wonders of America. His photographic collages interpret and juxtapose select prose, iconography and landscape, inviting the viewer to witness our majestic earth anew by remaining present, by quieting their mind and by reflecting upon our human search for being.

**Date:** April 15-May 12

**Venue:** Port Moody Arts Centre

**Time:** Mon-Fri (11am-8:30pm)

**Address:** 2425 St Johns Street, Port Moody, BC

Sat-Sun (10:30am-4pm)

► [pomoarts.ca](http://pomoarts.ca)



## Virtual Japan Market Spring 2021

Japan Market will be hosting a Virtual Market from Apr 16-18 on Facebook. The goal is to create a virtual space where vendors and customers can connect and share Japanese culture. Vendors from across Canada will be posting promos and special deals, and selling handmade crafts, art, Japanese merchandise, food, and services (ie. hair salons, spas, schools, clubs, etc.).

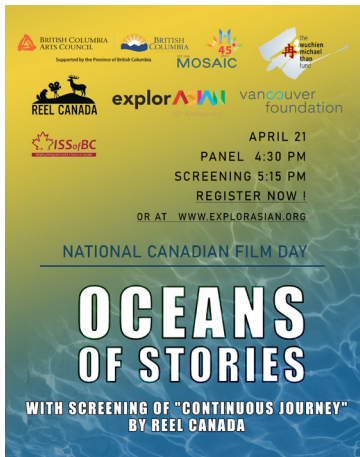
**Date:** April 16-18

**Venue:** Facebook Marketplace

**Time:** 10am-6pm

► <https://fb.me/e/1Y2jkfZSq>

# Apr 21 - 24



## Oceans of Stories: National Canadian Film Day

**VAHMS Event**

This National Canadian Film Day, VAHMS presents a virtual screening of Continuous Journey, a docudrama that explores the exclusionary politics that kept the Indian passengers of the Komagata Maru sequestered at sea outside of Vancouver for over two months. To precede the film, we are presenting Oceans of Stories, a panel conversation about the importance of sharing refugee stories, the commonalities we share, and how the arts can transform our understanding of each other. Our panelists include Sangeeta Wylie, Mohammed Al-Saleh, Hannah Temple, Saleem Spindari, Patricia Woroch and moderator Jasper Yip.

**Date:** April 21  
**Time:** 4:30pm Panel, 5:15pm Screening

**Venue:** Zoom  
[▶ Registration Link](#)



## Opera in the Garden

The garden is partnering once again with City Opera Vancouver and offering 2 performances with free admission to the General Public: 1st performance from 5pm-6pm and 2nd concert from 6pm-7pm. Each performance will last approximately 20 minutes.

**Date:** April 23  
**Time:** 5pm-6pm, 6pm-7pm  
**Venue:** Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden  
**Address:** 578 Carrall St, Vancouver, BC, V6B 5K2  
[▶ https://www.vancouverchinesegarden.com](https://www.vancouverchinesegarden.com)



## Garden Reopening - Artefacts from the Past

As the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden approaches their 35th Anniversary this April 24th, the garden is thrilled to commence the celebration with a reopening weekend April 23-25th, 2021 and invite you to visit their tranquil space. Visitors are invited to explore the installations within the Garden as objects and memorabilia are shared from the past. From archive photos, historical newspaper clippings, collages and video displays, to tools used by skilled craftsman in constructing the Garden, this exhibition will allow visitors to take a trip down memory lane back to 1986 when the Garden was first constructed.

**Date:** April 23-25  
**Venue:** Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden  
**Address:** 578 Carrall St, Vancouver, BC, V6B 5K2  
[▶ https://www.vancouverchinesegarden.com](https://www.vancouverchinesegarden.com)



## Yoga at the Garden

Start your day off right with a relaxing and energising 60-minute Yoga class from 9:30am-10:30am. Doors will open to registered participants at 9am so they can spend some time enjoying the peace and tranquility of the Garden before class commences. Limited capacity: 6 participants. Tickets: \$25

About the Instructor: Nathalie Keiller has completed training in and received certifications from Sivananda Vedanta, Ashtanga, Hatha, Anusara and Yin Yoga. She has spent the past 25 years developing these skills.

**Date:** April 24  
**Time:** 9:30am-10:30am  
**Venue:** Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden  
**Address:** 578 Carrall St, Vancouver, BC, V6B 5K2  
[▶ https://www.vancouverchinesegarden.com](https://www.vancouverchinesegarden.com)

# Apr 24 - 29



## Union: NANCY LEE 李南屏 AND KIRAN BHUMBER ਕਰਿਨਦੀਪ ਕੌਰ ਭੁੱਬਰ

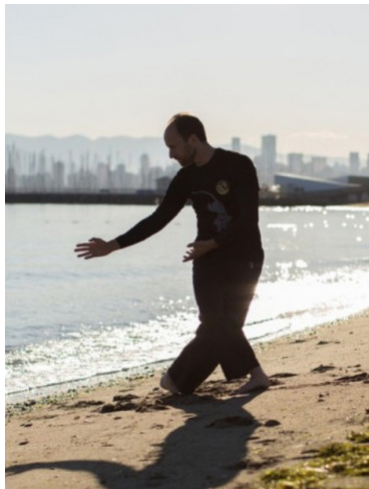
Featuring a new body of works created by interdisciplinary media artists Nancy Lee and Kiran Bhumber, UNION is a speculative sci-fi exhibition centred around a narrative of two beings discovering their ancestral memories through the longing for touch and the rituals practiced in their post-apocalyptic wedding ceremony. The exhibition incorporates XR, performance, sculpture, multi-channel sound and video installation. Drawing on parallels between our world and the speculative future while working through the artists' diasporic identities, UNION is a potent critique of modern surveillance capitalism, but also a gesture towards hope through the generative possibilities of intimacy, performativity, and presence.

