

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Vancouver Art Gallery Launches *Vancouver Now!*, a New Exhibition Series
Designed to Take the Pulse of the Vancouver Art Scene**

The Inaugural Exhibition Features Emily Hermant in the Artist's First Solo Museum Presentation



July 28, 2026, VANCOUVER, B.C. // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is pleased to announce *Vancouver Now!*, a new rotating exhibition series celebrating the artists shaping Vancouver. Dedicated to emerging and mid-career artists whose practices are timely, distinctive and deeply connected to the city, the series reflects the Gallery's commitment to championing local artistic voices and keeping its finger on the pulse of Vancouver's evolving cultural landscape. Today, the Gallery announces the first five *Vancouver Now!* exhibitions, showcasing the exceptional diversity and ambition of Vancouver's contemporary artists across painting, drawing, sculpture and installation.

"The first five *Vancouver Now!* exhibitions speak to the incredible depth of artistic talent in Vancouver," says **Eva Respini**, Interim Co-CEO & Curator at Large. "These artists are producing some of the most

exciting work in Canada today, and this series is our commitment to making local artists' work a regular and visible part of the Gallery experience."

Launching on August 7, 2026, the inaugural *Vancouver Now!* exhibition features interdisciplinary artist **Emily Hermant**, whose intricate weavings transform recycled electrical wires and data cables into richly textured compositions through a meticulous making process. The exhibition coincides with the Vancouver Art Gallery's acquisition of Hermant's suspended sculpture *Talk Through Me (2024)*, an important addition to the Gallery's growing collection of contemporary Canadian art and a reflection of its commitment to supporting artists living and working in B.C.

Since moving to Vancouver in 2016, Emily Hermant has steadily established herself as one of the city's most exciting emerging artists. Her laboriously crafted, hand-woven works repurpose the wires and data cables that underpin our increasingly digital lives, transforming technologies designed for speed into remarkably detailed objects of contemplation. From a distance, the works resemble abstract paintings or finely woven textiles. Upon closer inspection, they reveal themselves as intricate structures of coloured insulated wire and network cables, inviting viewers to slow down and reconsider the material basis of the digital world.

"Emily Hermant's work is highly photogenic, but don't let that fool you," says **Richard Hill**, the Gallery's Smith Jarislowsky Senior Curator of Canadian Art. "You really need to see them in person. When you are in their presence, they remain aesthetically seductive, but the sense of their tactile materiality comes through forcefully. It is that experience that draws us into contemplating their deeper significance."

Vancouver Now! will continue with a rotating program of solo exhibitions by Vancouver artists. Following **Emily Hermant**, the series will feature **Annie Briard**, whose immersive installations combine video, light and sound to explore perception and the ways we experience the world, and **Manjot Kaur**, whose richly detailed paintings and multichannel sound installation draw on the traditions of Indian miniature painting to imagine hybrid human-bird beings inspired by Hindu female deities.

The series continues through 2028 with **Lauren Crazybull**, who creates portrait-based paintings that consider Indigenous presence, self-representation and multiplicity while asserting the humanity and resilience of Indigenous peoples, followed by **Karice Mitchell**, who transforms found images through analogue and digital processes to explore Black femme visibility, protection and alternative ways of being.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

ARTIST TALK: EMILY HERMANT

Saturday, September 19, 2026 | 2–3 PM | Rooftop Pavilion

Hear from Vancouver artist Emily Hermant as she discusses the inaugural *Vancouver Now!* exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Learn about the ideas, materials and processes behind her meticulously woven works. Register here: www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/artist-talk-emily-hermant/

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

Vancouver Now! Emily Hermant

August 7–November 22, 2026

Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Richard Hill, Smith Jarislowsky Senior Curator of Canadian Art

Vancouver Now! Annie Briard

December 11, 2026–March 29, 2027

Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Siobhan McCracken Nixon, Audain Associate Curator of BC Art

Vancouver Now! Manjot Kaur

April 16–August 8, 2027

Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Diana Freundl, Senior Curator

Vancouver Now! Lauren Crazybull

August 27, 2027–January 9, 2028

Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Camille Georgeson-Usher, Audain Senior Curatorial Advisor on Indigenous Art

Vancouver Now! Karice Mitchell

January 28–May 22, 2028

Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Stephanie Rebick, Interim Director of Exhibitions & Publishing

Presented by:



Foundation

Supported by the Women in Focus Campaign:

Janet Bowell

Media package: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/9aUZEVIWgf>

For media requests, email media@vanartgallery.bc.ca

Image: Emily Hermant in her Vancouver studio, July 2026, Photo: Vancouver Art Gallery

ABOUT EMILY HERMANT

Since relocating to Vancouver in 2016, Emily Hermant has been steadily building a reputation as an artist to watch. Holding a BFA from Concordia University and an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, she transforms discarded electrical wires and data cables into intricate woven sculptures and wall-based works that explore the materiality of communication.

ABOUT ANNIE BRIARD

Since making Vancouver her home in 2011, Annie Briard has become a compelling voice in the city's contemporary art scene. Working across installation, moving image and expanded photography, Briard creates immersive, site-responsive works that use light and media to challenge visual perception and explore the intersections of ecology, psychology and neuroscience.

ABOUT MANJOT KAUR

Ludhiana-born, Metro Vancouver based Manjot Kaur has developed a multidisciplinary practice spanning painting and time-based media. Drawing on ancient mythologies and histories, Kaur's work imagines interconnected futures shared by the human and the more-than-human world, exploring themes of ecology, spirituality and the sovereignty of nature.

ABOUT LAUREN CRAZYBULL

Niitsítapi (Kainai First Nation) and Dené artist Lauren Crazybull is based in Vancouver. Working primarily in portraiture, Crazybull creates paintings that consider Indigenous presence and multiplicity, examining the relationship between artist and sitter while challenging romanticized depictions of Indigeneity. Through her practice, she asserts the humanity and resilience of Indigenous peoples, advocating for their intellectual, spiritual, creative and political fortitude.

ABOUT KARICE MITCHELL

Toronto-born, Vancouver-based Karice Mitchell is a photo-based installation artist working across analogue and digital processes. Using found imagery and image manipulation, Mitchell recontextualizes representations of Black women drawn from pornography and popular culture to imagine new possibilities for Black femme visibility, protection and sexuality beyond the white gaze and patriarchy.

ABOUT VANCOUVER NOW!

Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery, *Vancouver Now!* is a new rotating exhibition series dedicated to artists whose work is shaping contemporary art in Vancouver today. Through a series of solo exhibitions, the initiative spotlights artists notable for their local relevance and impact, while strengthening the Gallery's commitment to championing the city's artistic community.

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Founded in 1931 on the ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's celebrated

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 Centre for Global Asias (formerly 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 Gallery's new Art of Wellbeing lab furthers its commitment to community by promoting the role of art in fostering health and wellbeing. Developed in collaboration with healthcare professionals, researchers and Indigenous Elders, the lab creates opportunities for individuals to engage with art in ways that support mental, emotional and physical wellbeing.

Committed to inclusivity and accessibility, the Gallery welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to share perspectives, build community and shape our collective future through art.

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 B.C. Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.