

PRIDE IN ART SOCIETY PRESENTS QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL 2020 – WICKED



QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

July 16 – 26 <sup>2020</sup>

QAFOne.ca



[queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com)

**MEDIA RELATIONS:**

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[Facebook.com/qafvancouver](https://Facebook.com/qafvancouver)



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## QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL 2020 THEME:

QAF's WICKED revels in the quintessentially queer traditions of scandal and excess with 11 days of visual art, performance, theatre, music, dance and literary events. Highlights include **Jonny Sopotiuk's** visual arts curation; choreographer Noam Gagnon's raucously vulnerable Swan Song, **This Crazy Show**; Indigenous Burlesque with Virago Nation's **Too Spirited**; and the latest offering from non-binary drag collective **The Darlings**.

There's no place like home for the Wicked Witch of the West, green by devilment and through her magical aberrance. QAF 2020 forsakes the yellow brick road that leads only to a man behind a curtain colonizing our desires. Instead, QAF revels in the quintessentially queer traditions of scandal and excess with visual art, performance, theatre, music, dance and literary events!

QAF's *Wicked* reimagines identity politics, exposing the implications of homonormativity as erasure. This past decade has seen the mainstreaming of gay; sexual difference wins approval so long as it is palatable, marketable, and doesn't stray too far from bourgeois notions of taste and morality. The commodification of queer experience is inextricably linked to the pathologization of the queer body, where medical and sociological interventions adjudicate which anatomies and passions are accepted as authentic.

*Wickedness is a myth invented by good people to account for the curious attractiveness of others.*

— Oscar Wilde

*Due to COVID-19 safety regulations, QAF has reimagined our usual in-person festival extravaganza into a (mostly) digitally decadent soirée!*

QAF events will be presented digitally this year allowing the opportunity for all to attend regardless of accessibility challenges presented by the traditional in-person attendance format

Tickets for QAF events are by donation, for RSVP through [Eventbrite](#).

# STATEMENT FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – SD Holman:

QAF's Wicked reimagines identity politics, exposing the implications of homonormativity as erasure. This past decade has seen the mainstreaming of gay; sexual difference wins approval so long as it is palatable, marketable, and doesn't stray too far from bourgeois notions of taste and morality. The commodification of queer experience is inextricably linked to the pathologization of the queer body, where medical and sociological interventions adjudicate which anatomies and passions are accepted as authentic.

There's no place like home for the Wicked Witch of the West, green by devilment and through her magical aberrance. QAF 2020 forsakes the yellow brick road that leads only to a man behind a curtain gentrifying our desires. Instead, QAF revels in the quintessentially queer traditions of scandal and excess.

QAF 2020 opens amidst a long-overdue flowering of worldwide protests against decades of racist police violence—violence primarily targeting Black and Indigenous people, often those with disabilities. If recent discourse around our liberation has focused on inclusivity, it bears asking, what kind of society are we asking to be included in? Which of us are being granted inclusion, and at what price? And for those among us who have graduated from rejection to tolerance to mainstream acceptance, has that shifted allegiances?

These questions gain added urgency as the 2020 pandemic upends our experiences of public and private spaces. "The virus" suddenly means a very different virus than the one that has dominated queer consciousness for decades. The contrast between public health response to HIV and coronavirus could not have been starker. With calls to Stay the Fuck Home, those who could comply found themselves ushered into the strange disembodiment of living online, while those who couldn't risk contagion and increased violence. Anti-Asian racism went viral. Meanwhile, the opioid epidemic raged on, killing more people in BC in May than COVID-19 had all year.

This is the context in which we had to completely reimagine QAF to make it happen at all. Social distancing measures changed our capacity to be queer together almost overnight. Many arts venues closed altogether, putting scores of artists out of work, while others moved online, curating mediated and disembodied experiences. But who are we as queers, without our bodies?

So QAF 2020: Wicked comes to you through the internet, mail and public art platforms. While some programs had to be postponed to next year, QAF remains steadfast in our commitment to artists. Performances and talks run 11 days from our digital hub. This Art-Zine that reimagines the festival in a printed format. Keep your eyes out for our Two-Spirit Public Art Project, a series of posters in transit shelters across Vancouver, created by interdisciplinary artist Kinnie Starr, that also promotes the festival dates.

Keep Loving. Keep fighting.  
SD Holman, Artistic Director



[Facebook.com/qafvancouver](https://Facebook.com/qafvancouver)



[Twitter.com/qafvancouver](https://Twitter.com/qafvancouver)



[Instagram.com/queerarts](https://Instagram.com/queerarts)

# STATEMENT FROM OUR PRIDE IN ART SOCIETY PRESIDENT – Thierry Gudel

Welcome to WICKED, the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Queer Arts Festival, coming to you wherever you are – from a safe-ish distance.

