

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 2, 2019

**MEDIA ADVISORY:**

**Exclusive Media Tour of Premiere Exhibition,  
qa? yəx<sup>w</sup> - water honours us: Womxn and Waterways**

**VANCOUVER, BC** — **Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art** invites media to a curated tour of the extraordinary group exhibition **qa? yəx<sup>w</sup> - water honours us: Womxn and Waterways** on **April 9, 2019**, from **1–3pm** at the **Bill Reid Gallery (639 Hornby Street)**. Guest curated by four members of the **ReMatriate Collective** — Tsēmā Igharas (Tahltan), Tiffany Creyke (Tahltan), Angela Marie Schenstead (nêhiyaw), and Denver Lynxleg (Anishinaabe) — the exhibition features nine Indigenous artists. The exhibition will also honour Audrey Siegl (Musqueam) as an important contemporary Water Keeper. The show explores the important role of Indigenous women on the coast, both past and present, in a timely investigation amid ongoing debates about pipelines and Indigenous rights. qa? yəx<sup>w</sup> is a hən̓q̓əmiñəm̓ expression that means “water honours us.”

**WHAT: An exclusive media tour of qa? yəx<sup>w</sup> - water honours us: Womxn and Waterways, on display from April 10–October 2, 2019.** The exhibition features video, photography, carving, printmaking, beading, and performance by artists affiliated with various Indigenous peoples of the Northwest Coast and the interior of British Columbia. Each of the nine artists considers a unique experience with the life-giving element of water, and creates innovative works based on culturally specific practices: Richelle Bear Hat (Blackfoot/Cree), Krystle Coughlin (Selkirk), Lindsay Katsitsakataste Delaronde (Mohawk), Alison Marks (Tlingit), Dionne Paul (Nuxalk/Sechelt), Kali Spitzer (Kaska Dena), Marika Echachis Swan (Nuu-chah-nulth), Carrielynn Victor (Sto:lo), Veronica Waechter (Gitxsan). **Photography and filming are permitted.**

**WHO:** Guest curators Tsēmā Igharas (Tahltan), Tiffany Creyke (Tahltan), Angela Marie Schenstead (nêhiyaw), and Denver Lynxleg (Anishinaabe), along with the following participating artists will be available on-site for one-on-one interviews: Alison Marks (Tlingit), Krystle Coughlin (Selkirk), and Richelle Bear Hat (Blackfoot/Cree).

**WHEN: Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 1–3pm**

**WHERE: Bill Reid Gallery, 639 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC. Parking available on-site.**

**WHY:** Media are invited to attend and record footage of an exclusive tour of qa? yəx<sup>w</sup> - water honours us: Womxn and Waterways. The exhibition highlights women’s unique relationship with water as child bearers, healers, doulas, and other roles key to Indigenous matriarchal societies of the Northwest Coast. Water connects everyone through the seas, rivers, and clouds, and is not bound by human-imposed borders. The participating artists explore water as a crucial element for all of creation, as well as its historical uses for survival and sacred cycles. In addition, they look at the excess of contemporary resource consumption as a threat to sensitive environmental and coastal ecosystems.

**To confirm your attendance at the media tour, please RSVP by Monday, April 8 to Ines Min via email: [imin@mpmgarts.com](mailto:imin@mpmgarts.com) or phone: 604-440-0791**

**About Bill Reid Gallery ([billreidgallery.ca](http://billreidgallery.ca))**

The Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art is a public gallery nestled in the heart of downtown

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Vancouver. It is named after acclaimed Haida artist Bill Reid (1920–1998), a master goldsmith, carver, sculptor, writer, broadcaster, and spokesman.

Since opening its doors in May 2008, the Bill Reid Gallery has remained the only public gallery in Canada devoted to contemporary Indigenous Art of the Northwest Coast, and is home to the Simon Fraser University Bill Reid Art Collection, as well as special exhibitions of contemporary Indigenous art of the Northwest Coast of North America. Through his art, Bill Reid continues to inspire emerging and established contemporary Indigenous artists of the Northwest Coast. His legacies include infusing the art traditions of the Haida with modern forms of expression, influencing the next generation of artists, and building lasting bridges between First Nations and other peoples.

The Bill Reid Gallery offers educational programs for students of all ages, providing greater awareness and appreciation of Indigenous values and cultures, coupled with an understanding of how ancient knowledge can inform and impact their lives today.

The Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art is an initiative of the Bill Reid Foundation. Established in 1999 as a non-profit charitable organization, the Foundation's mission is to preserve the art and perpetuate the legacies of Bill Reid.

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**For further media information, contact**

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