**Date:** April 24-June 5

**Venue:** Richmond Art Gallery

**Address:** 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond, BC, V6Y 1R9

► <https://www.richmondartgallery.org/>



## Qigong at the Garden

Start your day off right with a soothing and healing 60-minute Qigong class from 9:30am-10:30am. Doors will open to registered participants at 9am so they can spend some time enjoying the peace and tranquility of the Garden before class commences. Limited capacity: 6 participants. Tickets: \$25

About the Instructor: Lucas Trottier is the head instructor at the Vancouver Traditional Martial Arts Dojo. He regularly teaches classes in Shorinji Ryu Karate, Old Yang Style Tai Chi Chuan, Okinawan/Japanese Kobudo and the principles of Daito Ryu Aiki-Jujutsu.

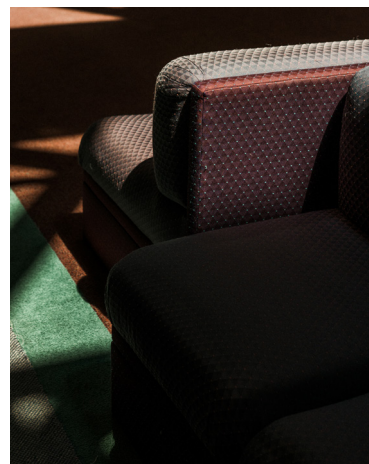
**Date:** April 25

**Time:** 9:30am-10:30am

► <https://www.vancouverchinesegarden.com>

**Venue:** Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden

**Address:** 578 Carrall St, Vancouver, BC, V6B 5K2



## Empty Spaces that Fill My Heart

Empty Spaces that Fill My Heart is an ongoing photographic documentation project dedicated to collecting images of discarded or semi-abandoned and forgotten places through the medium of photography. It primarily engages with Chinese-Canadian malls and plazas built in the late 90s and early 2000s in Richmond. The goal of this project began as a study in light, composition and colour, and grew into a contemplative reflection of nostalgia. Most of the photographs depict shared spaces that hold personal memories and are meant to evoke a bygone era.

**Date:** April 29

**Time:** 11am-6pm

► [www.chadmanwong.com](http://www.chadmanwong.com)

**Venue:** Slice of Life Gallery & Gift Shop

**Address:** 1636 Venables St, Vancouver, BC



# May 1

## A First Time For Everything: Writers and their First Books



As Toni Morrison once said, “If there’s a book that you want to read, but it hasn’t been written yet, then you must write it.” Yet, it is a well-known fact among writers that the first book is almost always the most difficult to achieve, and the road getting there is long and winding. For every drop of blood, sweat, and tear of composing one’s first book into words onto paper is the mortal urge to tell one’s story. Join us for an engaging intercultural and intergenerational discussion and introduction to the books of three newly published authors and their journey that led to publication.

**Date:** May 1  
**Time:** 12pm

**Venue:** Zoom  
➤ [literalsian.com](https://literalsian.com)

## Ancestors in our Attics



A PCHC-MoM Asian Heritage Month Webinar featuring community curator Catherine Clement who will explore how stories of migration have been rediscovered and brought back to life through objects found, yet forgotten, in our homes. Through her decade-long, ground-breaking work collecting the hidden photographs of Vancouver Chinatown’s first and most prolific photographer Yucho Chow to her current project locating surviving C.I. documents used to monitor, control and intimidate early Chinese in Canada, Catherine will show how each piece helps reveal a rich story. This event will be kicked off by the Hon. Dr. Vivienne Poy who successfully tabled the motion to designate May as Asian Heritage Month in 2001.

**Date:** May 1  
**Time:** 5:15pm-6:45pm

**Venue:** Zoom  
➤ <https://pchc-mom.ca/>



## explorASIAN Virtual Opening Ceremony

**VAHMS Event**

On the evening of May 1st, 2021, Vancouver City Hall and Science World will be illuminated in red to signal the start of Asian Heritage Month in Canada, the opening of Virtual explorASIAN Festival 2021, and VAHMS’ 25th Anniversary. Join us live on Zoom to celebrate the occasion with performances from local Asian-Canadian artists Vince Mai and Sujit Vaidya. BC Place will also be illuminated in red on May 2nd, 2021.