The impact of this virus on Queer and Trans communities is potent. From disproportionately affecting queers living in the intersections of oppression, to adding new risk to frontline activism from QTBIPOC and their allies, (witnessed these last few weeks via Black Lives Matter), to triggering trauma of ongoing biological warfare, it could be easy to say this virus is homophobic.

While viruses alone cannot be homophobic, the world continues to be. Safety is a luxury afforded to few: to those with homes, accessible health care, as well as those who don't need to protest to have their lives valued by the state. As a result, our communities have become resilient. Queer Arts Festival is resilient, thanks to the passion and dedication of artists, volunteers, audiences, and staff. We won't let a homophobic world have the satisfaction of silencing queer voices due to COVID-19.

A huge thank you to our staff, who are hard at work from home to make WICKED happen during a pandemic! Our incredible returning staff have pivoted with poise: SD Holman as Artistic Director, Lalia Fraser as Interim General Manager, Mark Carter as Production Manager, Ben Siegl as Programs Coordinator, Mirim Jang as Office Administrator, and Maxim Greer as Arts Administrative Assistant. We also welcome new staff, some of whom onboarded from home, jumping into the deep end just weeks ago: Shane Sable as Two-Spirit Programs Coordinator / Art Auntie, Luca Cara Seccafien as Director of Development, Tanya Commisso as Communications Coordinator, Ed Walwail as Digital Media Coordinator, Johnny Trinh as Volunteer Resource Coordinator, and Kimberly Ho as Audience Services Coordinator, as well as our many wonderful volunteers! Finally, a shout out to new board members: Orene Askew, Scott Watson, Issaku Inami, Dipankar Sen, and Rodney Sharman. Thank you to our Board of Directors and our many generous sponsors and donors.

To our artists: your work is a gift during these times. Art keeps us connected in the age of social distancing. We are so grateful to every artist at this year's festival who was able to adapt and revise their work for this new audience experience.

With everything going on, we thank you now more than ever for joining us.

In solidarity and liberation,

Thierry Gudel, President, Pride in Art Society

# PRIDE IN ART SOCIETY

The Pride in Art Society (PiA) produces, presents and exhibits with a curatorial vision favouring work that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue, culminating in the annual Queer Arts Festival (QAF). PiA brings diverse communities together to support artistic risk-taking, incite creative collaboration and experimentation in celebration of the rich heritage of queer artists and art.

## ABOUT THE QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

**The Queer Arts Festival (QAF)** is an annual artist-run professional multidisciplinary arts festival held in Vancouver, BC.

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.

*The Queer Arts Festival takes place on the traditional, unceded territory of the Coast Salish people, in particular the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) nations. We recognize their sovereignty, as there are no treaties on these lands, and we are dedicated to building right relations based on respect and consent.*

## QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL REVIEWS

QAF's programming has garnered wide acclaim both locally and abroad:

“concise, brilliant and moving” (*Georgia Straight*)

easily one of the best exhibitions of the year in Vancouver” (*Vancouver Sun*)

some of the most adventurous programming of any local arts festival” (*The Province*)

“Viewed as one of the top five queer arts and cultural festivals in the world” – (*Melbourne Herald Sun*)

voted Vancouver's Best LGBTQ Event in the 24th Annual Georgia Straight Best of Vancouver Readers Poll (2019)



Facebook.com/qafvancouver



Twitter.com/qafvancouver



Instagram.com/queerarts

## EVENT LISTINGS AT A GLANCE

### **Art Party!** | Cinq-à-Sept Festival Opening | Jul 16, 5 - 7 pm |

QAF's opening: Luxuriate in a cinq-à-sept afternoon delight! Come together for our Visual Art tour with curator Jonny Sopotiuk, guest artists, and a gallery of intimate friends old and new. Wonderfully Wicked...

### **Wicked: Visual Arts Exhibition** | Jul 16 – 26

QAF's Signature Curated Visual Art Exhibition

Guest curator Jonny Sopotiuk brings together an international array of artists reflecting on the festival theme.

### **Too Spirited** | Jul 17, 7pm | Indigenous Burlesque

Embrace your too-muchness with bombastic burlesque brought to you by the badass babes of Virago Nation.

### **Rupture Probe: Queer Inquiries & Remediations** | Jul 18, 7 pm |

Media Art Screening

Recent queer shorts rupture normative notions of gender, pleasure, and activism, curated in partnership with VIVO Media Arts Centre.

### **Return to Sodom North** | Jul 19, 7 pm | VIVO Media Art Screening

90s Queer Video Out & Uncensored. Vancouver queer media artists raged back against the malignment and suppression of queer lived realities and representations of desire.

### **A Night of Storytelling** | Jul 22, 7 pm | Literary Readings |

Curated by Danny Ramadan with readings presented by local, national, and international writers.

