

RICHMOND ART GALLERY

Evan Lee: Elders and Roots

April 26 - June 15, 2014



***Elders and Roots* by Vancouver Artist, Evan Lee**

Richmond Art Gallery presents *Elders and Roots* by Vancouver Artist Evan Lee. Evan Lee is known for his experimental photo-based work but also works across a range of media and subjects. The exhibition consists of three bodies of work; thirty-six photographs of ginseng roots, the video work *Manual Labour* from 2006, and thirty-six pencil drawings of elderly Chinese women (*Old Women*, 2008) shopping in Chinatown or gleaning in the lanes of Vancouver.

All three bodies of work are portraits - linked by their relation to Asia, globalism, migrations and the plight of the aged. The images speak to us about biological complexity and fragility, while referencing human migration as well as the globalization of foods and medicines. Lee's drawings of elderly Chinese women in Vancouver's lanes are paired with stunning high-resolution scans of anthropomorphic Ginseng roots.

The *Ginseng Roots Studies* were made using an ordinary desktop scanner instead of a camera. Each of the 36 roots in this series were found and purchased at a local supermarket. Lee's drawings were made from photographs that the artist took of elderly Chinese women walking, working and resting in the streets of east Vancouver. Instead of printing and displaying the original photographs, Lee presents simple pencil drawings as a way of working more closely with the subjects.

Lee received his MFA from the University of British Columbia in 2000. Past exhibitions include: *On the Nature of Things* at the Kamloops Art Gallery; *Again and Again and Again* and *In Dialogue with Carr* at the Vancouver Art Gallery; *Triumphant Carrot: the Persistence of Still Life and Playing Homage* at the Contemporary Art Gallery; *Evan Lee Captures* at Presentation House Gallery; *Le Mois de la Photo à Montreal*; *At Play* at the Liu Hai Su Museum (Shanghai) and *Curb Appeal* at Confederation Centre (Charlottetown).

Evan Lee's work has been featured and reviewed in *Border Crossings*, *Flash Art International*, *Lapiz International Art Magazine*, *Yishu Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art*, *Canadian Art*, and *Art on Paper*. Lee is represented by Monte Clark Gallery in Vancouver. The exhibition is guest curated by Bill Jeffries, former Director/Curator of the SFU Art Gallery.

The opening reception is on Saturday, April 26 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm with an Artist's tour beginning at 2:30pm. Evan Lee will give a talk on Saturday, May 31, 2-3pm. The exhibition continues until June 15, 2014.

The Richmond Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Richmond, the British Columbia Arts Council, the Province of British Columbia, Metro Vancouver, Richmond Community Foundation, Canadian Western Bank, and G&F Financial Group.

Image Credit

Evan Lee from *Ginseng Root Studies* (series)

2005 archival pigment print

Courtesy the artist and Monte Clark Gallery