**Date:** May 1  
**Time:** 8pm-9pm  
**Venue:** Zoom  
➤ [Registration Link](#)



## Uzume Taiko & Friends: Intimate Portraits

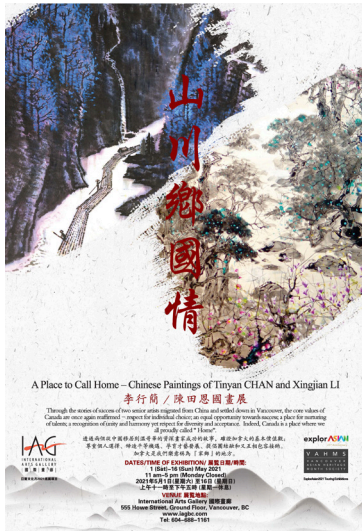
Uzume Taiko & Friends: Intimate Portraits captures the artists up close and personal in the intimate Taiko Studio setting. During Covid, artists will be rehearsing in their bubbles and briefly coming together to collaborate for the Virtual Concert Events. The work will be fresh and delightful inspired by the budding energy of spring time! May 1 showcases Orchid Ensemble and Uzume Taiko; May 15 showcases Tetsu Taiko, Uzume Taiko and Uzume Taiko Community Players; and, May 29 showcases Silk Road Music, Lorita Leung Dance Company and Uzume Taiko.

**Date:** May 1, 15, 29  
**Time:** 8pm

**Venue:** Online  
➤ [www.uzume.com](https://www.uzume.com)



# May 1



## A Place to Call Home - Chinese Paintings of Tinyan CHAN and Xingjian LI

**Interconnected Exhibitions**

This is an exhibition of Chinese paintings of two well-known senior artists- Tinyan CHAN and Xingjian LI. Through the stories of success of these two artists who migrated from China and settled down in Vancouver, the core values of Canada are once again re-affirmed: respect for individual choice; an equal opportunity towards success; a place for nurturing of talents; and, recognition of unity and harmony yet respect for diversity and acceptance. Canada is a place where these artists proudly call "Home".

**Date:** May 1-16

**Time:** 11am-5pm

► [www.iagbc.com](http://www.iagbc.com)

**Venue:** International Arts Gallery

**Address:** 555 Howe St, Ground Level, Vancouver, V6C 2C2



## Hidden Figures, Vol. 2

The popular Hidden Figures stories will come back with Volume 2, continuing to spotlight distinguished individuals and those who have made significant contributions to our society. This month-long acknowledgement of well-known Asian-Canadians celebrates their remarkable contributions in making Canada a more diverse, accepting and multicultural country.

**Date:** May 1-31

**Venue:** Online

► <https://www.vancouverchinesegarden.com>



## Firehorse and Shadow

**VAHMS Collaboration**

Dance artist Andrea Nann is joined by shadow puppeteer and theatre artist, Annie Katsura Rollins, in this new experiential interactive web performance that collaboratively investigates what binds and holds family members together, and ultimately what frees and heals the family line.

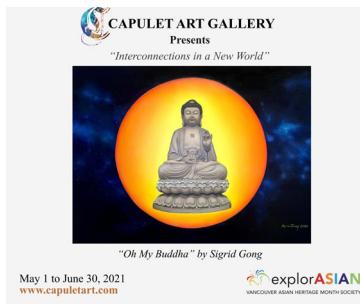
Firehorse and Shadow combines elements of contemporary dance, shadow puppetry, interactive engagement, animation, film and theatre to take the audience on a journey amongst the stars. The piece explores family lineage with a focus on the dualistic yin and yang elements expressed within the bodies, lives and choices of three generations of women. Working against and alongside the hearsay of family stories and Chinese medicine cycles and charts of Zodiac Animal signs, the two performers weave together passages of remembering and forgetting, inviting the audience into an intimate reanimation of familial memory.

**Date:** May 1-31

**Venue:** Online

► <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/firehorse-shadow-tickets-149336360073>

# May 1 - 5



## Interconnections in a New World

### Interconnected Exhibitions

“Interconnections in a New World” is an art exhibition expressing how relationships between individuals, friends, family and even countries have changed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The exhibition showcases works by Canadian artists who have been affected by these changes in our day-to-day life.

**Date:** May 1-June 30

**Time:** Mon-Sat (by appointment)

➤ [www.capuletart.com](http://www.capuletart.com)

**Venue:** Capulet Art Gallery & Framing: Online

**Address:** 150-2288 No.5 Rd, Richmond, BC, V6X 2T1



## Ching Shih: How a Woman Pirate Ruled the South China Seas

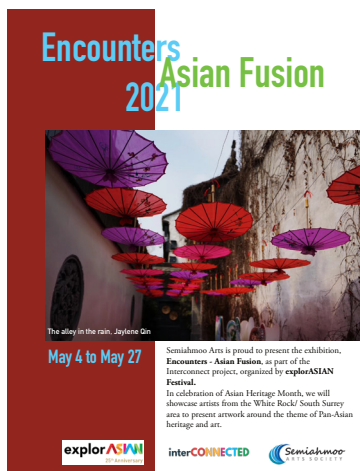
At the height of her power, Ching Shih commanded a fleet of 1,500 vessels and had 80,000 pirates under her leadership. She was such a force that the Chinese government of the time amnestied her and the pirates she commanded in exchange for their cooperation in maintaining order in the region. This virtual program will cover Ching Shih's early life, her career as a pirate and her life after the government granted her amnesty. This is for children/students aged 5-10 years old and for families.