### **Underground Absolute Fiction** | Jul 23, 7 pm | Speculative Theatre |

An immersive play-meets-punk-concert, inspired by the Polish "home theatre." Written by Anais West and co-produced by Queer Arts Festival and The Frank Theatre.

### **The Darlings, Uncensored** | Jul 24, 7pm | Drag Performance |

Experience the unexpected with genre-bending non-binary avant-drag collective, the Darlings: Continental Breakfast, PM, Rose Butch and Maiden China.

### **A Conversation on Queer Mentorship** | Jul 25, 12 pm | Lunch Discourse |

Hiromi Goto and Erica Isomura explore the nuances of intergenerational mentorship as queer POC writers.

### **This Crazy Show** | Jul 25, 7 pm | Jul 26, 2 pm | Dance Performance |

In his Swan Song, contemporary dance legend Noam Gagnon sashays the fine line between pain and pleasure in a fetishization of something glamorous and beautifully twisted: a monster beautified.

### **Glitter is Forever: Pajama Party** | Jul 26, 4 pm | Closing Binge

Get your dress jammies on, grab a drink and binge-watch the entire Queer Arts Festival with us (take it all in!!). Expect surprises and special prizes.

# SD HOLMAN | Artistic Director

## Admin Bio



**Shaira 'SD' Holman** is a queer pagan Jewish photo-based artist whose work has toured internationally. 1991 ECUAD graduate, SD Holman was picked up by the Vancouver Association for Non-commercial (the NON) right out of art school. Holman exhibited with Pride in Art since its inception in 1998, and served on the board 2006-8, SD was asked to be Artistic Director in 2008, spearheading incorporation as a non-profit and a registered charity. Through Holman's leadership as AD, Pride in Art Society founded the Queer Arts Festival, recognized as one of the top 5 of its kind internationally, and opened SUM, the only queer-mandated art gallery in Canada (and one of only a handful worldwide) presenting multidisciplinary

queer artists. Holman is the recipient of the 2014 YWCA Women of Distinction Award in Arts and Culture, one of Canada's most prestigious awards. SD Holman's other experience running art spaces includes founding and operating Studio Q, the notorious Art Salon in Vancouver's DTES Chinatown, profiled in *Secrets of the City* (1st edition).

## Art bio

As a self defined non-commercial artist SD Holman is a participant observer, employing subjective conceptual documentary practice and has exhibited internationally at venues including Wellesley College, the Advocate Gallery (Los Angeles), the Soady-Campbell Gallery (New York), the San Francisco Public Library, The Helen Pitt International Gallery, Charles H. Scott, Exposure, Gallery Gachet, the Roundhouse, Vancouver East Cultural Centre, Artropolis, and Fotobase Galleries (Vancouver).

Holman's project BUTCH: Not like the other girls, published by Shooting Gallery Publications and distributed by Caitlin Press Dagger Editions, toured North America and is going into its' second edition. Other work appears in books such as: *Culture and Education*, by Wadham, Pudsey & Boyd, (Pearson Education Australia: 2007; 2nd ed. 2009); *Femme/Butch: New Considerations of the Way We Want to Go*, by Gibson & Meem (Routledge: 2002); *Fusion* (Link publications: 2002); and *The Mammoth Book of Erotic Photography*, by Jakubowski & Jaye Lewis (Robinson Publishing: 2001).

**LITTLE KNOWN FACT:** Shaira 'SD' Holman played the first recurring lesbian role on Canadian network television, Beth on Global TV's *Madison*, for three seasons, three years before Ellen DeGeneres came out. This role was the reason *Madison* was refused syndication in the US.



# STAFF

Artistic & Executive Director	SD Holman
Interim General Manager	Lalia Fraser
Director of Development	Luca Seccafien
Programs & Curatorial Coordinator	Benjamin Siegl
2Spirit Programming Coordinator / Art Auntie	Shane Sable
Arts Administrative Assistant	Maxim Greer
Office Administrator	Mirim Jang
Glitter Manager	Rachel Iwaasa
Social Media Promotion	Graeme Boyd
Bookkeeper	Miyr Olney
Bookkeeper	Afuwa Granger
Production Manager	Mark Carter
Graphic Designer	Odette Hidalgo
Publicist – megamouthmedia consulting	Barb Snelgrove
Digital Media Coordinator	Ed Walwail
Communication Coordinator	Tanya Commisso
Volunteer Resource Coordinator	Johnny Trinh
Audience Services Coordinator	Kimberly Ho
Intern	Israt Taslim

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Thierry Gudel
Vice-President	Bruce Wright
Secretary	Valerie Walker
Treasurer	Bobbi Kozinuk
Director	Ladan Sahraei
Director	Rodney Sharman
Director	Orene Askew
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QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

2020

WICKED

July 16-26



queerartsfestival.com

## The 2020 Vancouver Queer Arts Festival

### *Something WICKED this way comes...*

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, BC / May 12th, 2020 | The **12<sup>th</sup> annual Queer Arts Festival (QAF)**, Vancouver's artist-run, professional, multi-disciplinary roster of queer arts, culture and history, takes place July 16 - 26, 2020.

