

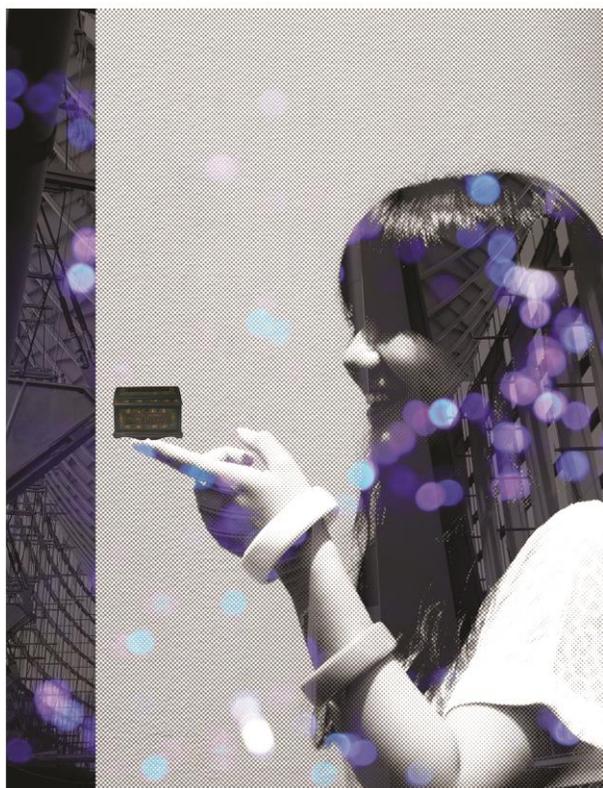
MEDIA RELEASE
March 14, 2016

BAG
BURNABY ART GALLERY

Michiko Suzuki: Hope Chests

April 8-June 12, 2016

Opening Reception: May 19, 2016, 7-9pm



Michiko Suzuki, *Portrait of Migiwa*, 2013, Archival Inkjet on RC Mat paper, 76.2 x 58.4 cm, Image courtesy the artist

BURNABY, BC—The Burnaby Art Gallery (BAG) presents *Hope Chests*, a large-scale installation produced by Vancouver-based Japanese artist **Michiko Suzuki**. Depicting eight intimate portraits chronicling the struggles of young women from different cultural backgrounds, the exhibition runs in the upper gallery **April 8-May 19**, and will expand to the lower gallery **May 20-June 12, 2016**.

Each portrait is comprised of a silk tent fitted with a table and box containing artwork to serve as a chest of memories—combining photography, digital and traditional printmaking techniques, fabric and intricate collage work. With nods to Japanese traditional customs, material and form—incorporating references to Kiri boxes, shapes reminiscent of kimonos and the use of white silk as in Shinto rituals—the women documented in the series include a victim of war in Cambodia who now lives in Vancouver and a survivor of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. Suzuki's work questions contemporary concerns around global politics, human rights, identity and memory.

Suzuki is known for creating large-scale toner-etchings, using a technique she originated and refined. She started this series in the late 2000s and the work was first shown in Tokyo as part of a group show, *Printmaking, eh?: Four Artists Expanding the Boundaries* at the Canadian Embassy's Prince Takamado Gallery, May-September 2012.

Originally from Tokyo, Suzuki graduated from the Musashino Art University to train and work as a Master Printer at Print House/OM Japan. She has exhibited internationally in Canada, Europe and South East Asia in group shows and solo exhibitions. Suzuki first came to Vancouver as an artist-in-residence in 2003 at Capilano College. She has been living and working in Vancouver since 2006.

RELATED EVENTS

In the BAG: Family Sundays

Sunday, May 8, 2016: Ink and Pastel | 1-4pm | FREE | All ages

Opening Reception

Thursday, May 19, 2016 | 7-9pm | FREE

Artist Tour: Michiko Suzuki

Saturday, May 21, 2016 | 2-3pm | FREE

In the BAG: Family Sundays

Sunday, June 12, 2016: Collage Portraits | 1-4pm | FREE | All ages

Full-day Art Studio for Homelearners

Friday, June 3, 2016 | 9:30-2:30pm | \$38 | Suitable for ages 6-14

MEDIA CONTACT

Zoe Quinn, Marketing and Sponsorship Coordinator | 604-297-4857 | zoe.quinn@burnaby.ca

High-resolution images are available upon request.

ABOUT THE BURNABY ART GALLERY

The Burnaby Art Gallery (BAG) is 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—we are the only art museum in British Columbia dedicated to works of art on paper. Through our collection and exhibition practices the BAG endeavours to represent the best and most promising artists within the Canadian print culture community. The BAG cares for and manages over 5,000 works of art in the City of Burnaby's Permanent Art Collection.

For more information about the gallery's exhibitions, programs, and tours, call 604-297-4422 or visit www.burnabyartgallery.ca. Located in the beautiful surroundings of Deer Lake Park, the Burnaby Art Gallery is open Tuesday to Friday, 10:00am to 4:30pm and on Saturday and Sunday, 12noon to 5:00pm. Admission is by donation; suggested donation \$5. Parking is free.

Website: www.burnabyartgallery.ca

Blog: www.burnabyartgallery.tumblr.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BurnabyArtGallery

Instagram: www.instagram.com/bbyartgallery

Twitter: www.twitter.com/BurnabyArtGall

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