**Date & Time:** May 4 (1:30pm-2:30pm)

May 12 (9:30am-10:30am)

**Venue:** Zoom

➤ [www.vanmaritime.com](http://www.vanmaritime.com)



## Encounters - Asian Fusion

### Interconnected Exhibitions

Semiahmoo Arts is proud to present the exhibition “Encounters- Asian Fusion” as part of the Interconnected project organized by explorASIAN Festival. In celebration of Asian Heritage Month, artists from White Rock/ South Surrey area will present artwork around the theme of “Pan-Asian heritage and art.” Encounters will run from May 4 to May 27, 2021 online at semiahmooarts.com.

**Date:** May 4-27

➤ [semiahmooarts.com](http://semiahmooarts.com)

**Venue:** Online



## VJLS-JH x The Hafu It: A Homemade Pilgrimage Podcast Series

To celebrate this year's explorASIAN festival, The Hafu It Podcast and the Vancouver Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall have collaborated to bring you: VJLS – JH x The Hafu It: A Homemade Pilgrimage. Follow Kiyoko and Sakura as they retrace their roots, explore their heritage and share what it means to be a Japanese Canadian from a hafu perspective. Each episode will be released weekly throughout May 2021 and will have been recorded in the VJLS-JH Tatami Room!

**Date:** May 5

**Time:** 10am

**Venue:** The Tatami Room at Vancouver Japanese Language School- Japanese Hall

**Address:** 487 Alexander Street, Vancouver, BC, V6A 1C6

➤ <https://thehafuit.buzzsprout.com/>

# May 5 - 11



## Exhibition: [长乐未央] JOY NEVER ENDS - Painting and Chinese Seal Engraving Art by Jiangan Su

JOY NEVER ENDS is an art exhibition of Paintings and Chinese Seal Engraving Art by Jiangan Su.

**Date:** May 5-26  
**Time:** Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm

**Venue:** Lipont Gallery  
**Address:** 4211 No.3 Road, Richmond, BC, V6X2C3

► <https://www.facebook.com/YKLMAuctions>



## Exploring Asian Heritage in Vancouver

**VAHMS Collaboration**

What does it mean to be of Asian-Canadian heritage? UBC Department of Asian Studies together with Heritage Vancouver presents this special virtual event during Asian Heritage Month to delve deeper into the lives and experiences of Asian-Canadians living in Vancouver today. Jimmy Yan, Secretary of VAHMS Board of Directors, will be the moderator for this event.

**Date:** May 6  
**Time:** 5pm-6pm

**Venue:** Zoom  
► [Registration Link](#)



## Independent Authors or Self-Published Authors? Stories that We Live to Write About

Self-publishing was once met with skepticism, even downright hostility as it was widely held by most in the literary world that only publishers and literary agents possessed the wisdom to decide which writers were worthy of publication. With the advent of online and digital technologies, the publishing process has changed dramatically. Writers can take full control over the creative and business processes without compromising their writing style and storyline. This panel will share their own successes as self-published authors, offering their personal approaches and insights into how and why those chose to be their own publisher and agent.

**Date:** May 8      **Time:** 12pm      **Venue:** Zoom

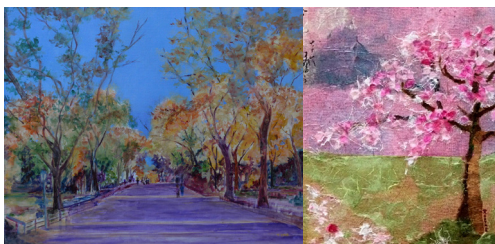
► <https://literalsian.com/2021-event-schedule/independent-authors-or-self-published-authors-stories-that-we-live-to-write-about/>



## Exploring Vancouver's Asian Heritage through Art

**Interconnected Exhibitions**

Join the Burnaby Artists Guild on Zoom as various Guild members present and discuss their Asian Heritage-themed work. This Zoom meeting will be chaired by Jim Keayes and James Koll.

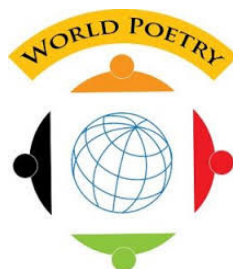


**Date:** May 11  
**Time:** 7:30pm  
**Venue:** Zoom

► <https://www.burnabyartistsguild.com/>



# May 13 - 15

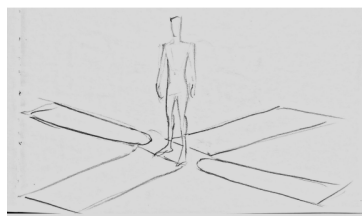


## World Poetry Zoom Radio Show Celebrates Asian Heritage Month

World Poetry Zoom Café Radio show celebrates Asian Heritage Month with poetry and music.

**Date:** May 13  
**Time:** 1pm

**Venue:** Zoom  
➤ <https://worldpoetry.ca/>



## Artist Talk: FakeKnot

Vancouver Art Gallery presents a special talk with artist Ralph Escamillan, costume designer Gino Gonzales and textile designer Carlo Reporen Eliserio. Artist Ralph Escamillan invites us into his research with FakeKnot's new work- focusing on the Philippine textile Piña, a textile woven from pineapple leaves. Featured speakers are founder of Ternocon and fashion historian Gino Gonzales, as well as Aklan Piña weaver Carlo Eliserio. The talk will take us on a journey of the history of Piña- how it's cultivated, woven and worn historically, and how artist Ralph Escamillan plans to explore this in his new creation. This talk will offer simultaneous translation from English into Tagalog.