Art keeps us connected during the age of social distancing. **The QAF and SUM Gallery remain steadfast in our commitment to artists amid the COVID-19 pandemic, with staff hard at work (from home) to maintain the integrity of our programming.** We've reimaged the festival to make sure you get your Queer Art fix on from a distance. Please visit [queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com) to find out how you can experience all of our events remotely!

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QAF's *Wicked* runs **11 days** from our digital hub, coming soon. Highlights include **Jonny Sopotiuk's** visual arts curation; choreographer Noam Gagnon's raucously vulnerable *Swan Song*, **This Crazy Show**; Indigenous Burlesque with Virago Nation's **Too Spirited**; and the latest offering from non-binary drag collective **The Darlings**.

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for the curious attractiveness of others.*

— Oscar Wilde

#### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- **Art Party! | Cinq-à-Sept Festival Opening | Thu Jul 16, 5 - 7PM PST**  
QAF's opening: Luxuriate in a cinq-à-sept afternoon delight! Come together for our Visual Art tour with curator Jonny Sopotiuk, guest artists, and a gallery of intimate friends old and new. Wonderfully Wicked...
- **Wicked: Curated Visual Arts Exhibition | Thu Jul 16 - Sun Jul 26 | Visual Art**
- **Pride in Art Community Exhibition | Thu Jul 16 - Sun Jul 26 | Visual Art**
- **Too Spirited | Fri Jul 17, 7PM PST | Indigenous Burlesque**  
Embrace your too-muchness with bombastic burlesque brought to you by the badass babes of Virago Nation.



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[Instagram.com/queerarts](https://www.instagram.com/queerarts)

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Curated by Danny Ramadan, readings by local, national, and international writers.
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Experience the unexpected with genre-bending non-binary avant-drag collective, the Darlings: Continental Breakfast, PM, Rose Butch and Maiden China.
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Get your dress jammies on, grab a drink and binge-watch the entire Queer Arts Festival with us (take it all in!!). Expect surprises and special prizes.

## About the Queer Arts Festival ([queerartsfestival.com](http://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 3 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*), and “on the forefront of aesthetic and cultural dialogue today” (*Xtra*). QAF was voted the “Best LGBTQ Event” in the 24th Annual Georgia Straight Best of Vancouver Readers Poll (2019).

The Pride in Art Society’s (PiA) projects include Queer Arts Festival (QAF) and SUM Gallery, Canada’s only transdisciplinary queer mandated gallery.

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For more information and interview requests, please contact:

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QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

2020

queerartsfestival.com

WICKED July 16-26



## The 2020 Vancouver Queer Arts Festival Art Party!

*Wonderfully Wicked, Digitally (mostly) Decadent...*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, BC / June 25, 2020 | The 12th annual Queer Arts Festival (QAF) **Wicked** begins July 16th with *artparty!* our annual festival opening and tour celebrating QAF and showcasing our curated visual arts exhibit that runs throughout the festival (July 16th – July 26th).

#### Art Party! | Cinq-à-Sept Festival Opening | Thu Jul 16, 5 - 7PM PST

QAF's opening: Luxuriate in a cinq-à-sept *afternoon delight* to come together with our 2020 visual art curator Jonny Sopotiuk for a Wicked Visual Art tour with guest artists, and a gallery of intimate friends old and new. This Event is ASL Interpreted.

- **Artist Panel Discussion** chaired by Jonny Sopotiuk with participating artists Tom Hsu, Internationally renown artist/activist Avram Finkelstein, Elektra KB, and guests.
- **Following our official welcome**, guest visual art curator Jonny Sopotiuk gives a virtual tour of the Curated Visual Art Exhibition joined by guest artists.

The visual arts components of this year's festival, *Wicked* includes the **Curated Visual Arts Exhibition and Pride in Art Community Exhibition** running Thursday July 16th through Sunday, July 26th.

*Wicked brings together a multigenerational group of artists living and producing work across Canada and the United States as they explore the body, community, and architecture of homonormativity. In 2020 we're learning to live through a new form of containment during a global health pandemic. Our long fight for recognition and the foundations of community infrastructures that we created to sustain us are being fundamentally questioned. With new connections and intimacy now mediated by requirements to shelter in place, artists critically examine our communities' oppression and expose implications of complicity in the homonormative systems created to contain us.* – *Wicked 2020 Curator Jonny Sopotiuk.*

QAF's *Wicked* revels in the quintessentially queer traditions of scandal and excess with visual art, performance, theatre, music, dance and literary events and runs 11 days (July 16th – 26th 2020) at our digital venue, coming soon. Highlights include **Jonny Sopotiuk's** visual arts curation; choreographer **Noam Gagnon's** raucously vulnerable *Swan Song*; **This Crazy Show**; Indigenous Burlesque with Virago Nation's **Too Spirited**; and the latest offering from non-binary drag collective **The Darlings**.

