



dispersed

it's not easy being green

JULY 24 – AUG 13



queerartsfestival.com

2021 Queer Arts Festival (QAF) Dispersed: *it's not easy being green*—QAF descends upon Mountain View Cemetery for not one, but TWO unique performance events!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver BC, Jul 27, 2021 | For the first time since its inception in 2008, QAF has partnered with **Mountain View Cemetery** — **City of Vancouver** (5455 Fraser St, Vancouver, BC) to present two show-stopping events *live* on cemetery grounds!

In the spirit of this numinous venue and as we emerge from the pandemic pause, QAF Artistic Director SD Holman has programmed a pairing of cross-cultural, transdisciplinary performances that speak to ancestors, mortality, ritual and reawakening.

On Sat Aug 7, *Ceremony for Rebel Spirits* honours the spirits of our ancestors with kick-ass taiko drumming, dance, sensu (fan) cheerleading, audience participation and a truly punk rock ending. Nikkei trio Onibano Taiko team up with Filipino-Canadian choreographer and dance artist Alvin Erasga Tolentino in a site-specific performance, queering the Japanese Obon Festival for the dead a festival that traditionally culminates with bonfires.

On Sun Aug 8, curators SD Holman and Margo Kane transform Annea Lockwood's *Piano Burning* into a vehicle for reclamation, renewal and reconciliation. Two-Spirit elder Sempúlyan describes fire's banned ceremonial role to communicate with the ancestors, Ralph Escamillan dances the piano into place and Squamish Nation councillor Orene Askew lights the instrument ablaze as Rachel Kiyo Iwaasa performs a newly commissioned piano piece by Russell Wallace wearing a fireproof ball gown by Evan Ducharme, until the flames force her to step away. Co-presented with Full Circle: First Nations Performance, at-home live streaming is available.

These outdoor performances provide ample space to social distance, making them an ideal reintegration to live events. A few tickets remain to both events at www.queerartsfestival.com—but they're going fast!

FESTIVAL LINE UP:

it's not easy being green: Curated Visual Art Exhibition | Sat Jul 24 - Fri Aug 13 | Visual Art

Jeffrey McNeil-Seymour and SD Holman curate artists who transmute our collective broken heart of forced dislocations with departures and arrivals, using art as transformative praxis and practice towards social and spiritual metamorphoses.

Language as a Virus: Queer Isolation Stories | Sat Jul 24 - Fri Aug 13 | Sonic Installation

An interactive audio/radio/networked soundwork from Bobbi Kozinuk.

Studio (ob)Sessions | Online throughout the festival | Digital Discourse

QAF takes you on a few house calls as we interview artists in their creation spaces.

Curator with Guest Artists | Tues Jul 27, 5pm | Visual Art Tour

Come together for our Visual Art Tour with the curators Jeffrey McNeil-Seymour and SD Holman + guest artists.

Screen Greenery | Sat Jul 31, 9pm | Media Art Screening

Rooftop screening of very queer and rather green short films.

Queerotica | Mon Aug 2, 8pm | Literary Readings

Rooftop readings curated by Josie Boyce, slip into a little green something and enjoy readings by Vancouver writers.

Onibana Taiko and Alvin Erasga Tolentino | Sat Aug 7, 8pm | Dance and Music

When Japanese folk tradition meets punk, audience members are invited to commune with the ancestors via Obon dance, song, sensu (fan) cheerleading, fue, shamisen and kick-ass taiko.

Piano Burning | Sun Aug 8, 8pm | Performance Art

QAF and Full Circle: First Nations Performance present new commissions by Russell Wallace and Evan Ducharme reimagining Annea Lockwood's classic work, performed by Rachel Kiyo Iwaasa.

Glitter is Forever | Fri Aug 13, 7 - 10pm | Closing

Join us with DJ O Show for the festival closing on the Sun Wah rooftop and your last chance to see all the art @ QAF 2021.

SATELLITE ACADEMY: Workshops, Community, Discourse +

Kindred Spirits | Sat Jul 24 - Fri Aug 13 | Community Art Showcase

The digital culmination of the Kindred Spirits digital artist residency run by and for 2Spirit and Indigiqueer artists. Guided by Faculty members Dayna Danger, DJ O Show, Raven Davis and Art Auntie Shane Sable.

Pride in Art Community Show | Sat Jul 24 - Fri Aug 13 | Visual Art

This show honours PiA founder, activist, and Two-Spirit artist Robbie Hong's legacy with an open community show, featuring a custom mural by artist David Camisa outside SUM gallery!

Pillows for the Pandemic | Wed Jul 28, 7:30pm | Workshop

Falak Vasa leads us in a pillow-making workshop, based on their own series of pillows created during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Gathering of Wishes and 1000 Paper Butterflies | Wed Aug 4, 6pm | Workshop

Naoko Fukumaru and Eva Wong in Phase 1 of Mass Reincarnation of Wish Fragments 願片大量転生 (Ganhen Tairyō Tensei), where participants create origami and utilize the ink bleeding process to create a butterfly with their own unique patterns and colours.

Queerer than Queer: Lessons from Nonduality for Deep Planetary Healing | Thu Aug 5 & Fri Aug 6, 7pm | Workshop

Is the universe queerer than we can suppose? From the foot of the Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh, Tejal Shah will guide us through this two-part interactive workshop that explores the fine line between illusions and reality.

About the Queer Arts Festival queerartsfestival.com

The Queer Arts Festival is an annual, artist-run, professional, transdisciplinary arts festival. Recognized among the top 3 festivals of its kind worldwide, QAF produces, presents and exhibits challenging, thought-provoking work that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue. Each year, the festival theme ties together a curated visual art exhibition, performing art series, workshops, artist talks, panels, and media art screenings. QAF 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*).

About Full Circle: First Nations Performance fullcircle.ca

Full Circle: First Nations Performance is a non-profit society and registered charity that creates opportunities for Indigenous artists. Margo Kane (Cree/Saulteaux), an interdisciplinary artist and Indigenous arts leader, founded Full Circle in 1992. Upon establishing Full Circle, Kane's vision was to make a profound contribution to the development of Indigenous performance in Canada.

Queer Arts Festival is closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and acting accordingly by implementing precautions aligned with public health advisories.

We acknowledge that event details may change at any time to reflect provincial health recommendations. Please refer to our website queerartsfestival.com for the most up to date information on the festival.