



Carlyn Yandle, *Crossover*, 2011

RICHMOND ART GALLERY, BC

CITY AS SITE: PUBLIC ART IN RICHMOND

September 6 – October 26, 2014

Artists: Glen Andersen, Nicole Dextras, Janet Echelman, Jacqueline Metz & Nancy Chew, Carlyn Yandle.

City as Site: Public Art in Richmond is the first exhibition to highlight the City of Richmond's Public Art Program, initiated in 1997 "to create a public art collection of the highest quality through a fair and open selection process advised by independent arms-length panels of art and design professionals and community input."

Curated by Richmond Art Gallery Director Rachel Rosenfield Lafo, the exhibition will feature several diverse public art projects representing the different ways public art is funded in Richmond – through civic funding, private development, community projects, and the program's newer series of temporary projects and socially engaged artist performances. The goal of the exhibition is to reveal the mysteries of the public art process, its role in cultural planning strategy, the possibilities it offers for community participation and its value to the community.

The exhibition includes elements from **Glen Anderson's**, *Child of the Fraser* (2012), aluminum sculptures and a ceramic mosaic at the City's Community Safety Building; **Nicole Dextras's** *StoreFront: objects of desire* (2013), a temporary project for an Artist Residency at a shopping mall; **Janet Echelman's** *Water Sky Garden* (2009), a major work commissioned at the time of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games; two projects by **Jacqueline Metz and Nancy Chew**, *Stillness and Motion* (2013), a pedestrian bridge with photographic and video images at a private development, and *Made in China* (2013), five aluminum dragons located on walls outside a residential tower; and **Carlyn Yandle's** *Crossover* (2011), a pedestrian crosswalk design in the pavement of an intersection in Steveston, as well as a reference to Yandle's new temporary artwork *Cluster* that will be installed on a plinth at the end of the Canada Line. In addition to including models, drawings, videos, large-scale photographs, and related information about the artists and their work, the exhibition will visually document many additional works of public art in the City.

Glen Andersen is a Richmond-based artist specializing in public and community art with a focus on plaza design/embellishment and park enhancement, typically using the ancient methods of mosaics, in tile and pebble. **Nicole Dextras**, a graduate of the Emily Carr University of Art and Design, is an environmental artist based in Vancouver working in a multitude of media including sculpture, interactive public installation and photography. American artist **Janet Echelman** builds sculptural environments that respond to the forces of nature - wind, water and light - and become inviting focal points for civic life. She is a graduate of Harvard College, has completed public artworks all over the world and has received many awards and fellowships, among them a Fulbright and a Guggenheim Fellowship. **Jacqueline Metz and Nancy Chew** (Muse Atelier) are Vancouver-based visual artists who

started working collaboratively in 1997. Their practice is centred on the public realm, an exploration of place, perception and culture, and they have completed many permanent public art works in Canada and the United States. **Carlyn Yandle** earned her BFA at Emily Carr University of Art + Design in 2010 with an emphasis on painting and sculpture after working for 17 years as an award-winning reporter, editor and columnist for various Canadian newspapers, including the Richmond Review. **Rachel Rosenfield Lafo**, exhibition curator, is Director of the Richmond Art Gallery and a curator, writer, and former Chair of Vancouver's Public Art Committee.

The opening reception will be held on Friday, September 5, from 7:00 to 9:00pm. The exhibition continues through October 26, 2014.

Educational programming will include artist and curator talks; a public lecture by **Jack Becker**, founder and executive director of Forecast Public Art in Minneapolis, a leading figure in the field of public art and publisher of *Public Art Review*, on Friday, October 17, at 7:30 pm; a Public Art bus tour on Saturday, September 27, 1:15 - 3:30 pm led by **Dr. Cameron Cartiere**, Dean of Graduate Studies at Emily Carr University of Art + Design and artist **Andrea Sirois**; a presentation about the funding and process of public art by **Eric Fiss**, Richmond Public Art Planner on Saturday, October 4, 2:00 - 3:00 pm; a workshop for artists on how to apply for public art projects by **Elisa Yon**, Richmond Public Art Project Coordinator, on Saturday, September 13, 1:00 – 4:00 pm; and an interactive public art performance by artist **Nicole Dextras** on Saturday, September 27, 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Please visit the Gallery website for details at www.richmondartgallery.org.

Special thanks to the City of Richmond Public Art Program for their support of this exhibition and programming.

The Richmond Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Richmond, the British Columbia Arts Council, the Province of British Columbia, and Metro Vancouver. The Gallery thanks Peller Estates and PriceSmart Foods Richmond for their sponsorship of refreshments for opening receptions.

Image Credit

Carlyn Yandle, *Crossover*, 2011

pedestrian "x" crosswalk design in the pavement of the intersection of No. 1 Road and Moncton Street, Steveston thermoplastic in asphalt

Photographed by Lawrence Lee

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