

The Burnaby Art Gallery Presents  
a Retrospective of Canadian Artist and Master Printmaker  
Anna Wong (1930–2013)



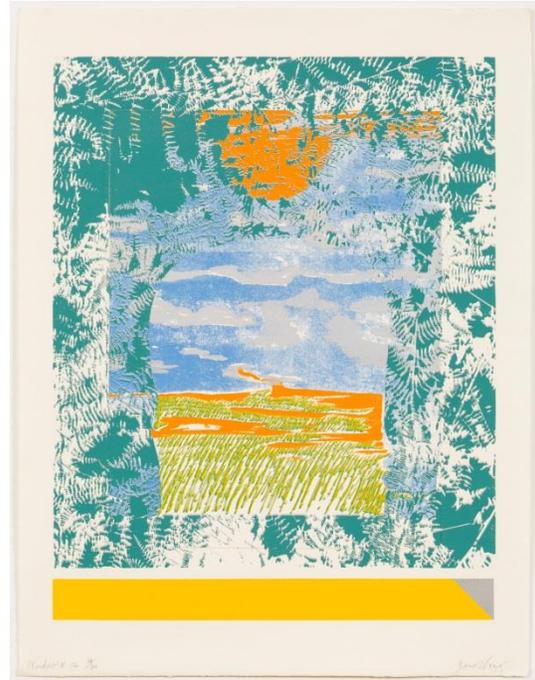
*Anna Wong: Traveller on Two Roads*  
August 31–November 3, 2018

**Media Preview:** The media are invited to attend the exhibition preview on **Thursday, August 30 at 5:30 pm**. Join co-curators Ellen van Eijsbergen and Jennifer Cane on a tour of the exhibition, followed by a Q & A with the curators and members of Anna Wong's family. Media are welcome to stay afterwards for the opening reception from 7–9 pm.  
**Please RSVP by August 29, 12pm:** [parm.johal@burnaby.ca](mailto:parm.johal@burnaby.ca)

**Burnaby, BC** – The Burnaby Art Gallery is excited to present ***Anna Wong: Traveller on Two Roads*** from August 31–November 3, 2018, a retrospective of master printmaker Anna Wong (1930–2013). Wong is a significant Chinese-Canadian artist born and raised in Vancouver's Chinatown, whose international career spanned seven decades.

Examining Wong's life between the West Coast of Canada and New York City, as well as extensive travel throughout China, this exhibition features over 70 original artworks, including a wide range of paintings, hand-pulled prints and large-scale textile pieces.  
"Whether Wong was creating work in the city or in her isolated West Coast studio, she was always working with images in stark contrast from her present surroundings: establishing an

‘elsewhere’ through tableaux of fern and maple leaves while living in Manhattan; or through scenes of the Great Wall and Mount Gongga while making art in Vancouver. These works represent two parallel journeys of the self, and in this exhibition we have attempted to accompany her on these travels,” explain co-curators Ellen van Eijnsbergen and Jennifer Cane.



In her youth, Wong worked at her family’s business, Modernize Tailors, a thriving fixture in Vancouver’s Chinatown neighborhood dating back to 1913. As a young adult, the artist studied Chinese brush painting in Hong Kong, and graduated from the Vancouver School of Art with a degree in creative printmaking. She moved to New York City at the age of thirty-six to continue her studies at the Pratt Graphics Center, where she was quickly offered a teaching position. Over twenty years at Pratt, she taught hundreds of students, returning to Vancouver each summer to teach her own ‘art school’ to a large extended group of nieces and nephews, and to spend time working on her own art in the serenity of her Quadra Island studio.

Strongly influenced by her parents’ blend of Chinese and Western traditions, with a priority placed on cultural and academic education, Wong, the middle child of ten siblings, acted as the matriarch of the family while at the same time, pursued her independence and realized her dream of becoming a professional artist in New York. When Anna’s parents took a year-and-a-half journey around the world in 1951, twenty-one-year-old Anna became the appointed custodian of her younger siblings. This experience solidified her role as an adept listener and family confidant. It was also during this time that Anna developed her interest in teaching art lessons to young children.

Despite a commendable exhibition record, Wong has remained virtually unknown to Vancouver’s art community. As publication author and art historian Keith Wallace writes, this was due in part to the fact that Wong was not “preoccupied with becoming a ‘career’ artist or in working in service of financial benefit.” In the 1960s, her original prints received several

international prizes, and she represented Canada in a number of international print biennials. Her work was featured at the National Art Gallery of China in Beijing in 1979.



This exhibition, organized and circulated by the Burnaby Art Gallery, will be on display at the gallery from August 30–November 3, 2018 before travelling across Canada over 2019–2020.

Accompanying the exhibition is a full-colour, hardcover publication in two bilingual editions (English/French/Chinese). With essays from notable scholars Keith Wallace and Zoë Chan, the catalogue reproduces over 70 of Wong's artworks created from a lifetime of travel and cultural influence: from Vancouver's Chinatown to New York City, and from Quadra Island to Beijing.

### **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

**Opening Reception: Thursday, August 30, 7 pm**

**Free, everyone welcome**

Join us for the opening of Anna Wong's *Traveller on Two Roads* at the Burnaby Art Gallery. The evening will feature opening remarks, followed by a reception.

**Curator's Tour: Sunday, September 9, 2 pm**

**Free, everyone welcome**

Join curator Jennifer Cane on an in-depth tour of Anna Wong's exhibition *Traveller on Two Roads*.