**Date:** May 13  
**Time:** 5pm

**Venue:** Zoom  
➤ <https://www.ralphescamillan.com/fakeknot>



## Asian Stages: Asian Opera in Canada

**VAHMS Event**

VAHMS Director Jimmy Yan brings together a diverse panel of Asian-Canadian performers and academics to explore, compare and contrast various forms of Asian musical theatre. Join us for this unique opportunity to explore these art forms with our creative panelists.

**Date:** May 14  
**Time:** 5pm-6:30pm

**Venue:** Zoom  
➤ [Registration Link](#)



## Writing Nusantara - Transcending Language and Borders

An ancient Javanese word, Nusantara means “outer islands” referring to the islands outside of Java under hegemony of the Majapahit Empire. The history of this word and region transcends both colonial neologisms and national borders, and includes the sphere of influence of the Malay cultural and linguistic islands that comprise the regions of South-east Asia. Showcasing writers from across this region, this session highlights the diversity of Asian literary traditions.

**Date:** May 15      **Time:** 12pm      **Venue:** Zoom  
➤ <https://literasian.com/2021-event-schedule/writing-nusantara-transcending-language-and-borders/>



# May 15 - 18



## Deconstructing the Model Minority Myth

This session will focus on the model minority myth. Which communities are most affected? How is this myth perpetuated? In what ways is it harmful? How can we begin to deconstruct it? Guest speakers will provide their perspectives, followed by participant discussion. All are welcome to join us in this conversation.

**Date:** May 15 **Time:** 1pm **Venue:** Zoom [▶http://www.gvjcca.org](http://www.gvjcca.org)



## ARTIST TALK WITH NANCY LEE 李南屏 AND KIRAN BHUMBER ਕਰਿਨਦੀਪ ਕੌਰ ਭੁਬਰ

In conjunction with UNION, artists Nancy Lee and Kiran Bhumber will share the impetus for the exhibition, the core themes that shaped the world of UNION, their history of creative collaboration and their experience developing the project. The talk will be moderated by Cinevolution Media Arts Society Executive Director Yun-Jou Chang. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and interact with one another in real time. ASL interpretation and closed captioning in English will be provided.

**Date:** May 15 **Venue:** Zoom  
**Time:** 2pm [▶https://www.richmondartgallery.org/](https://www.richmondartgallery.org/)



## Vancouver Chinatown Walkabout

**VAHMS Collaboration**

The Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC is pleased to host a virtual Chinatown Walkabout for this year's explorASIAN Festival. This Zoom tour will be led by John Atkin, Bob Sung and Hayne Wai. John is a civic historian and heritage consultant; Bob hosts cultural and culinary tours of Chinatown; and, Hayne is a long-time Chinatown researcher and advocate. They are all past presidents of the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC and collectively have over one hundred years of Chinatown involvement. They have hosted live tours for VAHMS in the past, but this is their first virtual tour for VAHMS. The event will be framed on the Vancouver Heritage Foundation Chinatown Guide. Advance reading is recommended. Early registration is recommended since there is a limit of 50 participants.

**Date:** May 16 **Time:** 10am-11am **Venue:** Zoom [▶Registration Link](#)

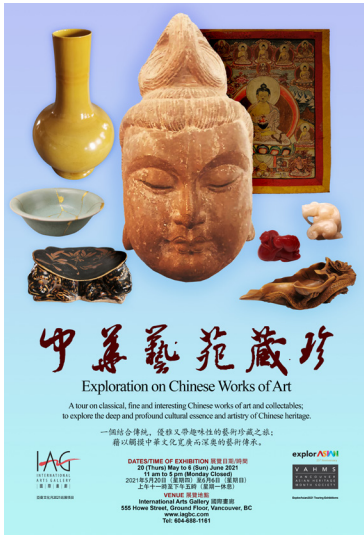


## MOVirtual: A Seat at the Table – Artist Tour with Paul Wong

Join us on International Museums Day for another installment of the monthly virtual tour series at MOV. This event will give you the opportunity to tour MOV's latest feature exhibition, A Seat at the Table: Chinese Immigration and British Columbia, during Asian Heritage Month in Vancouver. Led by local Chinese Canadian Artist, Paul Wong, the tour will give guests some personal insight into the creation of many art pieces displayed in the exhibition, provide another layer of nuance to the exhibition's themes and narratives, and follow with a brief Q&A period. Tickets: Sliding Scale (\$1-\$10)

**Date:** May 18 **Venue:** Online  
**Time:** 5:30pm [▶https://museumofvancouver.ca/](https://museumofvancouver.ca/)

# May 20 - 21



## Exploration on Chinese Works of Art

A display of delicate Chinese Works of Art of Vancouver collectors, with a view to introduce and promote classical, fine and interesting collectables to reflect the deep and profound culture and artistry of Chinese heritage. Featured vintage items including Buddha figurines, precious porcelain vases and bowls, handcarved Jade and stone objects, Zisha Teapot, Thangka (Tibetan Buddhist Painting) and others telling the history of China.

