



Ruptures in Arrival: Art in the Wake of the Komagata Maru April 12 to June 15 | Opening Reception: April 12, 7:30-9:30pm Exhibition Launch with Artist's Talk and Opening Reception

Ruptures in Arrival: Art in the Wake of the Komagata Maru launches on April 12 with an artist's talk at 6:30pm, followed by an opening reception from 7:30pm to 9:30pm (formal remarks at 7:45pm). Toronto-based artist Ali Kazimi will give an illustrated talk about his art practice, major works, and the context for his work on display in the exhibition. There is another event taking place on this evening, so visitors are encouraged to arrive early in order to find parking. Admission to the opening reception and artist's talk is free (donations are gratefully received).

EVENTS

Exhibition Tours

Thursday, April 24, 7–8:30pm
Thursday, May 29, 7–8:30pm
Location: Surrey Art Gallery

Be part of an informal tour of the exhibition led by Jordan Strom, curator, Surrey Art Gallery, and hear interesting stories about the artworks and artists. After the tour, stay for refreshments and conversation.

By donation; Surrey Art Gallery Association members free

An evening with Ali Kazimi and the film *Continuous Journey*

The Harjit Kaur Sidhu Memorial Program 2014
Thursday, May 1, 7–9:30pm
Location: Centre Stage at Surrey City Centre (City Hall) 13450-104 Avenue

This event includes a screening of *Continuous Journey* – Ali Kazimi's 2004 documentary that explores the history of the Komagata Maru 'incident' – and a conversation with the filmmaker. Presented by UBC Asian Studies, in partnership with the Komagata Maru Heritage Foundation, Surrey Art Gallery, and Surrey Civic Theatres.

Free with the support of the Sidhu family

Seating is limited

Disfiguring Identity: Art, Migration and Exile

Saturday, May 10, 7:30–9:30pm
A series of short film and video screenings to 8:45pm, followed by Q&A with artists to 9:30pm.
Location: Centre Stage at Surrey City Centre (City Hall) 13450 104 Avenue

Sunday, May 11, 12-5:45pm
Presentations, panels, and performances featuring a keynote talk on recent histories of art and activism related to racism.
Location: Surrey Art Gallery

This two-day symposium will examine contemporary artistic responses to histories of racism and xenophobia triggered by immigration from Asia to Canada over the past century. Among those featured will be artists who have made work directly related to the history of the Komagata Maru and those who have addressed parallel and more recent incidents of arrival. Others will consider the impact of media representations, personal experiences, and art histories that engage with narratives of identity. Co-presented with Kwantlen Polytechnic University Fine Arts Department and On Main Gallery.

Free – donations gratefully received

Family Day

Sunday, June 8, 12-4pm
Location: Surrey Art Gallery

Drop in to explore, enjoy, and create art together! Family-friendly activities are inspired by the exhibition, plus a special performance at 2pm. Children must be with an adult.

Suggested donation: \$4 per child

Surrey Art Gallery acknowledges the support of the Ruptures in Arrival: Art in the Wake of the Komagata Maru project by the Department of Canadian Heritage through a grant for Building Communities through Arts and Heritage in partnership with the Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society in Metro Vancouver. Surrey Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of City of Surrey, BC Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage, and Vancouver Foundation. Ruptures in Arrival: Art in the Wake of the Komagata Maru is presented in partnership with Komagata Maru 1914 – 2014, a collaboration between eight organizations across Metro Vancouver that are presenting events and exhibitions related to the living legacies of the Komagata Maru episode. www.komagatamaru100.com Surrey Art Gallery recognizes and is thankful for the ongoing support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$157 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country. Nous remercions le Conseil des arts du Canada de son soutien. L'an dernier, le Conseil a investi 157 millions de dollars pour mettre de l'art dans la vie des Canadiennes et des Canadiens de tout le pays. Surrey Art Gallery and the Surrey Art Gallery Association gratefully acknowledge the ongoing financial assistance of the BC Arts Council, an agency of the Province of BC. Surrey Art Gallery Association acknowledges the support of Vancouver Foundation for the Ruptures in Arrival: Art in the Wake of the Komagata Maru project. With almost 1,500 funds and assets totaling \$814 million, Vancouver Foundation is Canada's largest community foundation. In 2012, Vancouver Foundation and its donors made more than 4,000 grants, totaling approximately \$46 million to registered charities across Canada. Since it was founded in 1943, Vancouver Foundation, in partnership with its donors, has distributed more than \$917 million to thousands of community projects and programs. Grant recipients range from social services to medical research groups, to organizations devoted to arts and culture, the environment, education, children and families, disability supports for employment, youth issues and animal welfare. To find out more visit: vancouverfoundation.ca or follow us on social media: Facebook.com/vancouverfdn or @VancouverFdn.