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## Short Artist Bios

*Please note that these represent biography materials provided by the artists at time of print. Should you require any materials not found here, please reach out for assistance.*

**Noam Gagnon** (This Crazy Show) Noam Gagnon is an acclaimed choreographer and dance artist. Over the course of his career he has helped lead Canadian dance to the forefront of the international stage. As co-artistic director and choreographer for The Holy Body Tattoo, Noam created work to worldwide critical and audience acclaim. *our brief eternity* toured internationally, including performances at the Sydney Opera House and the Barbican in London, winning the Dora Mavor Moore award for Best Ensemble Performance in dance. *Circa*, winner of the inaugural Alcan Performing Arts Award, was performed over one hundred times all around the world. *monumental*, the company's largest and most ambitious piece, premiered in Ottawa in 2005, touring across Canada and the USA. In 2016 *monumental* was remounted with a score performed live by post-rock collective Godspeed You, Black Emperor! Heralded as "an almighty revelation" by The Guardian UK and "surely one of the defining dance works of the 21st century" by the Adelaide Advertiser South Australia, the show toured to critical acclaim in Vancouver (PuSh Festival), Adelaide (Adelaide Festival), Montreal (Place Des Arts), Quebec City (Grand Theatre de Quebec), Toronto (Luminato Festival), Edinburgh (Edinburgh Festival), and New York (BAM).

Noam founded Vision Impure as a satellite company of The Holy Body Tattoo in 2006. As Vision Impure's artistic director, he continues to reshape the dance landscape with his achingly intimate and powerful works. Noam has created, choreographed and performed full-length works for Vision Impure including *The Vision Impure* (winner of The Isadora Award for Excellence in Performance), *Thank You, You're Not Welcome* and *This Crazy Show*. Noam Gagnon is an Associate Dance Artist of Canada's National Arts Centre. | <https://www.visionimpure.org/company>

**Chris Reed, Desi Rekrut, Rae Takei and Kendell Yan (The Darlings)** **The Darlings—Continental Breakfast, PM, Rose Butch and Maiden China** are a multidisciplinary, non-binary drag performance collective that have been taking the Vancouver scene by storm for the last two years and is currently titillating social-distancing audiences through aptly titled online performances *Quarantine I & II*. Their work challenges the boundaries of conventional drag, and explores genderqueer, non-binary, and trans experience through the use of movement, poetry, performance art, theatre, and immersive/interactive installation. The Darlings are bringing a with a new performance created around the festival theme of 'wickedness.' | Instagram: @queenmaidenchina | @rose.butch | @contibreakfast | @pmforgoodtime

**Ahmad Danny Ramadan** (A Night of Storytelling) is an award-winning Syrian

Canadian author, public speaker and LGBTQ-Refugee activist. His debut novel, *The Clothesline Swing*, has won multiple awards and his latest work is a children's book, *Salma the Syrian Chef* is out now. <https://dannynamadan.com>

**Amber Dawn** (*A Night of Storytelling*) is a writer and creative facilitator living on unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations (Vancouver, Canada). She is the author of five books and the editor of three anthologies and has been awarded numerous accolades including The Lambda Literary Award for Debut Lesbian Fiction, Writers' Trust of Canada Dayne Ogilvie Prize and the Vancouver Book Award. All of her books are published with Arsenal Pulp Press. She currently teaches creative writing Douglas College, as well as guest mentors at several drop-in, community-driven spaces in the Downtown East Side, an area impacted by poverty-related issues and beloved for its tenacity and creativity. | <https://www.amberdawnwrites.com>

**jaye simpson** (*A Night of Storytelling*) jaye simpson is an Oji-Cree Saulteaux indigiqueer writer with roots in Sapotaweyak Cree Nation. they often write about being queer in the Child Welfare system, as well as being queer and Indigenous. their work has been featured in *Poetry Is Dead*, *This Magazine*, *PRISM international*, *SAD Mag*, *GUTS Magazine* and *Room*. simpson resides on the unceded and ancestral territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), səliłwəta'ʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh), and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) First Nations peoples, currently and colonially known as Vancouver, BC. | Instagram: @jaye\_simpson

**Jillian Christmas** (*A Night of Storytelling*) Jillian Christmas is an afro-caribbean writer who lives on the unceded territories of the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam people, where she served for six years as Artistic Director of Versæs Festival of Words. An educator, organizer, and advocate in the arts community, utilizing an anti-oppressive lens, Jillian has performed and facilitated workshops across the continent. | Instagram: @msxms

