

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Home and Away: Crossing Cultures on the Pacific Rim

October 23, 2003 to January 25, 2004



Image: *Saint Sebastian*, 2001 (detail) © Fiona Tan
Photo courtesy of Frith Street Gallery, London

Vancouver, BC – The Vancouver Art Gallery will open an exhibition of superb work that has never been seen in Vancouver by six internationally acclaimed contemporary artists on October 23, 2003. *Home and Away: Crossing Cultures on the Pacific Rim* delves into concepts of home and nation, probes notions of globalization and raises fundamental questions about cultural identity through visually powerful work that includes film, video, photography, installation and sculpture.

From intriguing and varied creative backgrounds, the artists' personal histories bear witness to the diversity of cultures living and working on the Pacific Rim: **Fiona Tan**, an Indonesian-born artist living and working in the Netherlands; **Do-Ho Suh**, a Korean-born artist living and working in Seoul and New York; **Yin Xiuzhen**, born in China and living and working in Germany, China and the United States; **Jin-me Yoon**, a Korean-born artist living and working in Vancouver; **Sharon Lockhart**, a Los Angeles-based artist, working closely with communities in Japan and Brazil; **Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba** is a Japanese-born artist, educated in the United States and living and working in Ho Chi Min City.

“Located on the edge of the Pacific Rim, life and work in Vancouver is shifting as part of a new global economy,” said Kathleen Bartels, Director, Vancouver Art Gallery. “This exhibition addresses many issues relevant to our changing cultural identity that, I hope, will resonate with the diverse population of this city and contribute toward creating greater understanding between individuals, communities, cultures and nations.”

The exhibition features 31 works, with each artist represented by a major installation characterizing their recent work. Fiona Tan's *Saint Sebastian*, 2001 is a double screen video installation that records an ancient coming-of-age ceremony in Kyoto, Japan. In producing this work Tan adopts a conflicted identity; part tourist, part documentary filmmaker, part artist.

Sharon Lockhart's *Teatro Amazonas*, 1999 is a film and series of related photographs. Like Fiona Tan, Lockhart's relationship to traditions of ethnography, documentary film, photography and to conceptual art produces a rich and engaging body of work that raises fundamental questions about the changing nature of cultural identity.

Do-Ho Suh's work is rooted in the memory of a place as evoked by its architecture. Suh's portable reproductions of his Seoul family home and New York apartment provide him with a ready-made link to his principal residences. But like all memories they are only a ghostly trace of the original thing.

Jin-me Yoon's *Welcome Stranger, Welcome Home* 2002 is a three-panel video projection that links images of the Calgary Stampede parade to histories of multiculturalism and colonialism in Canada. The image of the parade is doubled and redirected so that it collapses in on the centre screen which holds the image of the artist projected onto an early 20th century watercolour landscape of the Rockies.

Yin Xiuzhen's art is also rooted in memory, a memory embedded in the architecture, the clothing and the everyday objects that compose our cities and our lives. Her multi-media suitcases speak of movement to and from cities, and the people and places that form our experience of being at home and away.

Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba's films are part of an ongoing project he has titled *Memorial Project Vietnam* which consists of two films made in 2001 and 2003 respectively. Filmed underwater in the Indochina Sea these films depict the real and the metaphorical struggle to reconfigure post-war Vietnam.

On October 25, the Gallery will hold a symposium on themes raised in *Home and Away: Crossing Cultures on the Pacific Rim*. The renowned cultural theorist, Irit Rogoff, University Chair of Art Visual Cultures, Goldsmiths College, London and author of *Terra Infirma: Geography's Visual Culture* (2000) will present a keynote address *Of Fear, Of Contact, Of Entanglement*. The symposium will be held at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, 580 West Hastings Street, Vancouver from 10am to 5pm. Admission \$50, students/concession \$20. To register call 604 662 4717.

For the duration of this exhibition, Sharon Lockhardt's 35mm film *Teatro Amazonas, 1999* will be showing at the Pacific Cinematheque, 1131 Howe Street, every Thursday at 6pm (with the exception of Christmas Day and New Year's Day). Programs for this exhibition are produced in collaboration with Centre A: Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, the School for the Contemporary Arts at Simon Fraser University and Pacific Cinémathèque.

Home and Away: Crossing Cultures on the Pacific Rim is curated by Bruce Grenville, Senior Curator, Vancouver Art Gallery. Grenville was curator of *The Uncanny: Experiments in Cyborg Culture*, a thematic survey of the image of the human machine in art and popular culture from the early 19th century to the present. *The Uncanny*, accompanied by Grenville's award-winning book of the same name, received both popular and critical acclaim and recently concluded a national tour.

Home and Away: Crossing Cultures on the Pacific Rim has been organized by the Vancouver and is accompanied by an 74-page catalogue. The exhibition runs throughout winter and will close on January 25, 2004.

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When: October 23 to January 25, 2003

Where: Vancouver Art Gallery
750 Hornby Street
Vancouver BC V6Z 2H7

Hours: **Winter Hours** (effective October 20, 2003 to April 12, 2004)
Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 5.30pm, Thursdays to 9pm
Closed Mondays. Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Admission: Adults \$12.50, Seniors \$9.00, Students \$8.00, Children (12 & under) Free, Family \$30 (2 adults, 2 children, 13 years +), Thursday evening suggested donation \$5.00

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Images: Digital images for professional media use only are available at the Vancouver Art Gallery's FTP site (<ftp://ftp.vanartgallery.bc.ca>). Contact 604 662 4722, for password access.