

## Artistic and Executive Director SD Holman steps down after 14 years, introduces successor Dr. Mark Takeshi McGregor

HOLD FOR RELEASE UNTIL SAT, AUG 14



SD Holman, *Queer Heritage Plaque, City of Vancouver* - [CLICK IMAGE to download](#)

Vancouver BC, Aug 14, 2021 | The Pride in Art Society Board announces that after 14 years of visionary leadership and tireless dedication at the helm of Canada's leading transdisciplinary queer art organization, SD Holman is stepping down as our Artistic and Executive Director. Holman made public her exit on Friday the 13th at the closing party of the 2021 Queer Arts Festival.

Holman co-founded the Queer Arts Festival, stewarding Pride in Art from a grassroots, volunteer-run collective to a professional, world-renowned transdisciplinary art festival exhibiting well over 2,000 artists and welcoming 100,000 patrons to date. In 2018, Holman founded SUM, QAF's year-round programming arm and currently Canada's only queer-mandated gallery.

"I'm proud of the artistic triumphs we've achieved together," Holman said, "including Jonathan D. Katz's *Drama Queer* curation; the 25th-anniversary reunion of the notorious Kiss & Tell collective; Jeremy Dutcher's first full-length Vancouver concert; *UnSettled*, the world's first entirely Two-Spirit-curated festival; the commissioning and world premiere of *When the Sun Comes Out* by Leslie Uyeda and Rachel Rose, Canada's first lesbian opera; and co-producing the multi-award-winning world premiere of Lesley Ewen's play *Camera Obscura* (*hungry ghosts*)."

Pride in Art President Bruce Munro Wright spoke at the announcement to express his appreciation for Holman's work and leadership: "On behalf of the Pride in Art Board I want to thank SD Holman for her tireless efforts, creativity and dedication to making our organization among the top organizations of its kind in the world. We look forward to continuing our relationship with SD as our Founding Artistic Director Emeritus. We are also very excited that Mark Takeshi McGregor, a talented performing artist and able administrator, will join our team as Artistic Director."

McGregor, an internationally acclaimed flutist and former Artistic Director of the Powell Street Festival, enthused: “I am thrilled to be joining the Pride in Art family as the new Artistic Director. As a musician and visual artist, I’ve enjoyed close ties with this organization for 14 years and I’ve witnessed firsthand how it has grown and evolved. None of this would have been possible without the passion and tenacity of SD Holman, who leaves us with an inspiring legacy of queer arts and culture... and massive shoes to fill! I’m looking forward to working with our incredible staff, board of directors, volunteers, and community to continue challenging norms, breaking barriers, and inspiring discourse.”

Holman returns to the studio to resume full-time artistic practice, remaining available to the organization for mentorship and organizational history. McGregor will officially step into the role of Artistic Director effective Oct 1, 2021.

“As QAF and SUM grow and evolve, my hope is that the organization will stay Avant-Garde and Contemporary. Life is short and art is long - or as the Guerrilla Girls say, it’s not a sprint, it’s a marathon. This work is a relay, and it’s time to pass the torch. I am delighted to be leaving the organization in inspired and capable hands.”

### **About The Pride in Art Society** [queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com)

The Pride in Art Society (PiA) produces, presents and exhibits with a curatorial vision favouring challenging, thought-provoking contemporary art that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue, including through the Queer Arts Festival (QAF), an annual artist-run, transdisciplinary festival, and SUM Gallery, one of the only permanent spaces dedicated to the presentation of queer art worldwide. PiA brings diverse communities together to support artistic risk-taking, incite creative collaboration and experimentation and celebrate the rich heritage of queer artists and art. 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 outgoing Artistic and Executive Director SD Holman** [sdholman.com](http://sdholman.com)

SD Holman was born in Hollywood, California and graduated ECUAD in 1990. They are an award-winning artist and curator whose work has toured internationally. A laureate of the prestigious YWCA Women of Distinction Award 2014, Holman is known for engagement with themes of sex, death, and identity. Holman’s work has exhibited widely, including at Wellesley College, the Advocate Gallery (Los Angeles), the Soady-Campbell Gallery (New York), the San Francisco Public Library, On Main Gallery, The Helen Pitt International Gallery, Charles H. Scott, Exposure, Gallery Gachet, the Roundhouse, Vancouver East Cultural Centre, Artropolis and Fotobase Galleries. Holman’s portrait project *BUTCH: Not like the other girls* toured North America and is now in its second edition, published by Caitlin Press, Dagger Editions.

### **About new Artistic Director Mark Takeshi McGregor** [marktakeshimcgregor.com](http://marktakeshimcgregor.com)

Dr. Mark Takeshi McGregor co-founded Vancouver’s Redshift Music Society, an organization founded in 2001 which commissions and premieres new works by Canadian and international composers. McGregor was co-Artistic Director from 2005 to 2012 and helped launch the Redshift Records label, which released its first CD in 2007. McGregor has been featured on, and produced, a number of their 40 releases, which feature the music of contemporary Canadian and international composers. McGregor was the Artistic Director of Powell Street Festival Society in Vancouver, Canada from 2015 to 2016. McGregor is a renowned flutist, having commissioned and premiered solo and chamber music by dozens of contemporary Canadian and international composers.

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