**Erin Kirsh** (*A Night of Storytelling*) Erin Kirsh is a writer, performer, funnyman from Toronto. A Pushcart Prize nominee, her writing has appeared in dozens of literary journals internationally. Kirsh has worked on performing arts festivals around the lower mainland since 2015 and has served as an arts educator for a decade. She spends her spare time complaining about cinnamon raisin bagels. | [www.erinkirsh.com](http://www.erinkirsh.com)

**Billy-Ray Belcourt** (*A Night of Storytelling*) Billy-Ray Belcourt is from the Driftpile Cree Nation, and lives in Vancouver. He is an Assistant Professor in the Creative Writing Program at UBC. His books are *THIS WOUND IS A WORLD*, *NDN COPING MECHANISMS*, and *A HISTORY OF MY BRIEF BODY*. | [billy-raybelcourt.com](http://billy-raybelcourt.com)

**Hazel Meyer** (*Rupture Probe With VIVO*) Hazel Meyer's work with installation,



performance, and text investigates the relationships between sport, sexuality, feminism, and material culture. Hazel often collaborates with her partner Cait McKinney. These collaborations explore their shared attachments to queer histories through research, writing, and archival interventions. | [www.hazelmeyer.com](http://www.hazelmeyer.com)

**Cait McKinney** (Rupture Probe With VIVO) Cait McKinney is a media historian and assistant professor in the School of Communication at SFU. Cait often collaborates with their partner Hazel Meyer. Cait and Hazel's collaborations explore their shared attachments to queer histories through research, writing, and archival interventions. | [caitmckinney.com](http://caitmckinney.com)

**Thirza Jean Cuthand** (Rupture Probe With VIVO) Thirza was born and raised in Saskatchewan and has been making short experimental narrative videos and films about sexuality, madness, Queer identity and love, and Indigeneity since 1995. , which have screened in festivals internationally, including the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City, Mix Brasil Festival of Sexual Diversity in Sao Paolo, ImagineNATIVE in Toronto, Frameline in San Francisco, Outfest in Los Angeles, and Oberhausen International Short Film Festival. Her work has also exhibited at galleries including the Mendel in Saskatoon, The National Gallery in Ottawa, and The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. She has also written three feature screenplays and in 2017 she won the Hnatyshyn Foundation's REVEAL Indigenous Art Award. She is a Whitney Biennial 2019 artist. Thirza is of Plains Cree and Scots descent, a member of Little Pine First Nation, and currently resides in Toronto, Canada. | [thirzacuthand.com](http://thirzacuthand.com)

**Coral Short** (Rupture Probe With VIVO) Coral Short is a queer Canadian performance artist, media artist, and curator. They are based out of Montreal and Berlin. "Coral was born on a beautiful island off the west coast of Canada and was raised by a lively river in the countryside where her eccentric family lived off the land. She spends a fair amount of time dispersing her magic around the globe – in the air, on railroad tracks and highways all the while curating and doing artist residencies. Coral has lived and created art in Asia, North America, and Europe for the last 15 years. She has many beloved people, communities, and locations that she calls home. Short and her countless projects move at the speed of light; ironically she is the most still when she travels." | [coralshort.com](http://coralshort.com)

**Chase Joynt** (Rupture Probe With VIVO) Chase Joynt is an internationally award-

winning filmmaker and writer. He is currently Assistant Professor of Gender Studies at the University of Victoria. His films *Genderize* and *Between You and Me* are distributed online by the CBC. His latest short film, *Framing Agnes*, premiered at the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival, won the Audience Award at Outfest in Los Angeles, and is being developed into a feature film with support from Telefilm Canada's Talent to Watch program. Concurrently, Chase is in production on a feature-length hybrid documentary about jazz musician Billy Tipton, co-directed with Aisling Chin-Yee. Joynt's first book *You Only Live Twice* (co-authored with Mike Hoolboom) was a 2017 Lambda Literary Award Finalist and named one of the best books of the year by The Globe and Mail and CBC. His second book, *Conceptualizing Agnes* (co-authored with Kristen Schilt), is under contract with Duke University Press. | [chasejoynt.com](http://chasejoynt.com)

**Dorian Wood** (Rupture Probe With VIVO) Los Angeles-based artist DORIAN WOOD is "armed with a vocal charisma that would befit a preacher and an experimental streak that would make avant-gardists swoon" (WNYC Culture). Through their corpulent body and distinctive voice, Dorian challenges the separation of artist and spectator, using subject matter informed by their own perspective as a non-binary person of color. | [dorianwood.com](http://dorianwood.com)