**Date:** May 20-June 6

**Time:** 11am-5pm

**Venue:** International Arts Gallery

**Address:** 555 Howe St, Ground Level, Vancouver, BC, V6C 2C2

➤ [www.iagbc.com](http://www.iagbc.com)



## Harnessing the Power of Colour for Wellbeing

Sanjoy Das' artwork is a by-product of his meditation on the philosophy of Tantra art, and something he carried on for two months after hearing the news of his cousin passing away due to Covid-19. This practice greatly enhanced his wellbeing and Sanjoy wishes to share this experience through his art.

**Date:** May 20-June 20

**Venue:** PoMoArts

**Time:** Mon-Fri (11am-8:30pm)  
Sat-Sun (10:30am-4pm)

**Address:** 2425 St. Johns St, Port Moody, BC, V3H 2B2  
➤ [pomoarts.ca](http://pomoarts.ca)



## MVOH 2021 Cantonese Opera Benefit Concert

An explorASIAN signature program brought to N. America by PCHC-MoM Society. Due to COVID restrictions, this annual trans-Pacific Cantonese opera concert is going to be live-streamed from Hong Kong in 7 parts over two days. Curated by its Artistic Director Master George W.C. Lau, MVOH 2021 offers 27 arias sung by over 20 professionals and famous idols as well as seasoned amateur singers from both sides of the Pacific. Program notes will be available in English and Chinese.

**Date & Time:** May 21 (10pm), May 23 (7am)

**Venue:** Online

➤ <https://www.facebook.com/MultiVoicesOneHeart/>



## Re-Discover the Stories of Japanese Canadians in Surrey

A gathering took place in 2017 to discover the stories of Japanese Canadian pioneer settlers in Surrey BC. Let's meet to re-discover the stories and also hear about heritage planning in Surrey.

**Date:** May 21

**Venue:** Online

**Time:** 5pm

➤ <https://www.facebook.com/najc.ca/>



## Scripting Aloud Online Edition

Join the Scripting Aloud online edition that will focus on the "Write It In Scriptwriting Contest."

**Date:** May 21

**Venue:** Online

**Time:** 5pm

➤ [www.scriptingaloud.ca](http://www.scriptingaloud.ca)

# May 21 - 23



## Virtual Screening of Shefu: Building Immunity through Tai Chi during COVID-19 Pandemic

A group of Chinese immigrant women find strength and health through practising Tai Chi during the pandemic in Vancouver. Founded in 1992 by female Grandmaster Li Rong who migrated from China to Canada, Tristar Taiji is inspired by the civilization of Sanxingdui which inherited the ancient culture of Shu and Jinsha. The primary aim of Tristar Taiji is to help people restore and achieve their optimal health and well-being while promoting the understanding and method of ancient Chinese Martial and Healing Arts. During the lockdown of Covid-19, Grandmaster Li Rong who usually divides her time between Canada and China found herself stranded in Vancouver. Determined to stay healthy, she and her students kept their Tai Chi practice alive in person and online.

**Date:** May 21    **Venue:** Online    > <http://www.tristartaiji.com/>



## Creating from Scratch: Asian Canadian Literary Publications and their Role in Publishing and the Community

Grassroots literary magazines and journals have been part of publishing since almost the time of the printing press, but throughout history, have played a critical role for emerging writers and editors. Featuring three independent journals run by students, artists and community activists from across Canada, this session highlights not only their work in the publishing field, but also insights from how these cultural producers created their publications from the ground up.

**Date:** May 22    **Time:** 12pm    **Venue:** Zoom  
> [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_v90uV193RPOsD30ShccXKQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_v90uV193RPOsD30ShccXKQ)



## Play Reading of Geomancer by Leslie Lum

Come watch the public reading of Geomancer by Leslie Lum! Two historical figures, Hsue-shen Tsien and Iris Chang, meet in bardo (the afterlife) and discuss the events of their lives that intertwined them. Tsien was a genius Chinese rocket scientist who helped China develop their nuclear weapons and Iris is the one to reveal the truths about his life in a biography. Both of them have their personal horrors, but the question becomes, what is more important- life or justice?

**GEOMANCER**  
A PLAY BY LESLIE LUM

**Date:** May 22-29    **Venue:** Zoom  
> <https://www.facebook.com/GeomancerPlay>



## Unity in Diversity - Alireza Ahmadian's Living Legacy

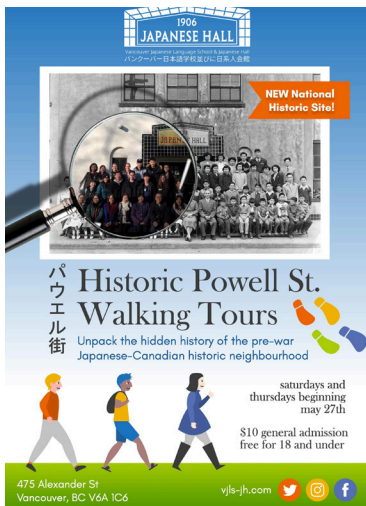
**VAHMS Event**

Alireza Ahmadian was an Iranian-Canadian socio-political activist, journalist, researcher and opinion leader working in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. A close friend of VAHMS, Alireza organized events and discussions around the issues of democracy, immigration, anti-racism and empowerment for immigrant communities. Alireza's dream was for all humans with diverse beliefs and interests to converse respectfully and constructively, and to seek peace and unity instead of war and destruction. In this event we will learn more about Alireza's ideals around diversity, dialogue, unity, integration and inclusion of immigrant communities.

