

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Vancouver Art Gallery Presents Experimental Performance *Sculptural Rebirth* for the First Time in Canada



February 25, 2025, VANCOUVER, BC // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is excited to present live performance *Sculptural Rebirth* 脱皮的彫刻, an experimental collaboration between Japanese artist **Tadasu Takamine** and art students from Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECUAD). The work—featuring music, plaster and live participants—exists in a space that crosses sculpture and performance.

"Presenting *Sculptural Rebirth* at the Vancouver Art Gallery reflects the Gallery's commitment to traversing diverse artistic mediums and integrating durational art within the museum space," says **Eva Respini**, Deputy Director & Director of Curatorial Programs. "As part of the Gallery's Centre for Global Asias mandate, this performance represents a convergence of ideas, perspectives, and artistic disciplines and new ways of experiencing art at the Gallery."

Sculptural Rebirth 脱皮的彫刻 represents the experience of a life change in which one symbolically sheds an ill-fitting skin and moves on to a new phase of life. This durational performance features fourteen performers

on a transformational journey from speaking subject engaging with the public, to a brief period of solitude in which their consciousness turns inward, before finally emerging anew. The themes of transformation and reemergence resonate powerfully with many moments in life and are particularly relevant to the process of art making. The title of the work is suggestive of the process of molting, in which a snake sheds its outer skin and enters a new developmental stage. This deeply moving performance is a rare opportunity for audiences to slow down and witness various phases of art making and transformation before their eyes.

Artist and educator **Tadasu Takamine** was born in 1968 in Kagoshima, Japan and is based in Tokyo. He employs various media including video, installation and stage performance to reveal buried social issues, often engaging with his own body and personal experiences. Takamine has developed a unique experimental live installation-performance practice through workshops with local participants over several decades, which he incorporates in much of his artwork. Takamine's works can be laced with a sense of pain and frustration and are deeply personal.

This presentation is organized by **Makiko Hara**, Curator in Residence at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Hara has over three decades of experience in international contemporary art as an independent curator, producer, lecturer, performance artist and writer. Since relocating from Tokyo to Vancouver in 2007, she has continually challenged notions of cross-Pacific identity through an array of experimental curatorial practices. Hara recently guest curated *Offsite: Pedro Reyes* and *Lani Maestro* at the Gallery's public outdoor art space, Offsite, and has worked on numerous art projects around the city. Hara's focus at the Gallery is curating performance events and public art projects that bring a new layer of depth and understanding to the Gallery's programs, as part of our mission to bring more interdisciplinary and live performance work into the Gallery spaces.

"I am excited to bring *Sculptural Rebirth* to life at the Vancouver Art Gallery," says **Makiko Hara**, Curator in Residence at the Vancouver Art Gallery. "The work is a transdisciplinary experiment between sculpture and performance developed over time and place. This trans-Pacific Vancouver presentation is a collaboration with Associate Professor Emily Hermant and features a group of bold students from Emily Carr University of Art + Design. I am eager to witness—with the audience—the process of physical and mental transformation of these incredible performers."

Sculptural Rebirth 脱皮的彫刻 takes place on the 3rd Floor Rotunda at the Vancouver Art Gallery on Sunday March 2, 2025, at 2 PM. The performance is approximately 70 minutes long. Please note that capacity is limited, and seating will be first come, first served. The first 40 attendees will be seated in the performance space. The remaining attendees will have partial view of the performance and will be able to watch via a live stream from overflow space in the 3rd Floor gallery.

Sculptural Rebirth 脱皮的彫刻 is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery with the generous support of Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECUAD) and their NSERC Mobilize grant. It is directed by artist **Tadasu Takamine** and curated by **Makiko Hara**, Curator in Residence. The ECUAD students' participation is facilitated by artist and Associate Professor **Emily Hermant** with the assistance of **Kyla Gilbert**.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/performance-sculptural-rebirth>

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Image: Tadasu Takamine, *Sculptural Rebirth*, 2023, Performance at the Former Daiichi Bank, Yokohama, Japan,
Photo: Courtesy of the Artist

For media requests or to RSVP, email media@vanartgallery.bc.ca

[Download images here](#)

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Tadasu Takamine 高嶺格 was born in 1968 in Kagoshima, Japan and is based in Tokyo. He employs various media including video, installation and stage performance to reveal buried social issues, often engaging with his own body and personal experiences. Takamine has developed his unique experimental live installation-performance practices through workshops with local participants over several decades, which he incorporates in much of his recent artwork. Takamine's works can be laced with a sense of pain and frustration and are deeply personal. Often placing audiences in uncomfortable situations, Takamine calls into question their sense of belonging, while conveying through untrained awkward bodies, an underlying warm, naive humanity that longs for others.

Takamine's work is highly acclaimed in both Japan and abroad. Solo exhibitions include Too Far to See, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, England, 2011; Cool Japan, Mito Art Centre, Japan, 2012; Japan Syndrome, Utrecht, Netherlands, 2013; and Brothers, TKG Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan, 2016. Takamine has also participated in the Venice Biennale, 2003; Busan Biennale, 2004; Asian Pacific Triennale, 2012; and Aichi Triennale in 2019. Takamine was the Audain Visual Artist in Residence at SFU School for the Contemporary Arts in 2018 and is currently the professor and Chair of the Sculpture Department at Tama Art University, Tokyo.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Makiko Hara 原万希子 is an independent curator, lecturer, writer and art and cultural consultant based in Vancouver, BC. From 2007 to 2013, she was Chief Curator/Deputy Director of Centre A: Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art. In addition, she has worked with many local and international visual artists on a variety of large-scale projects as an independent curator, including Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, Toronto (2009); AIR YONAGO, Tottori Geijyu Art Festival, Yonago, Japan (2014–15); Fictive Communities Asia–Koganecho Bazaar, Yokohama, Japan (2014); and Rock Paper Scissors: Cindy Mochizuki, Yonago City Museum of Art, Tottori, Japan (2018). Hara was Guest Curator of Koganecho Bazaar in 2014 and at Kamloops Art Gallery in 2021. Between 2017 and 2022, Hara served on the advisory committee for the International Exchange Center, Akita University of Art, Japan, and organized numerous international exchange programs. Hara co-founded Pacific Crossings, a British Columbia-based curatorial platform, in 2018. Pacific Crossings has initiated and organized numerous conversations, residencies and cultural exchanges, both online and offline, across the Pacific. Hara received the Alvin Balkind Curator's Prize in 2020. She is currently Curator in Residence at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Founded in 1931 and located on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nations, the Vancouver Art Gallery is Western Canada's largest public art museum. Our mission is to create—through art—paths to share perspectives, build and engage communities and shape our collective future together. This is expressed through exhibitions showcasing outstanding examples of historical, modern and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world; education programs that encourage dialogue and understanding; and publications that advance scholarship on a wide range of artistic subjects. Our permanent collection, representing the most comprehensive resource for visual culture in British Columbia, has more than 13,200 works. Committed to inclusivity and accessibility, we serve a broad public across the region. Each year, hundreds of thousands of children, youth, students, families, adults and seniors of all backgrounds benefit from our programs.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is situated on the ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (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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