

MEDIA RELEASE

September 12, 2014



**Hiraki Sawa: Under the Box,
Beyond the Bounds**
Sept. 20, 2014 – Jan. 11, 2015

Organized by:
Michelle Jacques, Chief Curator
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
1040 Moss Street
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Fall Season Opening
Friday, September 19, 2014
8:00pm to 10:00pm

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Video artist Hiraki Sawa creates imaginary worlds at the AGGV

London-based video artist Hiraki Sawa has been garnering international attention, and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria is proud to present Canada's first comprehensive exhibition of his work. The exhibition, *Hiraki Sawa: Under the Box, Beyond the Bounds*, opens at the AGGV on Sept. 20.

Sawa's work is acclaimed for his production of fleeting and ultimately personal experiences for viewers. He allows visitors to explore unexpected worlds and the interweaving of domestic and imaginary spaces. Populated with animals, inanimate objects and people, his characters search for their 'place' in the universe as he explores ideas of memory, displacement and migration.

"Video-based art is a unique medium, with unique challenges," says Michelle Jacques, AGGV Chief Curator. "In a gallery setting, where works are often played on a loop, entering a video exhibition halfway through can sometimes leave the viewer feeling as though they missed a piece of the story. To encourage visitor engagement, Sawa deliberately focuses on the relationship with the audience, producing individual moments."

"My work is really based on memories," Sawa explains. "So the personal experience is quite important."

Featuring intimately scaled works alongside monumental works produced throughout the artist's career, Sawa's dream-like films distort reality and blur the lines between the bizarre and the mundane, the surreal and the familiar.

Ranging from *Dwelling* (2002), in which tiny airplanes travel throughout the interior spaces of a typically British flat, to recent works like *Lineament* (2012), which was inspired by a friend suffering from amnesia, all of Sawa's images possess a subtly fantastic quality resulting from his dexterous combination of live footage and animation.

The AGGV invites the public to the opening reception on Sept. 19, 2014, from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

For more information visit aggv.ca.

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Related Events:

Fall Season Opening
Friday, September 19, 2014 - 8:00pm to 10:00pm

Artist Talk @ Camosun College

Saturday, September 20, 2014 – 7:00pm

Fisher, 100, Lansdowne Campus, Camosun College

Free Admission

Join Hiraki Sawa in a discussion of his work and new exhibition at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Presented in collaboration with the Camosun College as part of their Visual Arts Visiting Artist Lecture Series,

Film Screening

The End of Time with Short Magnetic Reconnection

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2014—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Taking inspiration from the dreamlike video work of **Hiraki Sawa**, join us for a night of hypnotic Canadian film.

Short film *Magnetic Reconnection* and feature *The End of Time* are poetic film essays by two important Canadian directors documenting the search for a natural wonder (the aurora borealis) and the construction of time and mortality, respectively. Taking inspiration from the dreamlike video work of Hiraki Sawa,, join us for a night of hypnotic Canadian film.

<http://magneticreconnection.ca>

<http://www.theendoftimemovie.com>

Lecture: Migration in History and Art with Dr. Tzu-I Chung, Curator of History, Royal BC Museum

Thursday Oct. 16, 7 p.m.

This lecture will examine migration, issues of identity, authenticity, hybridity, and interculturalism through historical and artistic approaches. Using the Royal BC Museum's Centre of Arrivals migrant history project and an object from the museum's collection, the lecture will propose ways to preserve and present migrant voices. It will juxtapose the perspective of the RBCM – a history museum – with artistic expressions of migrations issues and look at how art and history help us define and explore our multiple and shifting experiences of interconnection, isolation, appropriation and engagement in our increasingly globalized world.

Tzu-I Chung is a cultural and social historian, broadly interested in transnational migration within the context of historical, cultural, and economic interactions between North America and Asia-Pacific and of cultural and economic globalization. She received her PhD from the University of Arizona, studying political economy, representation in popular culture, and comparative cultural and social history.

Family Sunday | Hiraki Sawa: *Under the Box, Beyond the Bounds*

Sunday Oct. 19, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of energetic art making inspired by the work of Hiraki Sawa. Try new techniques, meet other families and explore Gallery exhibitions.

Urbanite

Friday, November 7, 2014 - 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

19+ event | Tickets \$20 (\$15 members / students) on sale Monday Oct. 6, 2014 online at: aggv.ca/urbanite

Looking for an event out of the ordinary? URBANITE is one of Victoria's most unique events, and one that you won't soon forget. As part of the Gallery's adult programming, every part of the evening is inspired by our current exhibitions. Experience art through custom cocktails, exhibition tours, slightly twisted visuals, live local music and hands-on activities. Held 3 times a year, URBANITE invites you to get a little crazy and forget everything you were taught about art.

Animation Workshop with Aimée van Drimmelen
The Moving Sketchbook: Taking Sketches of Ordinary Household Objects to the Next Level

Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Aimée van Drimmelen is currently an artist in residence at the Royal BC Museum and creates illustrations, animations and artwork on drum skins in addition to being one half of *The Backhomes*, a two-piece psych pop band. Aimée will teach participants how to create 260 degree animated GIFS of natural objects, explaining storyboarding with watercolour, scanning and animation of drawings.

Her work has been shown in Montreal, New York, San Francisco, Vancouver & Victoria. Clients/Collaborators include: *The Boston Globe*, *Reader's Digest Canada*, *Walrus*, *NFB*, *Giant Ant Media*, *Vegetarian Times*, *Literary Review of Canada* & *POETRY Magazine*.

<http://www.aimeevandrimmelen.com/>

Animation Workshop with Emmy Willis
Hiraki Sawa: Under the Box, Beyond the Bounds

Saturday, Nov. 22, 1 p.m.

Born a century ago, Norman McLaren was one of Canada's pioneering animators of early experimental abstract films. It is in the celebration of McLaren that this workshop takes its departure, inviting participants to join artist Emmy Willis in creating a series of animated abstract films. Using stop-motion techniques, Willis will set up an animation stand in the Gallery and a live visual display of works in progress. Working intimately with tactile materials, inanimate objects will be given life through motion.

Emmy Isabel Willis is a multi-disciplinary artist and graduate from Emily Carr University of Art & Design. With a background in video, animation, and community-oriented projects, Willis is an advocate for an interdisciplinary approach to artistic practice. Most recent work explores animation in the context of independent production and rejects industry influences towards commercial standards.