

RICHMOND ART GALLERY PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: JULY 22, 2020

(RICHMOND, BC) Richmond Art Gallery reopens with exhibitions addressing Indigenous and Black identity

The Richmond Art Gallery has now reopened to visitors with limited hours — Wednesday to Saturday, 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. — and a new temporary entry at the north east side of the Richmond Cultural Centre (7700 Minoru Gate.) Visitors are welcome to drop in or make an appointment at 604-247-8363 or email gallery@richmond.ca. Visit richmondartgallery.org for more details.

The Gallery is particularly delighted to re-open with Labour's trace, a duo artist exhibition by Karin Jones and Amy Malbeuf, which had to close early in March due to the pandemic shut-down. Both artists consider the impact of historical narratives in shaping their distinct identities.

For this exhibition, Karin Jones installed eight works that employ her metalsmithing experience to depict intricately crafted objects of adornment that deliberately reference restraints from the period of enslavement of African peoples in North America. The functions of jewelry are artfully contrasted with the intended purposes of objects of restraint to create an unsettling tension in these spare, handcrafted works.

Meanwhile, Métis artist Amy Malbeuf offers a dozen individual works that are united by a firm observance of traditional Indigenous practices reshaped to reflect contemporary ideas and concerns. Polyethylene tarpaulin is substituted for animal hide (stretched, beaded and even fringed for clothing) while examples of beadwork and animal hair tufting honour skills learned from other women sharing their cultural knowledge, working side-by-side. Hair tufting has become an important part of Malbeuf's art practice and, like beadwork, it is labour-intensive, requiring a deep commitment to the art form.

Labour's trace is on view until August 8, 2020.

Please note that new protocols are in place to ensure a safe and enjoyable visit:

- All visitors must self-assess before visiting and stay home if not feeling well.
- Maximum 10 people in the gallery at a time.
- All visitors and staff will maintain a two-metre distance from each other. Household groups may remain together.
- Hand sanitizer is available upon entry and enhanced cleaning practices are in place.
- Wearing a face covering is appreciated.

For more details please contact: gallery@richmond.ca

Artist Biographies:

Karin Jones is an interdisciplinary artist with an extensive background in jewellery making as a goldsmith and independent artisan. She received an MFA in Craft from NSCAD University in 2018 and her work has been seen across Canada, and in the United States, Japan and Finland. She is currently Department Head of Jewellery Art & Design at Vancouver Community College.

Amy Malbeuf is from Rich Lake, Alberta. She has exhibited her work nationally and internationally and has participated in numerous international artist residencies. She holds a MFA in Visual Art from the University of British Columbia Okanagan, and in 2016, received a Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Emerging Artist Award and a William and Meredith Saunderson Prize for Emerging Artists in Canada from the Hnatyshyn Foundation.

(30)

The only public gallery in Richmond, the Richmond Art Gallery (RAG) is a municipal gallery supported by the nonprofit Richmond Art Gallery Association. In operation since 1980, the Gallery presents exhibitions by regional, national and international artists, maintains a permanent collection of over 400 works, and presents innovative and diverse programming for children, youth, and adults. Richmond Art Gallery is dedicated to promoting dialogue among Richmond's diverse communities through the presentation of contemporary visual art.

The Gallery gratefully acknowledges the ongoing financial support of City of Richmond, Richmond Art Gallery Association, British Columbia Arts Council, Province of British Columbia, and Canada Council for the Arts.