

City of Richmond

# ARTS UPDATE 2010

Arts, Culture and Heritage Services



“In the landscape of the 21st century, nothing looms larger than culture. It is the new infrastructure, the civic bedrock on which the most successful modern metropolises are built. Culture is to the contemporary city what roads, sewers and bridges were in the 19th and early 20th centuries.”

*Christopher Hume,  
Urban Affairs Columnist, Toronto Star*

# Introduction

2010 marked an exceptional year for the Arts in Richmond with our role as a Venue City in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, the launch of new annual events such as Culture Days and Minoru Chapel Opera Nights, the expansion of arts programming at the Richmond Cultural Centre and participation in the Vancouver Biennale 2009-11.

The City's modest investment in arts and culture since the implementation of the 2010 Arts & Culture Plan has increased the capacity of organizations in the community, enhanced and developed new high quality arts and culture festivals and activities, identified and showcased Richmond's artistic talent, and leveraged partnerships, grants and sponsorship opportunities that will ensure a legacy for years to come.

At the second annual Richmond Arts Awards, Richmond Art Gallery won the Cultural Leadership Award and was identified by Lord Cultural Resources as one of the best small galleries in Canada. And Gateway Theatre, Richmond's only live professional theatre and the Lower Mainland's third largest theatre company, saw its overall attendance surpass previous numbers seen in its 25 history. Richmond's Public Art Program continued to raise its profile by expanding the City's investment in public art in the Richmond Olympic Oval precinct and its involvement with the Vancouver Biennale. Meanwhile, the Richmond Arts Centre furthered its commitment to providing quality arts programming to the community with the introduction of the Richmond Youth Dance Company, organization of two flash mobs and facilitation of the Dream Project, a filmmaking initiative targeting youth.

This report presents a collection of the year's highlights for the Arts in Richmond.

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## Community Cultural Development

### Culture Days

Culture Days, a new cross-Canada movement to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement in the arts featured free, hands-on and interactive activities. From September 24-26, 2010 the public were invited to participate “behind the scenes” and discover the world of artists, creators, historians, architects, curators, and designers in their community. With support from Tourism Richmond, the first annual event showcased Richmond’s local art, culture and heritage scene with 37 events registered.

Richmond had more registered events than any other city in BC for Culture Days with attendance estimated at over 7000. To help promote the event, a sneak preview bus tour was organized, which took media representatives to three sample events – a backstage tour of the Gateway Theatre, a curator-led tour of the Richmond Museum’s collections, and a hands-on experience and tour of Terra Nova Rural Park.

### The Sky Below & Autumn Gem

More than 100 guests attended a free screening of the film, *The Sky Below* in August 2010, which was followed by a Q&A with the New York-based filmmaker, Sarah Singh. The documentary explores the creation of Pakistan and the 1947 Partition of the Indian subcontinent. In November, a crowd of 140 attended the screening of *Autumn Gem*, a documentary on modern China’s first feminist.

### Minoru Chapel Opera Nights

This fall audiences had the opportunity to hear selections from classic operas performed in historic Minoru Chapel, a place that is typically enjoyed only by wedding guests and movie crews. Arts, Culture and Heritage Services partnered with Opera Pro Cantanti, City Opera Vancouver and Burnaby Lyric Opera on this well-received pilot musical series. A spring series will be announced in January 2011.

### 2010 Lulu Series: Art in the City

The 2010 Lulu Series of guest speakers presented the following free-to-the-public events about Art in the City and its importance to creating connections between citizens and their communities:

- March 25: Seattle-based public art coordinator, Barbara Luecke (with Brendan McLeod, poet)
- April 15: Renowned New York-based artist Dennis Oppenheim (with Kellarissa, musician)
- May 20: Mumbai-based visual artist Hema Upadhyay (with Babe Gurr, singer-songwriter)

Through emails, media releases, brochures, cards, posters, City webpage and print advertising (in the Richmond News, Richmond Review and Georgia Straight), the word spread about the “resurrection” of this series, which began in 2003.

The first event on March 25 attracted approximately 50 attendees. Ms. Luecke also met separately with City Planning and Transportation staff to discuss her work with Sound Transit.

The April 15 event, which attracted 80 guests and the May 20 event, which attracted 50 guests, were presented in partnership with the Vancouver Biennale as both speakers are artists involved with the organization and have works on display in Richmond.

### 2010 Richmond Arts Awards

Created in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition in 2009, as recommended in the Richmond Arts Strategy (2004) and the 2010 Arts & Culture Plan (2008), the second annual Richmond Arts Awards recognized artistic achievements and contributions to the cultural community by City residents, artists, educators, organizations and business leaders. The purpose is to:

- honour major contributions by individuals, organizations and businesses to the arts;
- cultivate greater visibility and understanding of the value of the arts;
- encourage excellence and build new leadership within the arts community; and,
- develop patrons for the arts.

In its second year, 67 nominations were reviewed by the selection committee. Finalists were announced on April 9 with website announcements, emails to the arts community, media attention and a series of three half-page ads in the Richmond News, each highlighting two of the six categories.

The winners were announced at the Richmond Arts Awards ceremony in Council Chambers. Mayor Brodie presided over the ceremony. Special guests included Robert Kerr, Program Director of the Cultural Olympiad; Royce Richert, an 11-year-old violin prodigy, and opera vocalist Wendy Maxwell. Approximately 120 people attended

## ART AT WORK: Arts Symposium

Created in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition as recommended in the 2010 Arts & Culture Plan (2008), Richmond's second annual Arts Symposium, Art At Work, provided professional development opportunities for local artists and others working in the cultural sector. Its purpose is to:

- support the growth and development of the arts and cultural sector;
- provide artists and cultural workers with practical, inspiring and career-enhancing programming; and
- encourage networking and sharing within the arts and culture community.