**Date:** May 23    **Venue:** Zoom  
**Time:** 6pm-7:30pm    > [Registration Link](#)



# May 27 - 29



## Historic Powell Street Walking Tours

In the early to mid 20th century, the Powell Street corridor was home to 8,000 Japanese Canadians and over 400 businesses in Vancouver. The history of this Japanese Canadian enclave is not common knowledge nor is it incorporated into the BC school curriculum. This walking tour focuses on the pre-war history of 8,000 Japanese-Canadians by taking you on a journey through time to various locations on historic Powell Street that were a significant part of day-to-day life. Beginning May 27th, join us each Thursday and Saturday at 11:00am for a socially distanced walking tour. Times and dates are subject to change based on Covid-19 restrictions.

**Date:** May 27

**Time:** Thu & Sat (11am)

**Venue:** Vancouver Japanese Language School- Japanese Hall

**Address:** 475 Alexander Street

[vjs-jh.com](http://vjs-jh.com)



## Departure

A double bill of new contemporary dance works by the artists of the innovative emerging collective TWObigsteps: Canadian-Chinese dance artist Marissa Wong's *Departure* is a solo that explores the impact experiences have on emotional triggers and behaviour patterns. Wong challenges her response to past events, and exposes previously suppressed impulses. Japanese-Canadian dance artist Katie Cassidy's duet *II* focuses on a relationship between two women. This work explores the strange and incongruent ways people connect and support each other, and how power dynamics exist and shift in the context of intimacy.

**Date & Time:** May 28 (8pm)  
May 29 (3pm, 8pm)

**Venue:** Online

<http://twobigsteps.wixsite.com/twobigsteps>



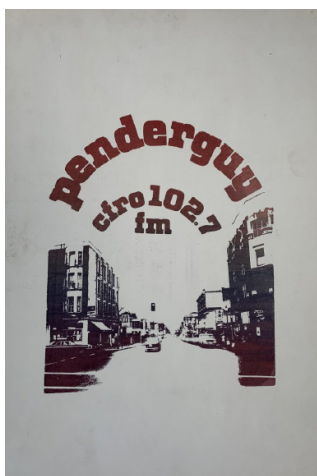
## Vancouver Asian Film Festival Diversity Panels

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of Vancouver Asian Film Festival Society, there will be virtual Diversity Panels, Workshops and Watch Party in showcasing the Asian diaspora creators.

**Date:** May 28 & 29

**Venue:** Online

<https://vaff.org/diversityinfilmaking-2020/>



## The Pender Guy Radio Collective, 1976-1981: The Reunion Show

The Pender Guy radio collective grew out of a wave of Chinese Canadian youth activism in the early 1970s, running their operations from Vancouver's Chinatown. Airing on Vancouver Co-operative Radio (Co-op Radio), the show explored issues related to Chinese-Canadian identity, history, politics and art through news reporting, interviews, humour, drama and music. Produced entirely by volunteers, the Pender Guy offered a way for young Chinese Canadians to gain community media skills and counter mainstream media representation of Chinatown and Chinese Canadians. With the City of Vancouver Archives' recent digitization of the audio tapes, these tapes are now accessible entirely online, becoming an oral history archive of a formative period of Asian Canadian history. Join us as members of the Pender Guy share their memories on the show and play some of their favourite segments from the tapes.

**Date:** May 29

**Time:** 12pm

**Venue:** Zoom

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Aa4gg4-ASbeLBERUYuB\\_Xw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Aa4gg4-ASbeLBERUYuB_Xw)



# May 29 - June 10



## On the Move: A National Asian Heritage Month Showcase VAHMS Collaboration

VAHMS is pleased to present the first ever National Asian Heritage Month Showcase in partnership with Festival Accès Asie (Montréal) and the Asian Heritage Society of Manitoba (Winnipeg). This event will bring together artists from Montréal, Vancouver and Winnipeg working in the dance, music and multidisciplinary fields for this first ever national program. Working in collaboration, these three organizations will present this showcase online on Saturday, May 29 at 5pm, followed by a discussion period with the artists. VAHMS will be presenting a musical collaboration between Vi An and Alcvin Ryūzen Ramos.

**Date:** May 29  
**Time:** 5pm-6:30pm

**Venue:** Zoom  
➤ [www.explorasian.org](http://www.explorasian.org)



## Eid Mehfil Online

Join us for our annual Mehfil in May Recital as part of the Asian Heritage Month explorAsian festival. This year it will be in celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr marking the end of Ramadhan, featuring writers and performers of Asian Heritage with your host Imtiaz Popat.

**Date:** May 30    **Time:** 5pm    **Venue:** Online    ➤ <https://duniyajournal.com/>



## Recognition Awards Ceremony, explorASIAN 25th Anniversary

VAHMS Event

Every year, VAHMS honours three individuals, community organizations, or educational institutions representing Pan-Asian communities that have made significant contributions to VAHMS' vision of fostering, promoting and celebrating the arts and cultural diversity that Asian-Canadian communities bring to Canadian society. Join us as we honour these community-builders and reflect upon 25 years of VAHMS. The evening will feature special virtual performances from local Asian-Canadian artists and the conclusion of our virtual silent auction.

