

RIOT IN VANCOUVER

In commemoration of 100th anniversary of the Anti-Asian Vancouver race riots, we present four powerful programs by Asian, Aboriginal and South Asian media artists which confront and question notions of displacement, family, language, race, and culture. These compelling documentary, experimental and narrative shorts contemplate both the historic and contemporary forces at work in the global movement of Asians to Canada, and pays homage to the communities of colour who have fought for respect, justice and equality over the last one hundred years.

Karin Lee

Arts and Cultural Steering Committee Member
Anniversaries of Change 1907, 1947, 1967, 1997

**PROGRAM # 1 Screening: August 3, 2007
1997****Hybrid City: Hong Kong, Vancouver, 1997**

The handover of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China was historic in many respects. Ten years on, this program of short films by Asian Canadian artists evokes the themes of memory and identity that were associated with that event. Encompassing many forms--experimental, animated, and documentary--it questions the process of historic and personal change and the possibilities for new futures.

Chaos (dir. Yun Lam Li, 1993) 3 mins.
 An experimental film shot on Super 8 and hand-processed with hand-drawn animation.

La Salle Primary (dir. Ho Tam, 1998) 5 mins.
 A trip back to the artist's Chinese Catholic elementary school in Hong Kong becomes a voyage of self-discovery.

Waving (dir. Ann Marie Fleming, 1987) 5 mins.
 A woman recalls the complex relationship that she shared with her maternal grandmother.

Jaime Low, Small & Shy (dir. Lillian Chan, 2006) 5 mins.
 Seven-year old Jaime copes with her father's absence in Hong Kong by creating a special Father's Day gift.

Awakening the Dragons (dir. Annie O'Donoghue, 1993) 23 mins.

The story of 'Genesis I', the first Chinese-Canadian women's team to compete in the sport of Dragon Boat racing.

Asthma Tech (dir. Jonathan Ng, 2006) 5 mins.
 Winston copes with asthma with the help of paper, crayons, and his imagination.

Pioneers of X-Ray Technology (dir. Ann Marie Fleming, 1991) 15 mins.
 A portrait of the filmmaker's grandfather, Dr. Ernest To, a 91-year-old Chinese man who watched Hong Kong enter the twentieth century.

Bus No. 7 (dir. Ho Tam, 2001) 3 mins.
 The artist recalls his childhood through a bus that runs through the streets of Hong Kong, day and night.

I Thought of You Often (dir. Yun Lam Li, 2006) 5 mins.
 A visual poem about the meaning of aging in a culture that is not one's own.

Total: 70 minutes

1997 programmed by Su-Anne Yeo

PROGRAM #2 Screening August 17th, 2007**1967****Forces of Migration**

This series of short videos is a compilation that brings together experimental and independent video work that utilizes video as a form of political expression that took rise in the 1960's since the introduction of the Sony Portapak and the new wave of marginalized narratives that emerged through the increased trans-Pacific migration resulting from the 1967 Immigration Act. Video became both an artistic and political tool to articulate marginalized histories that were not being conveyed within the larger context of Canadian multiculturalism. Despite the assumption of 'freedom' and 'democracy' that may be conveyed through such political gestures; an entire terrain of invisible and diasporic histories needed a vehicle to contest how migrant histories were being represented in the mainstream media. As a result, independent video by artists of colour took to personal/political documentary form as a means to express narratives that were geographically placed in memory; the memory of destroyed homelands, land theft, racism, discrimination and other forces of migration that persuaded people to migrate to Canada.

Richard Fung, 2000

23 minutes

Sea in the Blood

A contemplative and heartfelt personal essay about living in the shadow of illness. Multiple layers of image and text are used to reflect on personal history.

Distributor: V Tape, Toronto

Samuel Kiehoon Lee, 2002

18 minutes

How To Make Kimchi according to my Kun-Umma

Bong Ja Lee is the filmmaker's Kun-Umma (auntie) and she makes for a delightful subject in this short digital documentary. The film delivers not only a recipe for kimchi, but also tells the story of an immigrant woman juggling with being a grandmother, a leader in the Korean-Canadian community, and an aunt to her pestering nephew that is attempting to document her life.

Distributor: V Tape, Toronto

Kira Wu, 1995

10 minutes

White Wash

Influenced by the only entry point into her reality, a young Asian immigrant girl goes to extreme measures to assimilate. The narrative centres around the impact of a 1970's television commercial for laundry whitener well known to North American audiences.

Distributor: Video Out, Vancouver

Dorothy Christian, 2006

26:42

A Spiritual Land Claim

A rich visualscape coupled with a rich soundscape, with very little narrative, "a spiritual land claim" tells the story of one dispossessed Indigenous person who was affected on many levels by external forces, i.e. Colonization, internal violence, white foster homes and addictions

Distributor: Moving Images, Vancouver

Dana Claxton, 1994

6 minutes

The Shirt

A visual study of a white shirt that gets washed ashore, bringing with it concepts of time, money, the written word, church and oppression.