On April 17, 2010, 47 registered artists and representatives from cultural organizations networked and attended their choice of the following programs:

- *Five Essentials for Marketing Your Art in a Changing Economy* workshop presented by Ruth Payne, Curator for Ferry Building Gallery, West Vancouver
- *Media Relations for Dummies* workshop by Cynthia Lockrey, Senior Manager of Media Relations for City of Richmond and Martin van den Hemel, staff reporter at the Richmond Review

- *Tax Relief* workshop by Marianna Scott of Quantum Accounting Services
- *Getting Started with Social Networking* session with Rebecca Coleman, marketing and media relations specialist
- *Communication by Design* workshop by John McLachlan
- *One-on-one portfolio checks* with painter and Capilano University instructor, Kiff Holland

- *Sell Art, Not Out* session with Laura Barron, flutist

Response from participants was very positive, as evidenced in the feedback survey results; for example, 100% of respondents indicated they would attend again next year.

Similar to the previous year, approximately half the attendees were Richmond residents with the rest from the Lower Mainland and Sunshine Coast.



Richmond Arts Awards (left to right) Mayor Macolm Brodie, Morri-Lynn Buchanan, Helmut Eppich

### 2010 Winter Festival of the Arts

The second annual six-week festival, as described in the 2010 Arts & Culture Plan (2008), offered a multidisciplinary, multicultural and multi-locational showcase of Richmond's arts and culture scene from February 1 through March 15. The 2010 Winter Festival of the Arts provided valuable promotional support to 33 events and programs presented by various arts and cultural organizations. Through the shOP ART initiative, five visual artists created and installed original work for empty storefronts at Lansdowne Centre.

In its second year, 60% of post-event survey respondents said that the Winter Festival of the Arts was beneficial to them. Since being publicized in late January, the website has attracted 1,630 visits (1,333 unique visitors).

### O Zone City Hall Exhibits

During the 2010 Winter Olympic Games February 12–28, the Richmond O Zone, presented a series of unique exhibits and programs at Richmond City Hall. These exhibits were:

- Lace Up! Canada's Passion for Skating (presented by the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Ottawa)
- The Lulu Suite: Athletes' Stories (kiosk installation by Deanne Achong and Faith Moosang)
- Media Mixer: CODE and Conversation (Council Chambers films and guest speakers)

- Uniting the World Through Play: A Child's Perspective on Culture, Education and Drug-Free Sport (presented by The Foundation for Global Sports Development)
- The Great Canadian Speed Skate: Where Long Blades, Dynamic Art and an Icy Past come together (presented by Speed Skating Canada)

City Hall was also the site of two "Richmond Revealed" installations:

- Richmond Revealed: High Technology (showcasing artifacts from four high-tech companies)
- Richmond Revealed: Agriculture (cranberry pond)

The City Hall exhibits were very well-received and the final 17-day attendance figure during the O Zone was 54,211 visitors.



Speed Skating Canada Exhibit, Richmond O Zone

## Public Art Program

### Oval Precinct Artwork

The Oval precinct public art program represents the largest investment in public art in the City's history. In Fall 2009, the Oval Precinct Art Program focused on its partnership with the VANOC Venues' Aboriginal Art Program to complete works for installation prior the 2010 Winter Games.

The new works produced under this program complement the precinct's existing public art: Susan A. Point's sculptural Buttress Runnels, Janet Echelman's *Water Sky Garden*, and Buster Simpson's *Ice Blade*. Artworks installed for the 2010 Olympic Games were the Nuuchahnulth artists' *Hupakwanum*, Pangnirtung Nunavut Tapestry Studio's *Achieving a Dream*, and Sonny Assu's *Authentic Aboriginal*, which is part of the Home on Native Land series. Also completed in 2010 prior to the Games was Elspeth Pratt and Javier Campo's *Sight Works*, integrated with the landscape along the Middle Arm Dyke Trail.

Scheduled for installation in 2011, artists Faith Moosang and Deanne Achong provided a sneak preview of their art project for the Richmond Olympic Oval Precinct, *Telling the Stories of Richmond: Lulu Suite*, with Speed Skating Canada athlete interviews showcased in an electronic kiosk at City Hall during O Zone celebrations.

### Youth Mentorship Program

Developed by the City with VANOC Venues' Aboriginal Art Program, this partnership had two components: to commission a permanent artwork by a First Nations artist to be installed in the Richmond Oval, and for the selected artist to lead a project for First Nations and non-native youth. Artist Sonny Assu was awarded the commission and mentored a group of seven young artists during the 2010 Winter Olympic Games at the Richmond Art Gallery.

### Private Development Artworks

Artists have been selected for two major public artworks at the new River Green development, west of the Olympic Oval. The team of Thomas Cannell and Susan Point have been selected to install a major work at Fish Trap Way, *Honouring the History of the Halkomelaem*.

In addition, the artist team of Jacqueline Metz and Nancy Chew have been awarded the commission for a new media installation in a glass bridge connecting two high rise towers at the western terminus of the pedestrian corridor linking the River Green neighbourhood to the Olympic Oval Precinct.



*Hupakwanum*, Nuuchahnulth artists Rodney Sayers, Tim Paul, Tom Paul and Patrick Amos

### Vancouver Biennale

The Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale is a non-profit organization with the mandate to mount a biannual major outdoor sculpture exhibition featuring world-class international artists. A total of eight Biennale artworks were endorsed by Council for temporary exhibition in Richmond.

