

STORIES FOR FUTURES

REAL AND IMAGINED

ACT ART GALLERY SHARES VISUAL STORYTELLING WITHIN *STORIES FOR FUTURE – REAL AND IMAGINED*

Exhibition is the Third of Five Planned for the 2023/24 Season of Visual Arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, January 13, 2023 – Maple Ridge, BC –

On Saturday, January 5 from 2pm-4 pm, The ACT Art Gallery will open *Stories for Futures – Real and Imagined* with artworks by Vancouver-based artists Diyan Achjadi and Sara Khan.

The duo exhibition features works on paper, watercolour paintings, and fabric installations. Sharing scenes from their respective homelands of Indonesia and Pakistan, the narratives in each work embrace both the fantastical and factual.

"Achjadi's and Khan's works share similarities in their use of vibrant colour palettes and textile references. Each artwork is an immersive and intricate world" says Courtney Miller, Curator and Gallery Manager.

In the *Stories for Futures – Real and Imagined* exhibition, visitors will see blended imagery of waterways, plant life, landscape, family members, and non-human characters. Through storytelling, the artists bring their memories and cultural contexts into the future.

Diyan Achjadi is a Vancouver-based artist who explores the ways that surface ornamentation and illustrated printed matter can function as archives documenting the circulation of ideas in visual form. Born in Jakarta, Indonesia, her formative years were spent moving between multiple educational, political, and cultural systems. Diyan is a Professor in the Audain Faculty of Art at Emily Carr University of Art and Design.



Diyan Achjadi, *Sinking*



Sara Khan, *My Village*

and national artists, and accompanying talks, workshops, and other presentations. The adjacent Gallery Shop offers a diverse selection of art and handmade goods including ceramics, jewelry candles, artwork, art cards, glassware, and home goods, supporting local artists and artisans.

Born in Birmingham, England, and raised in Lahore, Pakistan, Sara Khan holds a BFA from the National College of Arts, Lahore. A participant in notable art residences and festivals in Norway and Canada, her vibrant journey took her to solo and group exhibitions globally, including Surrey Art Gallery and The Reach Gallery and Museum. Today, she continues to create from her base in Vancouver, Canada.

The Opening Reception is a free event open to the public, and the exhibition will run through March 9, 2024. The ACT Arts Gallery is open Tuesday – Saturday, 10am-4pm and on selected evenings.

A dedicated Community Gallery space located inside The ACT Art Centre; The ACT Art Gallery is operated by the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Arts Council. In fulfilling its mission to broaden and enrich the public's appreciation and understanding of the visual arts, the Gallery presents engaging and diverse displays of artwork by local, regional,

ABOUT THE ACT ART GALLERY AND THE ACT ARTS CENTRE

The ACT Arts Centre, opened in 2003, is operated by the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Arts Council, and provides excellence in Arts Learning Programs, Gallery Exhibitions and Performing Arts Presentations. The centre is home to many cultural and community events, reaching over 70,000 patrons annually.

The ACT Arts Centre gratefully acknowledges the generous support of **Epic Homes** as the 2023/24 season title sponsor, and support from **The Department of Canadian Heritage**, **The BC Arts Council**, **The Province of British Columbia**, **The City of Maple Ridge**, **Prospera Credit Union** and many generous individual and business donors and sponsors.

We acknowledge that we are fortunate to be able to work, create, learn, and connect on the traditional unceded territories of the Katzie First nation and Kwantlen First Nation.

Please visit us at: theactmapleridge.org/real-and-imagined

Exhibition Dates: Saturday, January 13, 2024 – Saturday, March 9, 2024

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 13, 2023, from 2:00 PM-4:00 PM (FREE)

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM and selected evenings

Location: The ACT Art Gallery (at The ACT Arts Centre)
11944 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 6G1

MEDIA RESOURCES

Exhibition poster and select images can be accessed [via Dropbox](#). Please always credit the artist when using the images. Artist name is indicated on each file name.

MEDIA CONTACT

Jessica Dionne
Manager, Marketing, Communications, and Brand
604-476-2781 | jessicad@mraact.org