**Date:** June 10    **Time:** 7pm-9pm    **Venue:** Zoom    ➤ [Registration Link](#)

# To Be Announced



## CROSS CULTURAL WALKING TOURS

### Cross Cultural Walking Tours

**VAHMS Collaboration**

The Cross Cultural Walking Tours celebrate the rich-layered history of Vancouver's oldest neighbourhood: Jewish Strathcona, Hogan's Alley, Chinatown, DTES and Powell Street. These walking tours are in celebration of Vancouver Asian and Jewish Heritage Months.

**Date:** Ongoing **Venue:** Online  
➤ <https://www.facebook.com/crossculturalwalkingtours/>



### Quarantine Qapsule

**VAHMS Collaboration**

Originally founded in Toronto, the Quarantine Qapsule (QQ) archives the Asian-Canadian experience during the COVID-19 pandemic featuring digital art works that are emerging in BC. The project creatively seeks to showcase works composed of digital pieces from vlogs, digital paintings, photographs, fiction stories, short films, songs and more from emerging to experienced artists. An exciting component about this project is the mentorship aspect of the QQ, where emerging artists who want to make a contribution can be paired with an industry/creator mentor to help them realize their submission. The projected reveal of the Digital Archive is projected for the Summer of 2021.

**Date:** Summer 2021 **Venue:** Online  
➤ <http://www.myseumoftoronto.com/exhibition/quarantine-qapsule/>



### Interconnected Project

**VAHMS Event**

Launched in 2019 by VAHMS President Leticia Sanchez, the project seeks to bring together different communities to experience Asian-Canadian arts by providing a platform for emerging under-represented artists to exhibit their work and collaborate with their community. There is an intrinsic connection between art and the creation of harmonious relationships within our communities. Art can often overcome barriers of language and culture in unique ways. Interconnected communities are better equipped to tackle issues such as diversity, equity, racism and inclusion. Interconnected Project centers Pan-Asian Art and Artists, pushing them to ignite, grow and create new connections that cross the boundaries of age, class, race, ethnicity, or other art mediums.

**Date:** Ongoing **Venue:** Online  
➤ <https://explorAsian.org/>



### VAHMSconnections

**VAHMS Event**

The goal of VAHMSconnections is to understand the importance that diversity and inclusion hold in our lives, from our individual search for belonging to finding ways to maintain a sustained commitment to inclusive practices in our communities. The events and conversations aim to increase awareness to practice inclusion and avoid exclusion, highlight the initiatives that promote cultural diversity, and increase participation of Pan-Asian communities including youth, persons with disabilities as well as underrepresented populations.

**Date:** Ongoing **Venue:** Online  
➤ <https://explorAsian.org/>

# Acknowledgements

explorASIAN Festival is hosted and largely attended on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded land and shared territories of the skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), the selílwitlh (Tsleil-Waututh), and the xʷməθkʷəyám (Musqueam) Nations in the city colonially known as Vancouver. We as an organization have a responsibility to honor the ancestors of this land and the continual stewardship enacted by the host Nations: the xʷməθkʷəyám, the skwxwú7mesh, and the selílwitlh. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity and privilege of living and working on these lands.

VAHMS would like to recognize all the people who have supported us over the years and made the explorASIAN Festival 25th Anniversary possible: Donors, Contributors, Sponsors, Community Partners, Board Members, Advisors, Staff, Volunteers, and the Artists and Organizations who produced the events. A big thank you to all!



Contribute Here: <https://fundrazr.com/explorASIAN>

*“Now more than ever in the midst of a pandemic and visible anti-racism sentiment we are fostering and strengthening a sense of belonging as well as retaining pride in our Asian roots. So looking forward to our 25th anniversary celebration.”* Jeff Chan, VAHMS Ambassador

Food, live performances, vibrant conversations, speeches and commemorations for our Recognition Awards honourees – this is what we brought you pre-COVID in the form of the explorASIAN Recognition Awards Gala.

We miss the in-person parties and wish we could share that sumptuous meal with you, but we must once again stage our Gala virtually. While we are happy to share our programming and recognition of prominent Asian Canadians for free, we have also lost our only fundraising event for the second year in a row.

So this year we are asking for your support. We are offering virtual seats and virtual tables to attend the virtual Gala at previous ticket prices. For a \$70 contribution you will be recognized on our website and in the program for the Recognition Awards and Gala. For a table of ten at \$630, we'll add to that a verbal acknowledgement at the beginning of the event. If you would normally attend the Fundraising Gala, we're hoping you'll pledge your ticket and support VAHMS for another 25 years of celebrating Asian Canadian arts and culture.

This year we are celebrating 25 years of Asian Heritage Month festivals in the Greater Vancouver area. Dedicated volunteers, inspiring leadership, funders and contributors like you have made it happen for a quarter of a century – thank you for your continued support!

Complete your contribution through our Fundrazr portal linked above – it's fast, convenient and safe. You can also mail a cheque to us:

Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society, c/o UBC Learning Exchange, 612 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V6A 2V3

We look forward to honouring you, your colleagues and friends for always being there to help us celebrate Pan-Asian Canadian arts and culture no matter what the challenges are. Thank you!

*The Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society*