Seven works have been installed:

- Yvonne Domenge (Mexico), *Olas de Viento (Wind Waves)*, Garry Point Park. This bright red circular steel form of rhythmic and undulating curves by internationally acclaimed Mexican artist was the first of several significant Biennale works to be temporarily installed.
- Gao Brothers (China), *Miss Mao trying to poise herself at the top of Lenin's Head*, Alderbridge Way and Elmbridge Way. The sculpture, by the renowned Chinese artist team, features two iconic figures in shiny polished stainless steel.
- Ren Jun (China), *Water #10*, Cambie Plaza on the Middle Arm Greenway. Installed February 2010, trail users and visitors to Richmond arriving at the Aberdeen Canada Line station and walking to the Richmond Olympic Oval have an elegant, amorphic stainless steel sculptural beacon to welcome them.
- Hema Upadhyay (India), *Loco-Foco-Motto*, Aberdeen Centre. An elemental display of fire and water took center stage at Richmond's Aberdeen Centre in June. Five vortex-like chandeliers composed of 750,000 unlit matchsticks were created on site and suspended above the central atrium fountains.

- Patrick Hughes (UK), *Doors of Knowledge*, Minoru Park. The painted panels with their clever use of perspective and optical illusion make you pause and reflect when the piece changes as you alter your position.
- Javier Marin (Mexico), *Heads (Cabezas)*, No. 3 Road at Lansdowne Canada Line Station. This trio of enormous heads portrays a sense of strength, decay, and history. The gigantic heads of polyester resin and iron appear as if rendered in clay.

- Toni Latour (Vancouver), *Homage to Parenthood*, Brighthouse Canada Line Station. Facing street level along No. 3 Road, the six panel installation depicts 100 common sayings in a rainbow of colours and engages Canada Line and bus passengers and pedestrians.

The eighth and final work to be presented by the Biennale in Richmond will be a temporary environmental artwork installation. The artwork is titled *Blue Trees* by Australian artist Konstantin Dimopoulos. It is scheduled for installation in Garden City Park in April 2011 to coincide with Earth Day, which is celebrated annually around the world on April 22. The artist will also speak at the Lulu Series on April 7, 2011.



*Heads (Cabezas)*, Javier Marin (Mexico). Photographer: Dan Fairchild



## Public Art Program Policy

On July 27, 2010, Council endorsed the update to the Richmond Public Art Program Policy and terms of reference for the re-named Public Art Advisory Committee. This was the culmination of a year-long review of the existing Public Art Policy and Guidelines to clarify the role of the advisory committee and administration of the program. The program review also looked at incorporating best practices and trends in public art practices.

The changes to the policy will deliver a more robust, competitive and professional public art program to the City. These changes will also enable the Arts, Culture & Heritage Services Division to continue to contribute to achieving Council's Term Goal to advance the City's destination status and ensure continued development as a vibrant cultural city through enhanced public art and character defining elements.

## Community Public Art Program

The Richmond Public Art Program engaged the Richmond Nature Park, Gateway Theatre and South Arm Community Centre in projects through its Community Public Art Program during the course of 2010.

### Richmond Nature Park

A Richmond Nature Park Community public art project entrance sign by artist Jeanette Lee, was installed in August 2010 at the entrance to the Nature Park along Westminster Highway. The artist worked with visiting school children to design botanical images for the sculptural project.

The work integrates an electronic read-o-graph sign to improve visibility of the facility, provide public programming information and welcome park visitors.

### Gateway Theatre

Architectural origami inspired the form of Tyler Hodgins' public art installation in the Gateway Theatre plaza. The 11-foot-high polished stainless steel artwork is suggestive of many aspects of the theatre experience. It was dedicated in October at an unveiling ceremony by Mayor Brodie and members of the Gateway Board of Directors

### South Arm Community Centre

Artist Corinna Hanson developed a public art project with South Arm Community Association and City staff. The team developed a concept of placing 28 mosaic panels with themes of flowers, vegetables, birds and insects on walls surrounding the community centre, and a larger mosaic themed Community in Motion on the west wall of the centre. The artist held a series of workshops for preschool, youth, seniors, and other users of the community centre to create the mosaic designs. This project offered the community an opportunity to participate in art making and will leave a community legacy. Installation is scheduled for completion in 2011.

## No. 3 Road Art Columns

As part of the No. 3 Road Restoration Project, construction was started on the display light boxes for the Public Art Program temporary exhibitions at Brighthouse, Lansdowne and Aberdeen Canada Line stations. The No. 3 Road Art Columns, co-sponsored by Appia Group of Companies, are part of the City's commitment to enhance the streetscape and provide local and regional artists who work in two-dimensional media an opportunity to showcase their work.

Following an Artist Call, a selection panel reviewed submissions in January 2010 and selected twelve artists to participate in exhibitions over the next two years. The works will illustrate the diversity and environment of Richmond and installations will change every 6 months.



