

RAG

Richmond Art Gallery
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Miranda Mallinson, Still Life, Untitled
watercolour, 22" x 18", 2003/2004

MIRANDA J. MALLINSON, MICHÈLE PROVOST & SANDRA SUGIMOTO: STILLS **5 February 2005 - 9 March 2005**

Richmond Art Gallery presents *Stills* a group exhibition comprised of three artists. The artwork in *Stills* incorporates familiar visual motifs. Sandra Sugimoto and Michèle Provost offer us snippets of life, akin to film stills, in their work, which read as visual narratives. Sugimoto references pop art in the large scrolls that depict vignettes from her life growing up in Vancouver as a sansei, a third generation Japanese Canadian. Racial identity and discrimination are explored in these brightly coloured pieces that reference both eastern and western print traditions.

Provost's series of 26 embroidered panels reference the samplers of the Victorian era. Each hand-embroidered piece is mounted in a box and illustrates one letter of the alphabet, with a companion text piece detailing something of our current way of life. Unlike traditional samplers, Provost draws on magazines, films, the internet and comic strips to present static images that are often unsettling. This sense of uneasiness is underscored by the juxtaposition of traditional embroidery technique with images taken from urban popular culture. This work was recently purchased by the Canada Council Art Bank.

Michèle Provost studied woodcarving, photography, and printmaking in Norwich, England. She holds a diploma in visual arts from the Ottawa School of Art. She has exhibited extensively in Ontario and her work is part of major art collections, including the Canada Council Art Bank, Loto-Québec and the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau. She has received several grants including ones from the Council of Arts in Ottawa, Prix de la relève-Fondation pour les arts, les lettres en Outaouais, and the Canada Council for the Arts. She has been exhibiting since 1994.

Miranda J. Mallinson takes a different approach to the theme of Stills, creating unconventional still life paintings using pieces of familiar objects that have been discarded. Interested in the idea of fragmentation, Mallinson's compositions express a genuine love for the remnants themselves, and celebrate their inherent beauty, each part having a unique pattern and shape distinct from the original whole. Miranda J. Mallinson holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. She has exhibited extensively in Vancouver, and has provided artwork for the Vancouver Public Library and the television series *Weird Homes*. She has been exhibiting her artwork since 1987.

Sandra Sugimoto is currently a teacher in the Vancouver district and is completing the Diploma in Art Education at the University of British Columbia. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design and a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia. She has exhibited her artwork in both Canada and Japan.

The exhibition continues until March 9, 2005. The **opening reception** will be on Friday evening February 4, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

The Richmond Art Gallery is located at 180-7700 Minoru Gate. Gallery hours are 9:00 am to 9:30 pm from Monday until Friday and 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. For more information visit our website at www.richmondartgallery.org or contact us by email at gallery@city.richmond.bc.ca.

In conjunction with the exhibition, *Stills* an **Artist Talk** with Michèle Provost will take place in the Gallery on **Wednesday, February 9, at 7:30pm**. *There is no admission charge*. Artist Talks generally last about an hour. For more information, call RAG Cultural Programmer 604.231.6425. Nan Capogna at 604.231.6425 for details.

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