Distributor: Video Out, Vancouver

Shani Mootoo, 1991

3 minutes

English Lesson

"Let's say ah, not ae..." In this faux instructional video, an Indo-Canadian teacher helps the audience with its English pronunciation. This video brings into focus linguistic notions of 'right and wrong', and debates about colonization of language.

Distributor: Video Out, Vancouver

Total: 87 minutes**1967 programmed by Cindy Mochizuki**

PROGRAM #3 Screening August 24th, 2007**1947****Citizenship Ltd.**

A lot of gains were made in 1947, including voting rights for Canadians of Chinese and Indian descent, and the eradication of many race-based legislations and social exclusions. Hard fought victories worth celebrating for sure. But do voting rights mean equality? This program explores the complexities of citizenship and belonging—from Aboriginal people's struggles with colonial policies, to Japanese-Canadians experiences of internment, to Chinese-Canadian veterans fighting for recognition.

racism, including internment and the complete dismantling of communities.

Total: 86 minutes**1947 programmed by Kamala Todd**

Michael Fukushima, *Minoru: Memory of Exile*, 1992, 15:00.

This film is the story of Minoru Fukushima, born in Canada but labeled an enemy during WWII, interned and deported to Japan, a place he knew only by name.

Stephen Foster, *X-Patriotism*, 2001, 6:00.

This experimental video plays with symbols of Canada layered over elements of the Canadian warship "HMCS Haida", named and used in an era of enforced assimilation of Aboriginal people.

Jari Osborne, 1999, *Unwanted Soldiers*, 48:48.

This film explores the important and little known history of WWII Chinese veterans—hundreds of Chinese Canadians served their country during WWII, even though they had no voting rights, and they had many race-based limitations on their lives.

Cherie Valentina Stocken, *A Fine Line*, 2005, 4:43.

This video installation juxtaposes images of an Aboriginal man and colonial British images, calling into question our sense of Canadian culture.

Rick Shiomi/Powell Street Revue, *Images of the First Hundred Years*, 1980, 11:00 .

Using photographs from the Japanese-Canadian Centennial Project, this film explores the cultural heritage of Canada's Japanese community amid

PROGRAM #4 Screening August 31st, 2007**1907****The Back Page**

This series of videos commemorates the 1907 Anti-Asian riots. On September 7, a white supremacist crowd marched to Vancouver city hall to demand a White Canada. Many proceeded to attack Chinatown and then the Japanese community around Powell Street. The riots were not only a landmark in the rise of racism in Canada, they signaled the beginning of systematic federal intervention to prohibit Asian immigration to Canada.

From stereo-typing to empowering this series of videos reflect the relationships and stories of the North American Asians beyond the “reality” we have always been told. This series depicts the hidden, the un-known, and the greater history of the Asian people of this land, along with the strength in the past that is carried on in the lively communities of today.

Fine China, VTape/ 8:30 mins/ Ho Tam
Fine China is a video exploration of China's past and present with a different take on issues within and outside a country of growing influence in the present day.

The Yellow Pages, Video Out/ 7:45 mins/ Ho Tam

A satirical and playful exploration of the Asian experience in North America, the video roams from past to present, from Chinese railway workers to the 1997 Hong Kong Handover to China

Dirty Laundry, VTape/ 30:30 mins/ Richard Fung

On a train trip across the Rockies, Roger Kwong learns of the untold story of his great-grandfather’s sexuality. The film reveals how present day assumptions blur the diversity of the past.

Refugee Class of 2000, Video Out/ 4 mins/ Paul Wong

Inspired by the recent arrival of refugees on the BC Coast and by the racially motivated intolerance shown to the Chinese boat people,

Refugee Class of 2000 highlights the statements of 34 high school students from the working class and culturally diverse Charles Tupper high school in East Vancouver.

Chinaman’s Peak: Walking The Mountain, Video Out/ 25 mins/ Paul Wong

This video documents the Chinese ritual tradition of “Walking the Mountain” and takes place on a mountain in the Canadian Rockies. This ritual provides continuity between past and present in Chinese culture and this video honours the memory of the turn-of-the-century Chinese railway workers.

Yellow Brotherhood, The Center for Asian American Media / 19 mins/ Tadashi H. Nakamura
An evocative look at the 30-year evolution of the Asian American self-help group Yellow Brotherhood. The film provides insight into the past and future while mixing nostalgia with a great soundtrack.

Total: 95 mins**1907 programmed by Nilesh Patel**