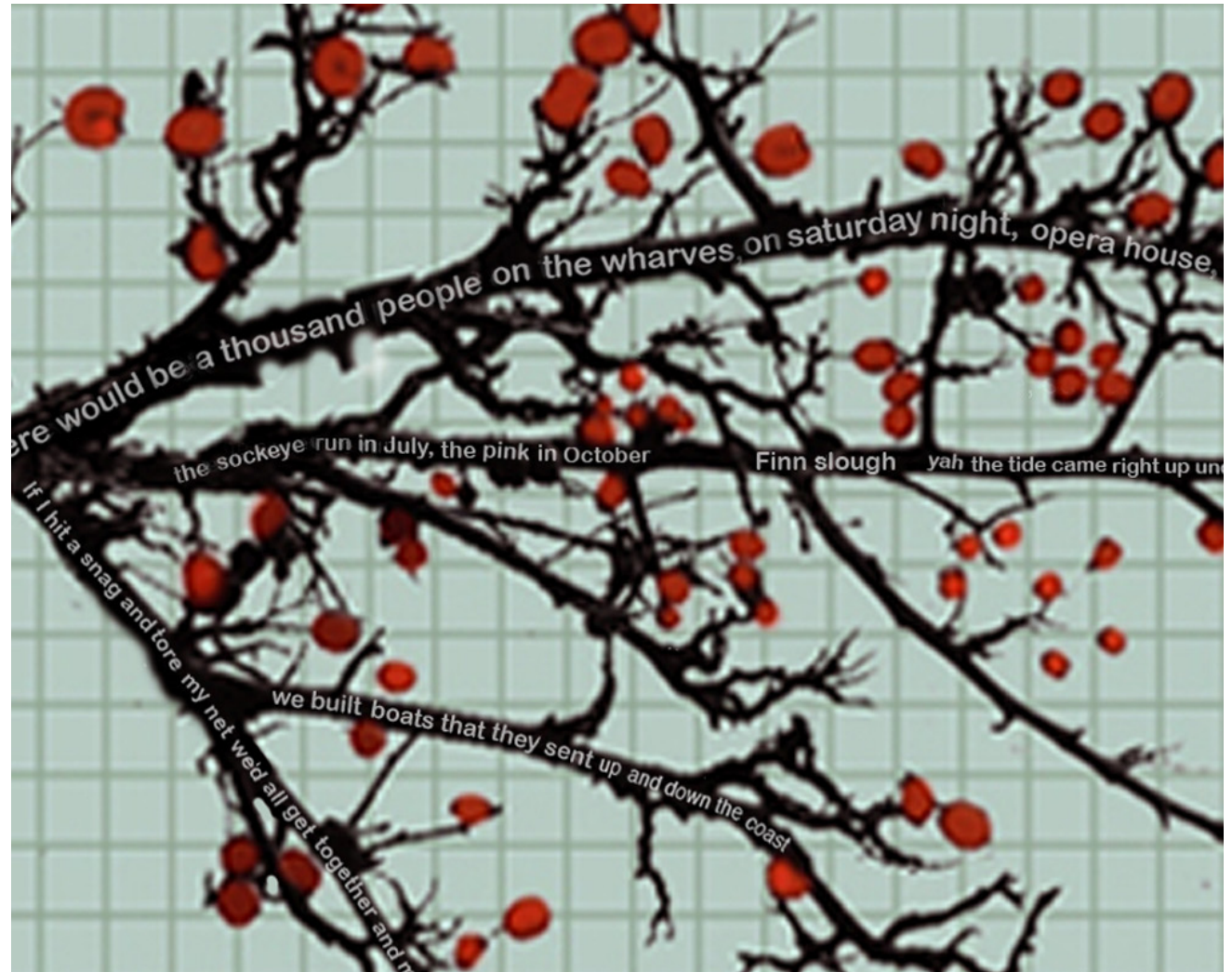
*You are here*, Mia Weinberger

### Civic Public Artworks Program

Artist interviews were held in November 2009 to select an artist for the Steveston Fire Hall public art project. The selection panel recommended artist Blake Williams for this commission. In October 2010, Council endorsed the artist's concept design, *Roots of Our Future*. The artwork, to be located near the fire hall's entrance walkway from No. 2 Road, consists of photo-imagery on glass tiles mounted onto the front and back of an undulating, wave-like form. Onto the branches of a Pacific Crabapple tree, text will be etched to represent the history of Steveston, providing a glimpse into the lives of those who made up the community. Installation is scheduled for completion in Spring 2011.

To improve the quality of our streetscapes, an Art Wrap program was developed to add artwork to utility boxes placed at grade along our streets. In cooperation with the Engineering Department, art wraps were initiated for boxes at the Ackroyd Pump Station and City Hall electrical kiosks on Granville Avenue. Local artist, Jeannette Jarville was selected to design wraps for the control boxes and pump station. The Public Art Program also worked with the Richmond Public Library on a design initiative to wrap book drops outside the Library fronting Minoru Boulevard. The project received funding from the Richmond Public Library.

Two additional civic public art projects, which began in 2010 are the new No. 4 Road Pump Station and the Hamilton Community Centre expansion. Artist selection and development of the concept proposals are in progress, with completion of the projects expected in 2011.



*Roots of Our Future*, Blake Williams



Richmond Youth Dance Company, Richmond Arts Centre



*Water #10*, Ren Jun, Vancouver Biennale



*Waterscapes*, Gu Xiong, Richmond Art Gallery



Mr Tony, Painting Class, Richmond Arts Centre

## Richmond Arts Centre

### School-Year Recital

The Arts Centre's annual School-Year Dance Program Recital took place at the Richmond Gateway Theatre June 27 and 28, 2010. The theme, "Welcome to the Circus" was presented to an audience of 1,575 over three shows. The annual recital gave more than 550 students an opportunity to demonstrate ballet and jazz techniques learned throughout the school year. Instructors from the Centre's visual and performing arts seasonal classes participated in the performance.

### Flash Mobs

After an open call, 50 Richmond residents of all ages and abilities lit up the streets of Richmond on August 21, 2010. In the tradition of the 'flash mob,' the group mingled with the crowd in three locations (Richmond Cultural Centre Plaza, Lansdowne Canada Line Station and the corner of Moncton Street and Bayview Road in Steveston Village) and then suddenly began a lively dance number. Choreographed by Richmond Arts Award recipient, Morri-Lynn Buchanan, the event was witnessed by approximately 300 passers-by while the media was also present. The Canada Line showing was made possible in partnership with InTransit BC.