**Surrey Art Gallery is located at 13750 - 88 Avenue, Surrey, BC, Canada.
604-501-5566 | www.surrey.ca/artgallery**

**HOURS (until early July): Tues-Thur 9am-9pm | Fri 9am-5pm | Sat 10am-5pm | Sun 12-5pm |
Closed Mondays and holidays. Note: Surrey Art Gallery will be closed April 18 through 21.**

Being street smart about Canadian culture

by SIMON YEE

What is the proper etiquette when one is invited to go to a party in Canada? What kinds of parties are held? How early to the party should one arrive? How late is acceptable? And how do people from other cultures host parties?

These are some of the questions that can be asked and discussed at Culture Smart, a weekly workshop set in a friendly atmosphere that provides a forum for newcomers to learn about different facets about Canadian culture, as well as share their stories about how their own cultures approach similar situations.

A place to learn

Culture Smart discusses different cultures in Vancouver. It

"I didn't know a Nanaimo bar was a sweet! I only knew it was a street!" exclaims Girly, 38, from the Philippines.

Adris, 28, who arrived from Afghanistan three months ago, celebrated his birthday on March 31. He brought a cheesecake to the meeting to share and enjoy with the group. Birthday celebrations and parties in general provided the main theme for that day's group discussion.

Girly explains that in the Philippines, certain milestone birthdays, such as ages 1, 7, 12, 18 and 21, are grandly celebrated. In addition, symbolic foods must be prepared on those birthdays.

"Rice noodles or spaghetti should be served. It's a symbol which indicates long life," says Girly. But the noodles or spaghetti cannot be cut short or else it ruins the symbolism.



▲ Karen George addresses the group.

helps new immigrants to improve their English writing and listening skills, and also gives them a sense of Canadian humour.

"When new immigrants come to Canada, they may have a lot of questions and not know who to ask. So we set up this program to help answer them and help them learn more about the cultural context, and how it is to live in Canada," says Karen George, program facilitator with MOSAIC, the non-profit organization that hosts Culture Smart.

Sue, a volunteer facilitator who has previously worked on other MOSAIC cultural programs, leads this year's Culture Smart. Sue determines the topics for discussions, but she also asks the participants what they are interested in and what questions they have about living and getting around in Canada.

"We've talked about the Canadian handshake, what do you talk about with strangers, what are safe and appropriate topics, how to get in and out of a conversation, personal space and Canadian food," Sue says.

But it's not just Canada the participants learn about. Sue also connects what she talks about with the various cultural backgrounds represented at the workshop and tries to find cultural similarities and note differences as well.

"Learning is not a one way street. I like to try to make links with their cultures as best we can," explains Sue.

A place to converse

All of the Culture Smart participants agree with the sentiment the program is a valuable forum to learn more about Canadian culture. It also provides an opportunity to make new friends, who are also new to the country as well as share their own life experiences and humorous cultural misunderstandings.

"For the first birthday, it's a big party," adds Yinga, 50, who arrived in Canada from Taiwan five months ago with her husband and son. "We go to a restaurant and usually the guests will give money in a red envelope or they will give presents like a golden necklace or ring for the baby."

Yinga further remarks that when the children are older, it is the children who treat their elderly parents to the restaurant.

A place to feel welcome

Culture Smart is more than just a workshop to swap stories, learn about cultures and improve one's English skills. It also fosters a sense of place and belonging, which is very important for newcomers who sometimes find themselves lost or disoriented in a new country.

"I enjoy the topics that we talked about, like how everyone has different hobbies. Having conversations, to talk with others and make friends. It makes me feel very relaxed and happy," says Wenjie, 45, from China.

Although some participants found out about the program through advertisements at a public library or community centre, others heard it through a glowing recommendation from a work colleague who previously attended the program.

Adris thinks programs like Culture Smart should be better advertised at Canadian immigration offices for newcomers to learn about it quickly and register if they wish.

"When you come to a new country like Canada, very multicultural, you need some place to go because you can't keep asking everyone every day, 'How do you greet here', 'How do you talk there'. So you want a platform where you go to share these questions. It's best for newcomers to learn these things as early as you can. I'm so happy now to have a place where I can go to get an answer for sure," says Adris. ☺