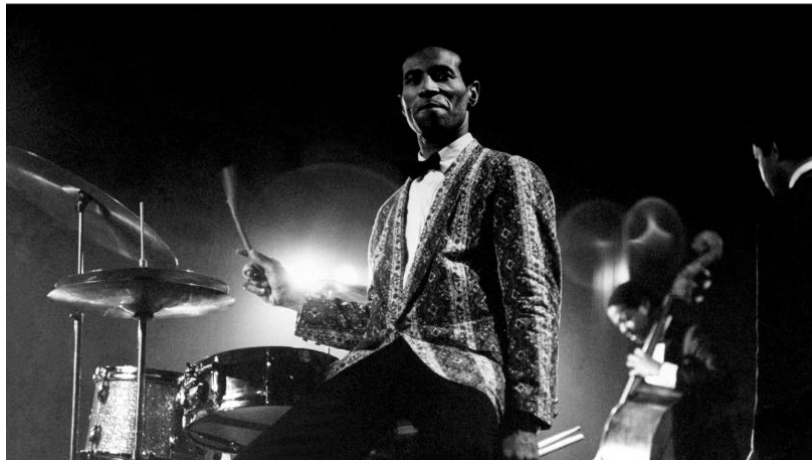


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Honouring Black History and Envisioning Black Futures

Vancouver Art Gallery launches a month-long program of art, music and poetry

Vancouver
Artgallery | **CELEBRATING
BLACK FUTURES**



January 29, 2024, VANCOUVER, BC // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

This February, the Vancouver Art Gallery is proud to present **Celebrating Black Futures**, a month-long program focusing on the intersection of art, film and poetry. This bespoke line-up, brought together in honour of Black History Month, celebrates the exciting new wave of Black art and cinema from Vancouver and around the world.

The Gallery has partnered with the Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) to present four film screenings that speak to the future of Black and African cinema. All films in the Celebrating Black Futures series have been selected by **Kika Memeh**, **Public Programs Assistant** at the Vancouver Art Gallery, and **Tom Charity**, **VIFF Centre Year-Round Programmer**, in collaboration with **Stephanie Bokenfohr**, **Adult Public Programs Coordinator** at the Gallery. The program presents a contemporary snapshot of the multilateral nature of African, African American, Caribbean and Black Canadian culture and cinema. The series launches on Thursday, February 8, with a special evening of live jazz, performed by the **Feven Kidane Sextet** at VIFF Centre, followed by a screening of **Sam Pollard** and **Ben Shapiro's** *Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes* (2023), a documentary which delves into the American jazz

legend's creative peaks, personal struggles and inspiring commitment to Civil Rights. Attendees at the series launch event will also be given free admission tickets to the Gallery.

"We are thrilled to be presenting such a vibrant program in partnership with the Vancouver International Film Festival," said **Anthony Kiendl, CEO & Executive Director** at the Vancouver Art Gallery. "We see these events as an opportunity for our institution to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Black communities, to acknowledge Black histories and truths, and to find and encourage new ways of listening to Black voices. By doing so, we can help to create a more inclusive future for all."

In addition to the film lineup, the Gallery's first-ever Poet in Residence **Jillian Christmas** will mark her residency with a much-anticipated **Day of Delight** at the Gallery. On Friday, February 16, the building will be brought to life through thoughtful conversations, workshops, flower crown-making and a poetic tour of the exhibition *Denyse Thomasos: just beyond*. There will also be opportunity for families to celebrate Black History Month on Monday, February 19 at **Family Day at the Gallery**. Admission to the Gallery will include painting workshops, exhibition tours, poetry readings with **I Dream Library**, paper flower making and Jillian Christmas' reading of her children's book *The Magic Shell*.

For more information, visit: <https://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/celebrating-black-futures-2024/>

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Celebrating Black Futures Film Screenings

Presented in partnership with the Vancouver International Film Festival



Celebrating Black Futures Opening Night Event featuring live jazz from the Feven Kidane Sextet and the screening of *Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes*

Thursday, February 8, 6:30 p.m | VIFF Centre

Tickets can be booked online at vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/celebrating-black-futures-feb-8

Film Screening: *All the Colours of the World Are Between Black and White*

Thursday, February 15, 6:30 p.m | VIFF Centre

Tickets can be booked online at vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/celebrating-black-futures-feb-15

Short Film Showcase

Thursday, February 22, 7 p.m & 8:15 p.m | VIFF Centre

Tickets can be booked online at [vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/celebrating-black-futures-feb-22](https://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/celebrating-black-futures-feb-22)

Film Screening: *When Morning Comes*

Thursday, February 29, 6:30 p.m | VIFF Centre

Tickets can be booked online at [vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/celebrating-black-futures-feb-29](https://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/celebrating-black-futures-feb-29)

Day of Delight | Jillian Christmas in Conversation with David-George Morgan

Friday, February 16, 5.30 p.m | Vancouver Art Gallery

Tickets can be booked online at <https://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/day-of-delight-talk/>

Day of Delight | Beloved: Flower Crown Workshop

Friday, February 16, 2 p.m | Vancouver Art Gallery

Tickets can be booked online at <https://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/day-of-delight-beloved>

Family Day at the Gallery

Monday, February 19, 11 a.m - 4 p.m | Vancouver Art Gallery

Free for Gallery Members or with admission. 18 and under visit free.

Tickets can be booked online at [vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/family-day-2024](https://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/family-day-2024)

-30-

MEDIA CONTACT:

Vancouver Art Gallery

media@vanartgallery.bc.ca

Image: Film Still from *Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes*

ABOUT VANCOUVER ART GALLERY (www.vanartgallery.bc.ca) Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's innovative exhibitions, extensive public programs and scholarship 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 artists from the Asia Pacific region—through 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 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 BC Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is situated on the ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tseil-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.

vanartgallery.bc.ca

Facebook: @VancouverArtGallery

Twitter: @VanArtGallery

Instagram: @VanArtGallery