### Children's Arts Festival

The second Annual Children's Arts Festival coordinated in partnership with BC Children's Art and Literacy Centre took place on April 12 and 13, 2010 throughout the Richmond Cultural Centre. This year, the Richmond Public Library, Richmond Museum and Richmond Art Gallery were involved with the Richmond Arts Centre to provide a unique

opportunity for preschool and elementary students to participate in hands-on interactive workshops with professional performers and visual artists. Approximately 600 children from Richmond Schools attended during this two-day Arts Education event. Workshops were sold out months in advance.



Second Annual Children's Art Festival, Richmond Cultural Centre

### New Asia Film Festival

The third annual New Asia Film Festival reached an audience of more than 400 people from May 7 to 30, 2010. Co-presented by the City and Cinevolution Media Arts Society, the New Asia Film Festival is the leading international film event in Richmond. This year, a unique selection of 28 contemporary Asian films from around the world explored the themes of art and spirituality. The festival received positive press including an article in the *Georgia Straight*, which highlighted the City of Richmond. Eleven of the films were Canadian-made, and seven of these were by Richmond filmmakers Joe Chang, Andrea Wan and Anna Wang. The festival also featured the DocuAsia Forum co-presented with the David Lam Centre at SFU.

### The Dream Project

A group of talented Richmond youth recently showed professional filmmakers Jeff Chiba Stearns and Elisa Chee, that Richmond is home to many talented artists ready to make their mark on the world. Youth, ranging in age from 11–20 years, participated in a workshop at the Richmond Arts Centre in July and August 2010. The film makers led them through a process that yielded nine unique and inspiring animation shorts based on the word “dream” that were later screened to an audience of 100 people and accompanied films by professional filmmakers.

### Kala Utsav

This annual Indian Arts Benefit for Global Relief was held on May 7, 2010 at the Richmond Cultural Centre. The Richmond Arts Centre partnered with the Richmond Art Gallery and explorAsian to present *Kala Utsav* as part of Richmond’s Asian Heritage Month celebrations, providing over 80 participants with an enjoyable evening of Classical Indian performances including dance, music and voice.

### Art Instructor Showcase

Arts Centre instructors Claudia Segovia, Morley Watson and Catherine Kluthe exhibited their paintings in the Richmond Cultural Centre and Linda Montague presented a Fabric Arts demonstration at the Richmond Public Library as part of the Art Instructor Showcase.

Demonstrations by the following Resident Art Group and Community offerings were also held as part of the Arts Centre’s participation in Culture Days:

- Social Dancing of Scotland, Richmond Reelers and Scottish Dancers presented a workshop.
- South and North Style Chinese Kung Fu presented a Martial Arts workshop.
- Creative Jewellers Guild of BC presented creative jewellery and design construction workshops.
- Richmond Artists Guild exhibited their art in the Upper Rotunda.
- Richmond Potters Club held several open houses and demonstrations in the Pottery Studio.
- Textile Arts Guild of Richmond held a demonstration in the Fabric Arts Studio.

### Music Encore Society Concerts

Under the tutelage of acclaimed pianist Eugene Skovorodnikov, the Music Encore Concert Society brought a top-tier line-up of classical music to Richmond. The series of concerts (4 per year), paired with lecture recitals at the Richmond Cultural Centre, gave more than 200 music lovers the opportunity to experience the music of artists who have graced concert halls from Moscow to New York. The Music Encore Concert Series creates affordable and accessible concerts and lecture recitals to individuals of all backgrounds and ages.

### Musical Expressions

Musical Expressions, a series of eclectic evenings of musical performances (eight shows per year) by up-and-coming and established musicians were held at the Richmond Cultural Centre and attracted more than 600 music lovers. The series is organized by vocalist and musician Cherelle Jardine, who in 2009 was a finalist for the first annual Richmond Art Awards, and a finalist for the Ethel Tibbits Women of Distinction Award for the Arts.

### Move to Fraserview Church

To accommodate Holland Heineken’s temporary operations in the Cultural Centre during the Richmond O Zone, the Richmond Arts Centre moved its programming off site to Fraserview Church in East Richmond. From January 25 to March 8, 2010, Richmond Arts Centre continued to offer some of its popular classes without interruption, while providing East Richmond residents greater exposure to the Arts.



## School-Year Dance Program

In an effort to improve arts education programming, the Arts Centre moved to a new Academy style dance program based on a hybrid of two internationally recognized teaching systems, the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing and the Cecchetti Method. This new program operates at a higher technical level than previous dance programs offered at the Arts Centre. Instructors are trained in teaching to these standards. As a result, 500 students will receive training which can be transferred to other established schools or dance companies around the world such as the National Ballet School of Canada and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet Academy.

## Richmond Youth Dance Company

In an ongoing effort to provide positive outlets for youth engagement as well as promote the Arts as an integral part of a healthy community, the Richmond Youth Dance Company was created at the Richmond Arts Centre. All of the dancers auditioned for the special program which will provide several public performances throughout 2011. Through the program, dancers will gain experience such as creating, rehearsing and performing in dance productions while continuing to demonstrate the positive contributions Richmond's youth make to our community. This past summer, the program and instructors, Miyouki Jego and Claudia Segovia were featured in the Richmond Review.

## Arts Education Camps

More than 180 children attended the Arts Centre's Art Camps giving them week-long exposure to various art practices during Christmas, Spring and Summer breaks.

### Art Camp

Children learned fundamental Visual Art techniques and applied them to exhibits they visited at the Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver Museum, Vancouver Aquarium, Science World, Vancouver Airport, Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Museum, Canada Line and Coal Harbour.

