

MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

New Exhibitions in Arts Commons Galleries Collaborate to Share Moments of Beauty, Introspection, and Reconciliation.

July 2, 2024 - CALGARY – On exhibition now through the summer, Arts Commons invites you to visit the six free galleries within the building. Featuring 28 local artists working in photography, illustration, videography, textiles, paint on canvas, mixed media, steel/metal works, weaving, beading, 3D printed models, watercolour, and star blankets, the artworks challenge viewers to look within their own lived experience to engage in conversation with the artwork and the artists. Join **Arts Commons Galleries on Thursday, July 4 to discover your new favourite local artists, get the inside track on their work, browse local vendors, and soak up the vibes of our Art Party.** Learn more at artscommons.ca/artparty. Current exhibitions run now until September 6, 2024, at Arts Commons.

The **Lightbox Studio at Arts Commons** is home to experimental, studio-based projects. Delving into ideas of identity, diversity, and subconscious expression, **Winner Brave** shares her exhibition *What Technology Scares You The Most?*. Composed of two video installations in conversation with one another, *What Technology Scares You The Most?* explores how digital artists often have little influence over how and where their work is marketed. The exhibition aims to provide a critical exploration of the intersection of art and technology.

The **Ledge Gallery at Arts Commons** is the largest gallery and public studio space in Arts Commons and is home to an eclectic range of art installations, performative, and sculptural works. **Michele Ku** returns to Arts Commons Galleries with a new exhibition, *Alchemy*. Michele Ku uses whimsical and cute imagery to create accessible moments to speak to struggles with mental health, complex trauma, and chronic illness. Through her art she strives to turn something negative into something positive and beautiful.

The **Window Galleries at Arts Commons** proudly display two-dimensional and sculptural artworks in a series of seven unique spaces. The exhibition pieces shared highlight the process of creation from the perspective of four different artists: interdisciplinary artist **AJ Kluck**, multimedia artist **MOSS**, visual and spoken word artist **Allan Rosales**, and fiber artist **Geraldine Ysselstein**. From the introspective to metaphysical, the artists in the Windows Galleries invite you to engage with: *Mixed*, *Shadow Work*, *Artista + Activista + FilipinX*, and *The Emperor Is Naked: Now What?*.

The **+15 Galleries at Arts Commons** consists of eight spaces that create the ideal platform for collaboration. The CIF Reconciliation Society delivers art-based workshops and events that provide education on Indigenous ways of knowing and promote healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Their exhibition in the +15 Galleries, *Building Bridges and ReconciliACTION*, features the work of **Wilmer Aburto**, **Sinead Ludwig-Burgess**, **Andrea Dillingham-Lacoursiere**, **Marley Tahize HeavyShield**, **Brendon Many Bears**, **Isis Horne Hill**, **Andrew Holloway**, **Sheila Norris**, **VL PARKER**, **Kristy North Peigan**, **Melody Poon**, **Kateryna Pysarenko**, **Slavek Pytraczyk**, **Jeremy Richardson**, **Dale Swampy**, **Quenton Whitecalf**.

The **Broadcast Lab at Arts Commons** brings experimental and thought-provoking films to three media monitors located throughout Arts Commons. This micro-cinema is now showing *Finding My Way Back To*

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You, Kin, and Halo Halo. Finding My Way Back to You, directed by Kamika Bianca Guerra-Walker, is a participatory-style documentary that follows Kamika's journey growing up as a half-Jamaican, half-Chilean young girl in polarizing communities of Calgary whilst dealing with her father's diagnosis of schizophrenia. *Kin*, by **Bruce Thomas Miller**, is a poetic short film that examines our precious relationship with Mother Nature and seeks to remind us that nature is an essential part of ourselves. And *Halo Halo*, from multimedia artist **Jasmine Atay**, delves into the intricate ways migration shapes the identities of first-generation Filipinos in Canada.

The **+15 Soundscape at Arts Commons** is one of the few multichannel sound galleries in Canada, immersing listeners in experiential sound as they walk from one end of the +15 corridor to the other. In his exhibition *Intention*, **Ryle Ramirez**, featuring **Jake Warren and MOSS** uses brief 5-second sound recordings to attempt to capture moments of beauty in our daily lives.

Arts Commons Arts Parties are a **free ticket** for anyone to drop by and meet the exhibiting artists, hear their personal ruminations on their art, and enjoy a fabulous party with music, vendors, and community partners. The final Art Party of the season takes place on July 4 in Centre Court of Arts Commons.

"We are thrilled to be welcoming everyone for this final Art Party of the season where we can celebrate the amazing and impactful work that our artists have to share," says Sanja Lukac, Senior Curator of visual and media, at Arts Commons. "You'll have a chance to hear from the artists themselves and vibe with this fabulous artist community that calls Calgary home and as a special treat, we have drum, jingle dance, and spoken word performances in celebration of the collaboration with CIF Reconciliation Society."

Arts Commons Galleries energize the public spaces of Arts Commons, providing exhibition opportunities and studio space for local artists, as well as free access to visual and media arts for the greater Calgary community. All exhibiting artists are also members of the RBC Emerging Visual Artists program or the TD Incubator program, giving them access to professional development, networking, and artistic mentorship opportunities. The media galleries are curated through Arts Commons' TD Incubator program under the artistic vision of Wakefield Brewster, 2023-24 TD Incubator Fellow.

What: Art Party
When: Thursday, July 4, 2024, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Where: Arts Commons, Centre Court
Info: artscommons.ca/artparty

Arts Commons Presents wishes to express our sincere appreciation to Naming Partners the RBC Foundation, and TD Bank Group as well as our friends at the Canada Council for the Arts.

For media inquiries or more information contact:

Alex Bonyun, Communications Manager
403-294-7429 abonyun@artscommons.ca

Arts Commons Galleries are proud to showcase impactful work of the visual and media artists engaged in our RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program and TD Incubator program. These galleries offer key exhibition opportunities to local

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artists and showcase the talent that our community has to offer in the Lightbox Studio, Ledge Gallery, Window Galleries, +15 Soundscape, Broadcast Lab, and +15 Galleries at Arts Commons.

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that Arts Commons is located on the sacred land that is the original home of the Niitsitapi from the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Piikani, and Kanai First Nations); the Îyârhe Nakoda (Chiniki, Goodstoney/Kichipwot, and Bearspaw First Nations); and the Dene of the Tsuut'ina First Nation. This territory is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3 within the historical Northwest Métis homeland. We thank these Nations for sharing this land with us and commit to being good stewards of this land, while we are here. We welcome all who work, live, and play in, as well as honour and celebrate this historic territory.