

New Vancouver Art Gallery SPOTLIGHT feature: KC HALL explores tension between ancient Indigenous skills and traditions and the urban digital world

# Art Opens

**Vancouver**  
Artgallery

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KC Hall explores tension between ancient Indigenous skills and traditions  
and the urban digital world**



**November 2, 2022, VANCOUVER, BC // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), Squamish (Sḵw̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw) and Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaʔ) Nations.**

The current iteration of the Vancouver Art Gallery's SPOTLIGHT feature showcases local artist **KC Hall** whose artistic practice stems from handwriting, lettering and graffiti skills developed in high school. Mentored and influenced by several BC

Indigenous artists, Hall's work arises out of the tension between ancient Indigenous skills and traditions and the urban digital world he now inhabits. The skill with which Hall navigates this rift can be seen in his use of formline to create habitat for traditional figures with a distinctively modern twist, successfully combining traditional Northwest Coast design elements with his own distinctive style. KC Hall is from Bella Bella, in Heiltsuk Nation territory on the Central Coast of BC, belongs to the House of Wakas and descends from noted Heiltsuk artist Chief Robert Bell.

**KC Hall** was born in Bella Bella, BC, and was raised in East Vancouver. He is the grandson of hereditary Chief Irene (Wakas) Brown. At a very young age, KC always had an interest in illustration. In high school, he developed a passion for handwriting, lettering, and graffiti. After graduation, he began creating work on a larger scale, including paintings and drawings. While he was enrolled in the Northwest Coast Jewelry Program, KC became inspired by Nisga'a artist Robert Tait and the visual language of Northwest Coast formline. In 2016, KC designed and presented a blanket to Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge while the royals were on a visit to BC. Currently, KC is creating work that can be described as unique and free-spirited. He is successfully combining traditional Northwest Coast design elements with his own distinctive style.

Organized by the Art Rental and Sales Program and the Curatorial Department of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

*The exhibition opens to the public in the Vancouver Art Gallery Lobby from October 26, 2022 until October 15, 2023.*

For further information please visit: [www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/exhibitions/spotlight-kc-hall](http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/exhibitions/spotlight-kc-hall)

**The Vancouver Art Gallery is grateful to its exhibition supporters and sponsors:**

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Image: Installation view of *SPOTLIGHT: KC Hall*, commissioned mural in the Vancouver Art Gallery Lobby, October 26, 2022 to October 15, 2023

**ABOUT SPOTLIGHT**

SPOTLIGHT is a collaboration between the Art Rental & Sales Program (AR&S) and the Curatorial Department of the Vancouver Art Gallery. AR&S is a not-for-profit program operated by the Gallery with a mandate of supporting emerging artists based in British Columbia. In this collaboration, Gallery curators invite an artist represented by AR&S to create a mural on a feature wall in the Gallery Lobby. This special initiative aims to provide new opportunities for emerging artists, as well as to activate the lobby space for thousands of visitors each year.

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**ABOUT VANCOUVER ART GALLERY**

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most 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. 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, 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 səliwətaʔ (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.*

vanartgallery.bc.ca

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Vancouver Art Gallery, 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC Canada V6Z 2H7

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