### Fusion Camp

Fusion Camps allowed students to try various activities and experiment with dance, drawing, painting, drama, voice and clay. Students participated in each activity on a rotation and at the end of the week, they exhibited their work and gave a performance for parents, friends and family.

### Performance and Art Camp

Built on the success of Fusion Camps as well as the Arts Centre's Visual and Performing Arts programs, a new program combining Visual and Performing Arts was introduced. The aim of the program is to teach children about the various aspects of production, including the performance, behind the scenes, staging and set design. A 'show and tell' performance was presented to children's families at the end of the camp.

## Byte Camp

Three weeks of Byte Camps were packed to capacity exposing children to the world of Media Arts. Camps included 3D animation, claymation and flash video game design. The camp also ensured that students went outside and engaged in physical activity at least three times per day. Children received a USB wristband with their projects at the end of the week.



Performing and Art class, Richmond Arts Centre

## Richmond Art Gallery

### One of the Best

The Richmond Art Gallery was identified as one of the best small galleries in Canada in a survey of Canadian museum and gallery professionals by the international museum planning and consultation firm Lord Cultural Resources. The Gallery was contacted in the context of a study of best practices being conducted for the Prairie Art Gallery in Alberta.

### Cultural Leadership Award

Richmond Art Gallery Association was the proud recipient of a Richmond Arts Award in Cultural Leadership. The award recognizes an arts professional or organization for leadership in their arts discipline, as well as their organization stewardship and contribution to Richmond's cultural development.

### Wanda Koop, FACE TO FACE

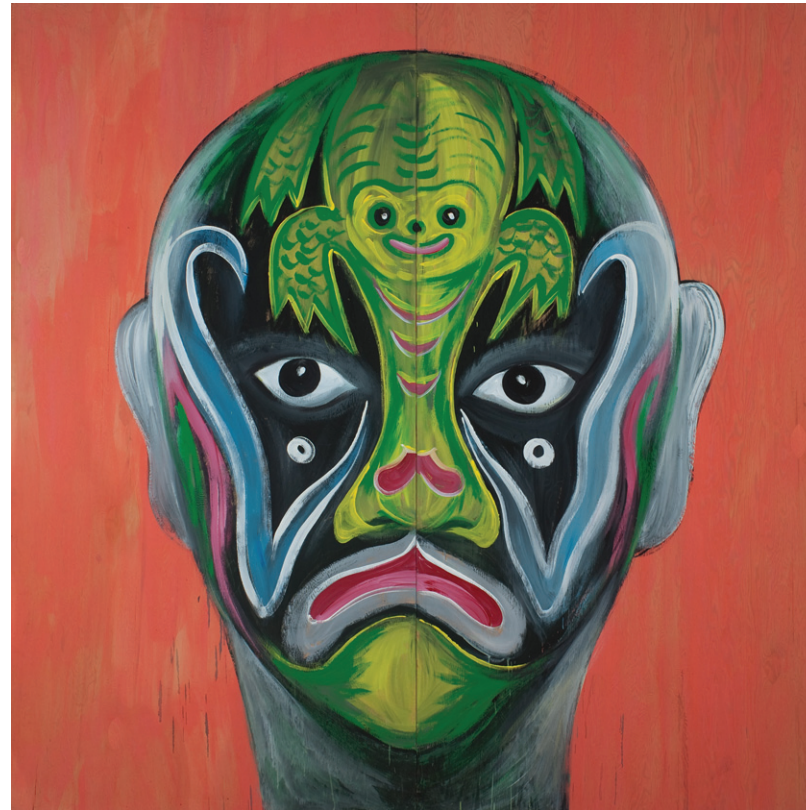
**November 20, 2009 – January 10, 2010**

Recognized for her landscapes, Koop's solo exhibition at the Richmond Art Gallery presented a little-known aspect of Koop's production: portraits and figures spanning nearly 25 years. Beginning with large-scale paintings of Chinese opera characters, the exhibition included works developed from extensive notes and sketches recorded on Koop's first trip to China in 1986, and recent works on robotics. The exhibition preceded and complemented Koop's major exhibition at the National Gallery of Canada in 2011.

Overall attendance during the exhibition: 4,222.

Related activities:

- In conjunction with the exhibition, the Richmond Art Gallery & Vancouver Opera presented an *Evening of Opera with an Asian Twist*. 48 community members were in attendance.
- Music Encore presented an afternoon recital by Victor Kuleshov, violin and Eugene Skovorodnikov, piano.
- Changing Faces, Celebrating Inspirational Richmond Women: a Women's Centre fundraiser honoured Richmond women who have made a difference in the community.



Wanda Koop, *Victim*, 1985, acrylic on plywood

## Arthur Renwick, Mask

**January 29 – April 4, 2010**

2010 at the Richmond Art Gallery began with an exhibition of photographic work by First Nations artist, Arthur Renwick. Originally from Kitimat and now based in Toronto, Renwick's recent work has garnered a lot of attention nationally and internationally. Renwick spoke at length with each artist about the complex relationship between representation and First Nations people. The results are larger than life-sized portraits of people "pulling face" as they look back through the lens in response to that history.

Overall attendance during the exhibition: 16,065.



Arthur Renwick, *Carla*, 2006, photograph

Related activities:

- Production of a 32-page, full colour catalogue
- 10-minute artist interview with Arthur Renwick on view in the lounge, produced by the Richmond Art Gallery, technical production by VIVO.
- Renwick spoke about the current series and the history of his production at two artist talks (Emily Carr University of Art & Design, 45 students and faculty in attendance) and UBC (30 students and faculty in attendance).
- 20 multi-lingual Richmond area high school students were recruited and trained as volunteers to provide exhibition tours for the public during the Olympics.
- 30 Oskayak Youth Council members had a tour of the exhibition with Arthur Renwick.
- 50 people attended a presentation at the Gallery by Marlene Hale, "Chef Maluh", on First Nations Cuisine. Participants sampled three types of bannock and tea.
- The Gallery presented a talk with Daniel Francis, author of *The Imaginary Indian*.

