



QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

Piano Burning
Sun Oct 24 | 5pm



queerartsfestival.com

sumgallery.ca

Vancouver's Queer Arts Festival (QAF) & SUM gallery announce the rescheduled date of Piano Burning following its hotly debated festival postponement.

For Immediate Release

Vancouver BC, Sep 21, 2021 | Rising from the ashes of this summer's fire ban, QAF and Full Circle: First Nations Performance will reignite their *Piano Burning* event on **Sun, Oct 24** at **Mountain View Cemetery - City of Vancouver** (5455 Fraser St, Vancouver, BC).

Curated by SD Holman and Margo Kane, Annea Lockwood's infamous work is re-envisioned through the lens of historically banned First Nations fire ceremonies and contemporary global warming of unprecedented levels. This transdisciplinary performance harmonizes music, First Nations' wisdom and dance, as QAF veteran Rachel Kiyo Iwaasa performs a new work for piano by Two-Spirit composer Russell Wallace while her instrument slowly burns to ashes. Two-Spirit elder Sempüyan speaks to the role of fire in communicating with ancestors, while Squamish Nation councillor Orene Askew (aka DJ O Show) sets the piano alight.

This event is rescheduled from its original QAF 2021 festival date of Aug 8, when a province-wide fire ban was in place. Ceremonial fire burnings play a central role in many Indigenous cultures, though many continue to be periodically banned regardless of their spiritual and environmental significance. In the [announcement of its postponement](#), QAF Artistic Director SD Holman posed the question: "*Whose authority should we listen to? Who should get to decide? And who should pay the price?*"

With this in mind, QAF invites audiences to the cemetery once again to witness the restorative power of *Piano Burning*.

"Annea's 1968 conception of Piano Burning asks us to confront our terror of change and loss. Fire is destructive, but it is also purifying, transformative, catalytic, life-sustaining, alluring, HAWT. We live in a time of dizzying, profound change. There is so much panic. Piano Burning allows us to face what we instinctively fear, stare down the impermanence of all things, and gaze into the inferno's potential for beauty and renewal." - SD Holman, QAF Artistic Director

Tickets purchased for the event's previous date will be honoured at the Oct 24 performance. Additional tickets are now available for purchase at queerartsfestival.com/piano-burning-2

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 & SUM gallery are 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 sumgallery.ca for the most up to date information on COVID safety protocols.

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