



rEvolution

June 17-28 | 2019

For Immediate Release
March 27, 2019

The 2019 Vancouver Queer Arts Festival Speaks to the rEvolution

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, BC / March 27, 2019 | The 11th annual Queer Arts Festival (QAF), Vancouver's artist-run, professional, multi-disciplinary roster of queer arts, culture and history, takes place this year from June 17 – 28, 2019.

QAF's 2019 theme rEvolution assembles nearly 100 artists and more than 20 events and programming showcasing a variety of differing media, and will be on exhibit at the Roundhouse Arts Centre (181 Roundhouse Mews) in Vancouver, British Columbia.

50 years after the decriminalization of sodomy in Canada and the Stonewall Riots in the US, we are seeing the return of overt, public displays of violence targeting bodies deemed other. With the rise of the alt-right, the backlash against inclusive sexual and gender education, and weakened protections for queer, QTPOC, trans and gender-diverse individuals, now more than ever we need art that interrogates, anticipates and irradiates. QAF rEvolution gathers together artists who disassemble, push and transgress: art as the evolution of the revolution.

"For generations, our artists have carved spaces out of a hostile world, spaces where we can make art, sing and dance and draw and rhyme and fuck our resistance; spaces that meld struggle with celebration, politics with sex, serious purpose with more fabulousness than anyone could ever swallow. QAF was specifically created as one of these spaces, a place for queer artists to do the things that are hard to do as queers in the art world, as well as those things that are hard to do as artists in the queer world, including—perhaps especially—at the intersections that get stonewalled in both worlds." SD Holman, Artistic Director

VISUAL ART EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Art Party! | Gala Opening Reception | Tue Jun 18 | 7-10pm
The always popular kickoff to the Festival. Art and conviviality converge at the grand opening of the 2019 QAF.

Relational Revolutions | Visual Art Exhibition | Tue Jun 17 - Wed Jun 26 | Curator Elwood Jimmy
Our signature curated visual art exhibition for 2019, Relational Revolutions, posits a rumination on the theme of rEvolution and extends an invitation to recalibrate our desires, how we hope, how we sense, how we love, and above all to re-examine our relationships with each other, with the land, with time, with form and with space. Curator Elwood Jimmy, originally from the Thunderchild

First Nation, is an artist, facilitator, cultural manager and writer. For 20 years he has played a leadership role in numerous art projects, collectives and organizations locally and abroad.

This exhibit will showcase an eclectic array of artists including Thirza Cuthand, Raven Davis, Vanessa Dion Fletcher, Alexandra Gelis, Jessica Karuhanga, Lisa Myers, David Ng, Jessa Chse, and Ty Sloane.

The Wide Open | Media Art Program | Wed Jun 26 | 7pm | with Vancouver Indigenous Media Arts Festival Lacie Kanerahtahsôhon Burning curates in the 3rd edition of QAF's collaboration with VIMAF, exploring shared and emerging histories to highlight discourses within Queered experiences and its intersections. Including Fallon Simard, Alec Butler, and more.

At SUM Gallery during QAF

69 Positions: Circa Omnibus | May 14- Aug 17 | Visual Art Exhibition at SUM #425-268 Keefer St.

The west coast stop of Queer Media Database Canada-Québec Project's touring exhibition, marking the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Omnibus which decriminalized sodomy. In partnership with VIVO and the Vancouver Queer Film Festival and located at SUM Gallery.

About the Queer Arts Festival (queerartsfestival.com):

The Queer Arts Festival (QAF) is an annual artist-run professional multi-disciplinary arts festival at the Roundhouse in Vancouver, BC. Recognized as one of the top 5 festivals of its kind worldwide, QAF produces, presents and exhibits with a curatorial vision favouring challenging, thought-provoking work that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue. Each year, the festival theme ties together a curated visual art exhibition, performing arts series, workshops, artist talks, panels, and media art screenings. QAF's programming has garnered wide acclaim as "concise, brilliant and moving" (*Georgia Straight*), "easily one of the best exhibitions of the year in Vancouver" (*Vancouver Sun*), "some of the most adventurous of any local arts festival" (*Vancouver Province*) and "on the forefront of aesthetic and cultural dialogue today" (*Xtra*)

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