



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 14, 2012

## **TO | FROM BC ELECTRIC RAILWAY: 100 YEARS**

Raymond Boisjoly | Stan Douglas | Ali Kazimi  
Vanessa Kwan | Evan Lee | Cindy Mochizuki

September 15 – November 10, 2012, Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11am-6pm  
Opening Reception: Friday, September 14, 2012, 8-10pm  
Co-curators: Makiko Hara and Annabel Vaughan

*"BRIGHT LIGHTS! BC ELECTRIC RAILWAY TURNS 100!"*

**Vancouver, BC** - Centre A is pleased to present **TO / FROM BC ELECTRIC RAILWAY: 100 YEARS**, a group exhibition celebrating the historic BC Electric Railway (BCER) building's centennial anniversary, the current home of Centre A. Sitting below the six-story Second Empire Renaissance styled building, the early 1900s saw the BCER terminal blossom into a bustling interurban railway station. Addressing the building's importance to the collective memory of Vancouver, six contemporary artists will draw on the site and the neighborhood's expansive history to consider the building's significance as a cosmopolitan centre for new immigrants.

“The lofty space of the BCER terminal building is literally the keystone upon which the grid of the city turns. For the last six years the BCER building has been Centre A’s home. On this occasion, it seems fitting to consider the role of the building as a conduit for a range of social, business and cultural exchanges. This exhibition examines immigrant contributions to the development of the Downtown Eastside,” says Centre A’s Executive Director, Haema Sivanesan.

“The more we learn about this building, the more we discover about Vancouver’s rich and diverse cultural history. The exhibition *TO / FROM* takes us back 100 years, where the streets of Hastings were filled with sizzling cabarets and farmers markets,” says co-curator, Makiko Hara. “Each artist in this exhibition are from a different generation and cultural background, they will share their own stories and histories of the Downtown Eastside.” Co-curator Annabel Vaughan adds, “Using the centenary of the BCER building as a departure point, the exhibit will explore ideas implicitly embedded in the architecture of the building: arrival, speed, mobility, being in transit, waiting and the cosmopolitan aspirations of a young city.”

“Before WWII and the internment of Japanese Canadians, the former Japantown was filled with markets, restaurants, bathhouses, and specialty stores like the confectionary shops that sold Japanese sweets,” explains the artist, Cindy Mochizuki. The installation for this exhibit attempts to bring forth a site of memory, the interior of a space and disappearance of time. The occasion will also be used to interview and create specialty candy from that era with members from various Japanese Canadian community groups.”

**Highlights of the exhibition include** new works by Raymond Boisjoly, Vanessa Kwan, Evan Lee and Cindy Mochizuki. The exhibition will also include selections from Stan Douglas’ series, *The Malabar People*, seen for the first time in Vancouver. Never-before-seen historical photographs of BCER plus film screenings of Vancouver in the 1930s to ‘80s, are just some of the exciting programs scheduled alongside *TO/FROM BC ELECTRIC RAILWAY: 100 YEARS*. To view full details of our public programs, please visit our website: [www.centre.org](http://www.centre.org).

*TO / FROM BC ELECTRIC RAILWAY: 100 YEARS* is co-curated by Makiko Hara, Curator at Centre A, and Annabel Vaughan, Principal of the design firm publicLAB RESEARCH + DESIGN. Hara and Vaughan will give a public walking tour of the BC Electric Railway building on Saturday, September 15 from 2 to 5pm.

#### ABOUT CENTRE A

Established in 1999, Centre A (Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art) is the only public art gallery in Canada dedicated to contemporary Asian art. Centre A makes a significant contribution to Vancouver’s cultural landscape by contributing to the cultural infrastructure of the city, and foregrounding a range of diverse contemporary artistic practices. Centre A commissions and curates exhibitions, performance art projects, symposia, occasional residencies, publications and educational programs that contextualize the work of Asian-Canadian artists within a larger national and international context. We also bring the work of leading international artists to Vancouver, encouraging an exchange of ideas and promoting a wide awareness of contemporary cultural practices from Asia and its diasporas.

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Admission: Free | Gallery Hours: Tues-Sat 11am-6pm