## In Transition: New Art from India

**April 26–June 13, 2010**

Artists, Shilpa Gupta, Reena Kallat, TV Santhosh, Sudarshan Shetty, Thukral & Tagra, Hema Uphaday in collaboration with the Vancouver Biennale.

This exhibition brought together examples of contemporary art by six of India's leading artists. The exhibition received tremendous coverage by the media including the Vancouver Sun, the Province, Georgia Straight and Richmond Review.

Overall attendance during the exhibition: 5,783.

Related activities:

- Artist Hema Upadhyay presented one of the Lulu lectures.
- Keith Wallace presented a talk, New Art in India, 28 people in attendance.

### Strange Nature

**June 25–September 5, 2010**

Artists, Jennifer Angus, Robin Ripley, Mary Anne Barkhouse

This exhibition explored the human/nature relationship, and the ways we think about, interact with and alter nature. Site-specific installation outside the Richmond Cultural Centre was created by Robin Ripley.

The Education Gallery drew from a number of ideas explored in the exhibition and presented them through didactic wall panels. The Art Lounge featured an activity table relating to the exhibition.

Overall attendance during the exhibition: 8,682 (doubled from Summer 2009).



Mary Anne Barkhouse, *Succession* (in detail), 2007, mixed media

Related activities:

- In partnership with the Richmond Food Security Society, RAG held *Grow Up!* an afternoon of activities including artist talk, seed bomb workshop, vegetable sale and other activities related to sustainable environmental practices. Several hundred people participated in the event.
- Strange Nature was reviewed in Canadian Art Online.

### Gu Xiong, Waterscapes

**September 16 – November 14, 2010**

Since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the Fraser and Yangtze Rivers have connected migrants from around the world as China and Canada both became enmeshed in an emerging global economy. Starting with the migration of Chinese labourers to the Fraser River for the Gold Rush of 1858 and the late 19th century migration of Canadian missionaries to the Yangtze River region, these rivers have become over-written with histories, memories and the material traces of migration. In providing vital transit access between the Pacific Ocean and inland areas, these rivers can be understood as complex “waterscapes” in which uneven experiences of displacement, dispossession, and adaptation occur.

Overall attendance during the exhibition: 5,947.

Related activities:

- Colour, bilingual catalogue published with the assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts.
- The Art Lounge featured a series of activities as well as a video interview with Gu Xiong.
- Over 100 community members folded paper boats during four sessions for Waterscapes, including youth from YES (Youth Employment and Empowerment program), a Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society program for new immigrant ESL youths between the ages of 15–25 years.
- RAG worked with Britannia Heritage Shipyard on a cooperative Culture Days presentation.
- *Swimming the River*, a panel discussion with Gu Xiong, Dr. Glenn Deer, Parm Grewel, and Justin Tse addressed migration, change and globalisation.
- The documentary film by Gu Xiong’s daughter, Yu Gu, profiles Gu’s life in China and his migration to Canada, was screened for Teacher’s Professional Development Day.
- Free film screening of *Up the Yangtze*, an award winning documentary.

## More Often than Always/ Less Often Than Never

**November 26, 2010 – January 23, 2011**

Organized by Noxious Sector Project (Ted Hiebert and Doug Jarvis), *More Often than Always/Less Often than Never* takes its inspiration from Alfred Jarry's invention of 'pataphysics' (the science of imaginary solutions). Artists from around the world were invited to engage with notions of impossibility, uncertainty and the imaginary which challenge standardized formulations of the allowable, acceptable, logical or feasible. Artists hannah\_g, Julie Gendron and Emma Hendrix; Tetsushi Higashino; Gordon Lebrecht; Chikako Maria Mori and Boris Nieslony; François Mathieu; Arjuna Neuman and Anne-Marie Proulx answered a call for imaginary solutions to real questions, and were selected by the curators in séance with Alfred Jarry.

## Summer Camps

Ninety children participated in six successful weeks of summer art camps led by veteran art instructors Natalie Strul and Suzanna Wright. An impressive array of artworks were produced by the dozens of children, aged 6–13 years, who participated. *Strange Nature* provided inspiration as well as the weekly trips to the Richmond Nature Park. A Young Canada Works Program grant for \$8,550 (75% of wages and benefits) allowed the Gallery to hire two summer art camp instructors.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Artist Trading Cards Exhibition

**November 26, 2010 – January 22, 2011**

The Richmond Art Gallery's *ATC Exhibition* is a display of Artist Trading Cards from local, national and international participants. Artist Trading Cards are miniature works of original art measuring 2½" x 3½" that are made to trade. This international art movement is intended to be a non-commercial, non-hierarchical, non-judgemental avenue for artistic exchange. All entries received are exhibited, and then traded at the Closing Celebration. Kathy Tycholis organized the Exhibition, which was the largest ATC exhibition ever held at the Gallery. The open call for entries attracted over 400 participants from all over the world. Entries have been received from across Canada, Australia, United States, Italy, Luxembourg, China, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates. An ATC show/trade closing party will be held on January 22, 2011.

## School Program

The Richmond Art Gallery School Art Program provides hands-on art experiences for young artists. The program introduces students, from Preschool to Grade 7, to the exciting world of contemporary art through interactive gallery tours and exhibition-based, hands-on art activities and helps to develop visual literacy and critical thinking skills. From March to June 2010, the Gallery conducted 53 school tours and workshops, representing 1,238 students and conducted a Pro-D workshop with regional teachers.