**In the BAG Family Sundays: Sunday, September 16 & October 21, 1–4 pm**

**Free drop-in, all ages welcome**

Come and make art! Get your minds humming with a visit to the gallery and then into the studio for family-friendly art projects. On September 16, learn all about nature prints and on October 21, explore Chinese brush painting.

**Culture Days: Multilingual Tours of *Anna Wong: Traveller on Two Roads***

**Saturday, September 29, 1-4pm | Free, everyone welcome**

Join our knowledgeable guides for French, Mandarin, Cantonese and English tours of *Anna Wong: Traveller on Two Roads*. For tour registration and specific times, please call 604-297-4422.

**Panel Discussion: The Art and Life of Anna Wong**

**Sunday, September 30, 2pm | Free, everyone welcome**

Join us for a moderated panel, including writers Zoë Chan, Keith Wallace and independent curator Steven Tong with Director/Curator Ellen van Eijnsbergen, focusing on the life and artistic practice of Anna Wong.

## **CURATOR AND AUTHOR BIOS**

### **Ellen van Eijnsbergen (Co-Curator)**

Ellen van Eijnsbergen is the Director/Curator of the Burnaby Art Gallery. A graduate of Simon Fraser University, Ellen previously worked at the Evergreen Cultural Centre in Coquitlam, first as Education Coordinator and then as Visual Arts Manager. In 2011, Ellen joined the City of Burnaby as Fine Arts Coordinator at the Shadbolt Centre. In September 2013, she assumed the Director/Curator position at the Burnaby Art Gallery. Ellen has organized and curated numerous exhibitions including local, national and international shows of contemporary and historical works. She has served on many juries and contributed to publications on the arts.

### **Jennifer Cane (Co-Curator)**

Jennifer Cane has served as Assistant Curator of the Burnaby Art Gallery since 2011. She has curated numerous exhibitions and written for publications and catalogues for the Or Gallery, Yukon Arts Centre, Open Space and Burnaby Art Gallery, among others. Her research interests centre upon authenticity, social history, labour and leisure culture. She holds a bachelor's degree in Art History from Concordia University in Montréal and a master's degree in Art History – Critical and Curatorial Studies from the University of British Columbia.

### **Zoë Chan (Author)**

Zoë Chan is an independent curator and critic based in Vancouver. Her curatorial projects have been presented at MSVU Art Gallery, the Foreman Art Gallery of Bishop's University, and the MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels). She has published in various exhibition publications and art magazines, including *Canadian Art*, *C Magazine*, *esse arts + opinions* and *Momus*, and in 2015, she received the Canada Council for the Arts' Joan Lowndes Award in recognition of excellence in critical or curatorial writing. She holds a master's degree in Art History from Concordia

University.

### Keith Wallace (Author)

Keith Wallace has been a curator of contemporary art since 1979. From 1991 to 2001 he was Curator, then Director/Curator, of Vancouver's Contemporary Art Gallery, where he developed and presented a program of regional, national and international exhibitions. He served as Associate and Acting Director/Curator at UBC's Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery from 2005 to 2007. Wallace has organized exhibitions of artists from Canada, USA, Cuba, India, China, Thailand, France, Germany, England and Columbia. Wallace is Editor-in-Chief of *Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art*, published in Taipei.

### MEDIA CONTACT

Parm Johal, Marketing and Sponsorship Coordinator | 604-297-4857 | [parm.johal@burnaby.ca](mailto:parm.johal@burnaby.ca)  
High-resolution images are available upon request.

Image Credits: (top) Anna Wong, *China Wall I*, 1981, serigraph, lithograph, xerox and chine collé on paper, A/P, 56.0 x 77.0 cm. From the Malaspina Printshop Archives of the City of Burnaby Permanent Art Collection, Gift of Milton and Fei Wong. Photo: Blaine Campbell; (middle left) Anna Wong, *Tein Long #7 (Celestial Dragon)*, 1967, serigraph on paper, A/P, 56.4 x 50.4 cm. Collection of the Wong Family. Photo: Blaine Campbell; (middle right) Anna Wong, *Window #12*, c. 1988, lithograph on paper, 28/30. Collection of the Wong family. Photo: Blaine Campbell; (bottom) Anna Wong at work in her Pratt studio, New York, 1971, photographer unknown.

### ABOUT THE BURNABY ART GALLERY

Since 1967, the Burnaby Art Gallery (BAG) has been dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting a contemporary and historical visual art program by local, national and internationally recognized artists. The BAG acts as a leader in the collection, preservation and exhibition of artists who choose to work on paper—the only public art museum in Canada dedicated to works of art on paper. Through our collection and exhibition practices the BAG endeavours to represent the best and most promising Canadian artists. The BAG cares for and manages over 5,500 works of art in the City of Burnaby's Permanent Art Collection.

**Website:** [www.burnabyartgallery.ca](http://www.burnabyartgallery.ca)

**Blog:** [www.burnabyartgallery.tumblr.com](http://www.burnabyartgallery.tumblr.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/BurnabyArtGallery](http://www.facebook.com/BurnabyArtGallery)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/bbyartgallery](http://www.instagram.com/bbyartgallery)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/BurnabyArtGall](http://www.twitter.com/BurnabyArtGall)

The Burnaby Art Gallery acknowledges the generous support provided by: the Government of Canada, the City of Burnaby; the British Columbia Arts Council; the Province of British Columbia, its sponsors, patrons and visitors.



Media Sponsors:



Reception Sponsors:

