

Richmond Art Gallery and Richmond Public Art tackle immigration, generational identities in Capture Photography Festival

Two Canadian artists of immigrant roots draw from family histories, racial inequality, and shifting community identities for large-scale works.

April 1, 2022 (VANCOUVER, BC)

Richmond Art Gallery and Richmond Public Art present the photo-based artworks of **Kyla Bourgh** and **Chad Wong** as part of **Capture Photography Festival**. The artworks will be on display at the Lansdowne and Aberdeen Canada Line Stations from **April 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023**.

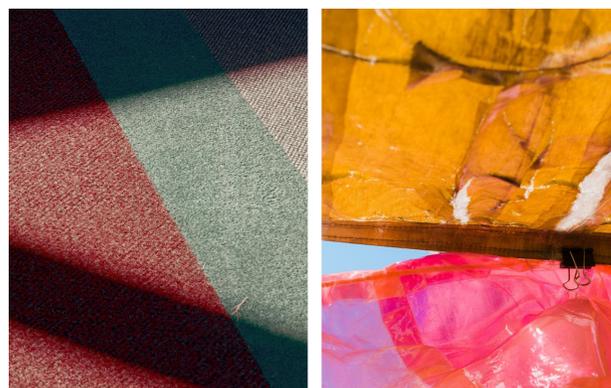
The works cast a light on the lived experiences of two artists: Wong who is a second-generation Canadian and Bourgh, an artist of mixed-heritage. Themes such as identity, belonging, discrimination, memory, and connection to ancestral countries emerge in the artworks. As much as immigration to Canada continues to be a vital part of the country's narrative, multi-generational immigrant families also continue to navigate the reality of dual identities, particularly as differences emerge between first, second and even third-generation Canadians. On a broader scale, members of immigrant communities manage the ever-changing influences that stem from a culture in a constant state of flux.

RAG Director Shaun Dacey states, "our two artists for Capture Festival this year reflect on their mutli-facted lived experiences as settler Canadians here in British Columbia. Their compelling photo-based works connect with symbols of their cultural identities through the lens of our current social context."

Lansdowne Canada Line Station will display Kyla Bourgh's *Objects given to my mom because she is Asian*, a series of three photographs featuring objects challenging the viewer to unpack their discriminations and perspectives. The objects were given to Bourgh's mother over the past fifty years. Each object is associated with an "Asian style" and was gifted to her because of her physical and cultural identity. Bourgh's work highlights that, while the gifts were given to her mother in kindness, they unwittingly reminded her that she is and always will be perceived as a visible minority in her farming community in rural British Columbia. Through these photographs, the artist contemplates the unconscious biases placed on her mother and how they differ from her own lived experiences as white-passing and a Canadian of mixed ethnicity.

Vancouver-based artist Kyla Bourgh grew up in the interior of British Columbia. She holds an MFA from Emily Carr University of Art + Design, a BEd from the University of British Columbia, and a BFA from Okanagan University. Her practice includes curating, social engagement, writing and text-based work. Bourgh's art has been exhibited nationally and internationally.

Chad Wong's diptych, *Empty Spaces that Fill My Heart*, will be on view at the Aberdeen Canada Line Station. The photographs feature abstracted fragments of awnings and hallways of the Hong Kong-style cafes and Chinese-



Kyla Bourgh, *Objects given to my mom because she is Asian*, 2018. Courtesy of the Artist. Chad Wong, *Empty Spaces that Fill My Heart*, 2021. Courtesy of the Artist.

Canadian malls he grew up visiting in Richmond and Vancouver. Wong takes note of the distinctive spaces that demonstrate a blend of Eastern and Western influences and how they are gradually disappearing in our time. To the artist, these spaces are the last vestige of his connection to Hong Kong. As the identity of the communities that surround these spaces begins to change, and gentrification ensues, Wong feels the urgency to document these sites. The images in his photographs contemplate how modes of representation in architecture – or associations we make with spaces and locations – and shared cultural spaces help shape a community’s identity and narrative.

Wong’s body of work addresses the fading signs and symbols of Hong Kongese/Cantonese Chinese-Canadian cultural urban spaces in Richmond and Vancouver. Installed at Aberdeen Canada Line Station, the works draw attention to the location and its association with Chinese-Canadian businesses and cultural manifestation.

Chad Wong is a second-generation Canadian whose family immigrated to Richmond from Hong Kong. He is currently based in Vancouver and holds a BFA from the University of British Columbia.

Richmond Art Gallery in partnership with Richmond Public Art have put together two public programs in May to accompany the exhibition, *Canada Line Walking Tour*, and *Artist Salon with Kyla Bourgh and Shaun Dacey*.

For high-resolution images or to arrange an interview, please contact: Paula Hickey, Gallery & Exhibition Coordinator, phickey@richmond.ca, 604-247-8312

EVENTS

Canada Line Walking Tour

Saturday, May 14, 2022, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

As part of the 2022 Capture Photography Festival, artists Kyla Bourgh and Chad Wong will take visitors on a walking tour of public artworks currently installed at Canada Line stations. Kyla Bourgh and Chad Wong will discuss their works on display at Aberdeen and Lansdowne stations. Both Bourgh’s and Wong’s works are part of the Capture Photography Festival.

Also joining the tour is artist Adrielle Au who will speak about her works at the No. 3 Road Art Column, Aberdeen Station. Au’s works at the Canada Line Station are part of the City of Richmond and Richmond Public Art Program.

richmondartgallery.org/canada-line-tour

Artist Salon with Kyla Bourgh and Shaun Dacey

Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 7:00 pm

Richmond Art Gallery Director Shaun Dacey and Vancouver-based artist Kyla Bourgh will offer insights into the difference between developing artworks for exhibition and public art. Dacey and Bourgh will share their experience preparing Bourgh’s work, *Objects given to my mom because she is Asian*. This edition of the Artist Salon will be a hybrid event, a live stream and an in-person discussion geared towards artist development. A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

richmondartgallery.org/artist-salon-bourgh

RAG RICHMOND ART GALLERY

richmondartgallery.org

The only public gallery in Richmond, the Richmond Art Gallery (RAG) is a municipal gallery supported by the non-profit 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.

CONTACT

richmondartgallery.org
gallery@richmond.ca
604-247-8363

GALLERY HOURS

Monday – Friday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday: 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Admission is free or by donation

LOCATION

Richmond Cultural Centre
7700 Minoru Gate
Richmond, BC V6Y 1R9

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: [richmondartgallerybc](https://www.facebook.com/richmondartgallerybc)
Twitter: [rag_gallery_bc](https://twitter.com/rag_gallery_bc)
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