School Art Program, Richmond Art Gallery

### Outreach Exhibitions

As part of its community outreach program the Richmond Art Gallery organized exhibitions of quality art work for display in off-site venues such as Richmond City Hall and Gateway Theatre.

#### City Hall:

- Mar 2 – Apr 20, Morley Watson, *Park Grounds*
- Apr 20 – May 18, Gillian Lindsay (untitled)
- May 18 – June 15, Nigel Tam (untitled)
- June 15 – July 27, Anne Marie Crosby, *Sea Smoke*
- July 27 – Sept 14, Nancy Halifax, *Future Interpretive*

#### Gateway Theatre:

- Jan 12 – Mar 16, Tony Yin Tak Chu, *Wine, Coffee and Black*
- Mar 16 – Apr 27, Sylvia Wong and Jing Jia, *Urban Copy*



Nancy Halifax, *The Passage of Time* (detail), 2009, acrylic on canvas

### Family Sundays

Family Sunday is a free drop-in art program on the fourth Sunday of the month that offers families the occasion to explore art making together. The popular program provides skill-building opportunities for ten to twelve creative and highly motivated volunteer Richmond high school students who run the program, sponsored by RBC.

This past year in addition to the exhibition related art activities offered, the Richmond Public Library provided families a theme-related story. For an eighth year, RBC Foundation renewed its funding for the 2010 Family Sunday Program to the amount of \$10,000. Family Sundays averaged 125 parents and children each month between June and September.

## Funding

Funding from a variety of sources continues to assist the Gallery with its operations and high quality programming:

- VANOC/Cultural Olympiad funding for Arthur Renwick, *Mask*: \$15,000. Funds were used to commission a designer and print a 32-page, full colour catalogue for the exhibition.
- Second instalment of three-year funding, Province of British Columbia Direct Access Grant: \$45,000. Supports exhibition programming expenses.
- British Columbia Arts Council 2010 funding: \$23,000. Supports Gallery operations and exhibition programming expenses.
- City of Richmond Community Grant: \$2,000. Helps off-set translation expenses for exhibition texts.
- Canada Council, Flying Squad funding: \$6,400. For Board Development Workshops with Keith Jardine.
- Canada Council, Project Grant: \$6,000. For Gu Xiong catalogue.
- Young Canada Works Program grant: \$8,550 (75% of wages and benefits). To hire two summer art camp instructors.
- TD Canada Trust funding: \$9,000. For School Art Program.
- RBC funding: \$10,000. For Family Sundays Program.



Wanda Koop, *Hybrid Human*, 2009, acrylic on canvas

## Pro-D Workshop Outreach

Richmond Art Gallery educator Kathy Tycholis was invited to present Professional Development Workshops for Elementary and Secondary teachers of the Norman Wells School District in the Northwest Territories in the summer of 2010. Kathy presented a workshop on *Painting in the Classroom* for Elementary teachers, and an *Artist Trading Card* workshop for Secondary teachers.

## Gateway Theatre

Gateway Theatre had over 900 uses throughout the year, reaching record numbers seen at the theatre in the past 25 years. Overall attendance reached 49,604 and 150 volunteers helped support the arts community, contributing over 9,477 hours.

### Gateway Academy

The Academy saw its highest enrollment ever in 2010 with the offering of 18 classes. Four arts scholarships, sponsored by McDonald's restaurants were awarded to students who contributed to creativity, company and showed courage in their classes.

- Ironwood Plaza McDonald's Young Performer Award (6–8 years): Aviva and Hannah Gerring.
- Steveston McDonald's Young Performer Award (8–10 years): Maria Go.
- Alderbridge Way McDonald's Young Performer Award (10–13 years): Thomas Westerman.
- Blundell Centre McDonald's Outstanding Achievement (13–18 years): Alexa Fraser.

### Professional Theatre Series

Starting off on the Main Stage was *The Foursome*, a whimsical comedy using golf as a metaphor for relationships. It was a joint production with Kamloops's Western Canada Theatre where it enjoyed a successful run after it closed at Gateway. *Modern Millie* involved a large cast of a core group of professionals, supported by up and coming actors, emerging designers and the best professional pit orchestra in the Lower Mainland. *Around the World in 80 Days*, featuring a multicultural cast of five actors playing almost forty roles, brought



*Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Gateway Theatre

the Main Stage season to a rollicking close in April 2010. *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Annie* kicked off Gateway's 2010-11 Season.

The Studio series played to numerous sold out houses for two productions written by emerging Canadian playwrights. *Back to You: The Life and Music of Lucille Starr* by Tracey Power led the way in November. It told the eponymous true story of a giant of country music from the 1960s whose humble beginnings in Port Coquitlam laid the foundation of a stellar international career. *The Drowning Girls* by Beth Graham, Daniela Vlaskalic and Charlie Tomlinson was the next selection in March. A who-dunnit, or rather, why-dunnit, is told by the three female murder victims of a serial

killer in Victorian England. This too, was very well received and like "Lucille ..." enjoyed long line-ups and waiting lists for tickets. *Sexy Laundry* ended the year with sellout crowds.

### Sewing Our Traditions

Gateway Theatre hosted an exhibit of dolls in partnership with artists from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut in association with the Yukon Arts Centre during the Olympic period. Over three dozen pieces were presented in the lobby featuring replicas of aboriginal clothes, hand sewn with local materials such as skins, beads and cloth demonstrating the role played by costumes in traditional story telling. To add to the highlight, Gateway Theatre hosted a Pan Northern event and reception with representative.





## City of Richmond

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