**Shane Sable** (Too Spirited) "Mover, Shaker, Mischief Maker; the Furiously Flirtatious Force of Nature" 2Spirit Gitxsan artist and activist Shane Sable has slayed stages all over Vancouver in front of and behind the scenes since 2011. Shane has an abiding hunger for audience engagement and delights in the tension created by breaking the 4th wall of burlesque. Shane is the convening member of Virago Nation — Turtle Island's first all-indigenous burlesque collective and Festival Administrator for the Vancouver International Burlesque Festival. | [viragonation.ca](http://viragonation.ca)

**Rainbow Glitz** (Too Spirited) RainbowGlitz is one of Virago's Nations founding members and Vancouver's Rainbow Slut spreading her love medicine in a mix of classic, nerdlesque, exotic dance and pussy cat doll hip hop movements. This Haida, Squamish, Musqueam and black artist will leave you wanting to throw your gold at the end of her rainbow. | [viragonation.ca](http://viragonation.ca)

**Scarlet Delirium** (Too Spirited) Vancouver BC's Raven Goddess! The Kwakiutl Indigi-Babe! Scarlet Delirium has been enjoying the slow burn of Burlesque and Cabaret since 2010 and is a founding member of Virago Nation. During the daylight hours doubles as Costume Designer for herself and her Burlesque family. | [viragonation.ca](http://viragonation.ca)



**Sparkle Plenty** (Too Spirited) Sparkle Plenty is Vancouver's glamedian, weirdlesquer, and word-maker-upper who has been delivering beautifully bizarre burlesque acts for over 10 years! This fiery goddess is Cree and Metis with mixed heritage and is a proud sister of the first ever all Indigenous burlesque group, Virago Nation. You can find her teasing and emceeing with the Screaming Chicken Theatrical Society as well as on stages all over Vancouver, Toronto, Las Vegas and more. | [viragonation.ca](http://viragonation.ca)

**Monday Blues** (Too Spirited) Monday is an Afro-Indigenous burlesque artist and has been performing burlesque professionally since 2011. Monday has traveled the globe as a solo female adventurer and loves to live outside her comfort zone. Her most recent endeavours include being an avid entrepreneur, both in Sex Work and coaching capacities, as well as pursuing her passion on the burlesque stages all over Canada and the US. Monday strives to exist without limits and wants to help others feel just as empowered. | [viragonation.ca](http://viragonation.ca)

**Jonny Sopotiuik** (Guest Visual Art Curator) is a visual artist, curator and community organizer living and working on the Unceded Indigenous territories belonging to the Musqueam, Skxwú7mesh-ulh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and Tsleil-Watututh peoples in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. His interdisciplinary practice explores compulsion and control through the lenses of production, labour, and work. Jonny is the President of the Arts and Cultural Workers Union (ACWU), IATSE Local B778, Vice-President of CARFAC BC and a founding member of the Vancouver Artists Labour Union Cooperative or VALU CO-OP. | [jonnysopotiuk.ca](http://jonnysopotiuk.ca)

**Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan** (Wicked: Curated Visual Arts Exhibition) Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan have collaboratively created queer, feminist performance and video art for over 30 years. They have exhibited in venues as far-ranging as women's centres in Sri Lanka, the Sydney Gay/Lesbian Mardi Gras in Australia and the Museum of Modern Art in New York and have curated internationally as well. However, to most, they are known simply as the Lesbian Rangers. | [shawnadempseyandlorrimillan.net](http://shawnadempseyandlorrimillan.net)

**KUNST** (Wicked: Curated Visual Arts Exhibition) Based in Miami, Florida KUNST is an interdisciplinary artist working to contextualize and visualize the aberrant queer phenomenology inherent to our bodies, our experiences and our fantasies. Having studied various fields of interest from philosophy to classical music, since 2012 they have blended their years of study with sculpture, video art, performance, soundscape design and illustration to produce a surrealist fantasy in which the Queer Other is opened up and explored interpersonally. | [www.facebook.com/jamontalvo7015](https://www.facebook.com/jamontalvo7015)

**Avram Finkelstein** (Wicked: Visual Arts Exhibition) Avram Finkelstein is a founding member of the Silence=Death and Gran Fury collectives. His work is in the permanent collections of MoMA, The Whitney, The New Museum and The Brooklyn Museum. He is featured in the artist oral history at the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art, and his book, "After Silence: A History of AIDS Through its Images" was nominated for a Lambda Literary Award in Nonfiction, and an ICP Infinity Award in Critical Writing. | <http://avramfinkelstein.com>

**Christopher LaCroix** (Wicked: Visual Arts Exhibition) Christopher Lacroix (Canadian, b. 1986) holds a BFA from Ryerson University, ON (2012) and an MFA from the University of British Columbia, BC (2018). His work has been exhibited at The Polygon Gallery (Vancouver), window (Winnipeg), Georgia Scherman Projects (Toronto), and Forest City Gallery (London). Lacroix was the 2018 recipient of the Philip B. Lind Emerging Artist Prize. He currently lives and works in Vancouver, BC. | [www.christopherlacroix.com](http://www.christopherlacroix.com)

