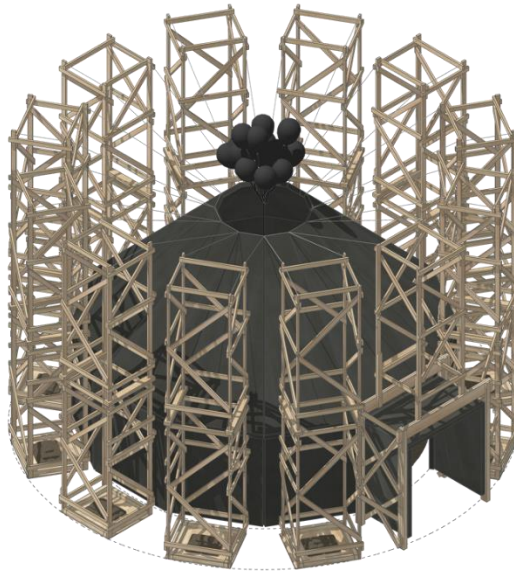


The Vancouver Art Gallery presents: *NEXT: Provisional Structures: Carmen Papalia with Co-Conspirators*

New exhibition features a site-specific project by non-visual Vancouver artist, Carmen Papalia



[ID: A digital rendering from an overhead view of a black structure that is surrounded by eleven wooden scaffold towers. A system of cables holds up the top of the structure, which is an oculus through which a bundle of black balloons floats.]

December 2, 2022, VANCOUVER, BC // *Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw) and Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaʔ) Nations*

The Vancouver Art Gallery is pleased to present: *NEXT: Provisional Structures: Carmen Papalia with Co-Conspirators*, a new project by Carmen Papalia and his co-conspirators that centers disability cultures within the Gallery.

For Papalia, the process of making spaces accessible to a broader cross-section of the public is inherently creative and works created by the artist are often a means to test, model and share his ideas about accessibility. At the centre of the exhibition is an ambitious architectural installation created by the artist in collaboration with local architect Michael Lis. The piece is comprised of a large acoustic dome that visitors can enter, encircled by tall, wooden towers. The structure appears to be temporarily and briskly constructed, giving tangible form to Papalia's notion of a model for accessibility that can rise spontaneously in response to the given needs of a group.

In the artist's words, "*Provisional Structures* is at once an installation, an institutional intervention and a call to action that serves as a platform for disabled artists, curators and cultural workers by requiring the institutions that exhibit it to dedicate time, space and resources to the development of the systems necessary to hold disability culture and artistry in its wholeness."

In keeping with the principles of Papalia's practice, the artist has also invited a group of co-conspirators to support and generously share ideas that resonate and relate to disability justice and social cohesion. Works by participating artists including Sharona Franklin and Heather Kai Smith complement and poetically extend some of the themes and ideas within Papalia's practice. Rebel Fayola Rose and the collaborative duo, The Curiosity Paradox, both access advocates and artists will be participating in the exhibition through a series of public programs and performances. Details on the activities and dates will be available in the coming weeks.

Public engagement and programming are key components of the exhibition and workshops, talks and discussions will be held during the exhibition throughout its duration. Additional resources are also available on the Gallery's app.

"In working with Carmen Papalia and Co-Conspirators, the Vancouver Art Gallery welcomes audiences to consider the possibilities of art as a non-visual experience," said **Anthony Kiendl**, CEO & Director of Vancouver Art Gallery. "This exhibition is an example of contemporary art as a language that exceeds the visual – it is clearly about challenging ways of thinking and ideas. At the same time, the project introduces other voices and narratives from the contemporary disability movement. This creates not only an important but vital and relevant environment for the public to experience. We are very excited to be a hub for people to gather over the coming weeks of the exhibition."

NEXT: Provisional Structures: Carmen Papalia with Co-Conspirators is the twentieth installment in *NEXT: A Series of Artist Projects from the Pacific Rim*. This series highlights works previously not seen in Vancouver and seeks to engage the diverse practices of Pacific Rim artists.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

The Vancouver Art Gallery is committed to creating an inclusive and respectful environment. As such, *NEXT: Provisional Structures: Carmen Papalia with Co-Conspirators* invites disabled and non-disabled visitors to experience the richness and complexity of disability justice. For requests, concerns or questions regarding accessibility and the Gallery, please contact Public Programs Coordinator Stephanie Bokenfohr by email at sbokenfohr@vanartgallery.bc.ca or call 604 662 4700.

EXHIBITION AND CURATORIAL CREDIT:

Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Mandy Ginson, Associate Curator, in collaboration with Stephanie Bokenfohr, Adult Public Programs Coordinator

SPONSORS:

Government Partner through the Artist:
Canada Council for the Arts



Canada Council Conseil des arts
for the Arts du Canada

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ABOUT CARMEN PAPALIA

Born in 1981, Carmen Papalia is a non-visual social practice artist with chronic and episodic pain. He uses organizing strategies and improvisation to address his access to public space, art institutions and visual culture. As a convener, he establishes welcoming spaces where disabled, sick and chronically ill people can build capacity for care that they lack on account of governmental failure and medical ableism. His work, which takes forms ranging from collaborative performance to public intervention, is a response to the harms of the Medical Model of Disability. Papalia holds a Bachelor of Arts from Simon Fraser University and a Master of Fine Arts with a focus in Art & Social Practice from Portland State University. He is an inaugural fellow of the Crip Tech Incubator via Leonardo: the International Society for the Arts, Sciences and Technology. In 2020 Papalia was one of 25 artists who received the Sobey Art Award; in 2019 he was a Sobey long list recipient in the West Coast / Yukon region. His work has been featured at institutions such as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Tate Liverpool, Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity, the Contemporary Art Gallery, Surrey Art Gallery and Gallery Gachet.

CO-CONSPIRATORS

Rebel Fayola Rose (Founder of Disability Justice Dreaming), Sharona Franklin, Heather Kai Smith, Catherine Frazee and Gabrielle Peters (Disability Filibuster Against Bill C-7) and The Curiosity Paradox

ABOUT VANCOUVER ART GALLERY (www.vanartgallery.bc.ca)

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's leading and innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs, and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is given to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to those of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art founded in 2014. The Gallery's exhibitions also explore the impact of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design, and architecture.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a charitable not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, and the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is situated on the ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and is respectful of the Indigenous stewards of the land it occupies, whose rich cultures are fundamental to artistic life in Vancouver and the work of the Gallery.

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