**SD Holman** (Wicked: Visual Arts Exhibition) SD Holman has exhibited internationally at venues including Wellesley College, the Advocate Gallery (Los Angeles), the Soady-Campbell Gallery (New York), the San Francisco Public Library, The Helen Pitt International Gallery, Charles H. Scott, Exposure, Gallery Gachet, the Roundhouse, Vancouver East Cultural Centre, Artropolis, and Fotobase Galleries (Vancouver). Holman's project BUTCH: Not like the other girls, toured North America and is going into its' second edition. Other work appears in books such as: Culture and Education, by Wadham, Pudsey & Boyd; Femme/Butch: New Considerations of the Way We Want to Go; Fusion; and The Mammoth Book of Erotic Photography, by Jakubowski & Jaye Lewis. | [sdholman.com](http://sdholman.com)

**Xandra Ibarra** (Wicked: Visual Arts Exhibition) Xandra Ibarra is Oakland-based performance artist from the US/Mexico border of El Paso/Juarez who sometimes works under the alias of La Chica Boom. Ibarra uses performance, video, and sculpture to address abjection and joy and the borders between proper and improper racial, gender, and queer subject. Ibarra's work has been featured at Ex Teresa Arte Actual (Mexico), El Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (Colombia), The Broad Museum (LA) and The Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art (NYC) to name a few. | [www.xandraibarra.com](http://www.xandraibarra.com)

**David Ng** (Wicked: Visual Arts Exhibition) David is a queer, feminist, media artist, and co-founder of Love Intersections. His current artistic practices grapple with queer, racialized, and diasporic identity, and how intersectional identities can be expressed through media arts. His interests include imagining new possibilities of how queer racialized artists can use their practice to transform communities. | [www.loveintersections.com](http://www.loveintersections.com)



**Tom Hsu** (Wicked: Visual Arts Exhibition) Tom Hsu is a studio-based visual artist whose works seeks to investigate the curious condition of spaces, and their correlation to the bodies that attend them, as communicated through the photography of the everyday mundane. He comes from a base in analog photography, and this stability allows him to extend into made, found, and choreographic sculpture, all of which deal with the everyday mundane. He currently lives and works in Vancouver and holds a BFA in Photography from Emily Carr University of Art + Design. He undertook a residency at Burrard Arts Foundation from April to June 2018. He has exhibited at Centre A, Unit/Pitt, Index Gallery, and Yactac Gallery in Vancouver. | [www.tomhsu.com](http://www.tomhsu.com)

**Kama La Mackerel** (Wicked: Visual Arts Exhibit) Kama La Mackerel is multi-disciplinary artist, educator, writer, cultural mediator and literary translator who hails from Mauritius and now lives in Montréal. Their work is grounded in the exploration of justice, love, healing, decoloniality, and self- and collective empowerment. They work within and across poetry, photography, performance, installation and textile arts. | [lamackerel.net](http://lamackerel.net)

**Elektra KB** (Wicked: Visual Arts Exhibit) Elektra KB is a Latinx immigrant artist, living and working in Brooklyn, NY. They graduated with an MFA from Hunter College in 2016 and received a DAAD award, pursued at UDK—Berlin with artist Hito Steyerl. Their work engages corporeal sickness and disability, with utopian possibilities and alternative universes. KB investigates gender, migration, transculturality, and abuse of power. Their work entangles mutual aid, political action, and communication, often with a documentarian-sci-fi-like hybrid approach, exploring utopia and dystopia. Across: photography, textiles, video, installation and performance. KB's work has been written about in: Art Forum, Artnews and The New York Times. Recent shows include: 'Nobody Promised You Tomorrow' at the Brooklyn Museum. | [elektrakb.com](http://elektrakb.com)

**Joseph Liatela** (Wicked: Visual Arts Exhibition) Joseph Liatela is a multidisciplinary artist based in New York City. Through a transgender lens, his work explores the cultural and medico-legal notions of what is considered a "correct" bodily formation. He has exhibited at Denniston Hill, LACE, Field Projects, Monmouth Museum, BRIC, and PS122 Gallery, among others. Liatela's work has been featured in The Leslie Lohman Journal, SF MoMA's Open Space, Artsy, among others. They have received fellowships from the Zellerbach Foundation, Vermont Studio Center, Wassaia Project, Denniston Hill, California College of the Arts, Banff Centre, and Columbia University. | [www.josephliatela.com](http://www.josephliatela.com)



## QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

### QAF Social

**Website:** [queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com)

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Our official festival hashtags are #QAF2020 & #qafwicked

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