

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Vancouver Art Gallery Presents *Copy Machine Manifestos*, the First Major Museum Exhibition Dedicated to Artists' Zines in North America

*This monumental show spans five decades and features
over one thousand works by more than one hundred artists*



May 9, 2024, VANCOUVER, BC // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is pleased to present *Copy Machine Manifestos: Artists Who Make Zines*, the first exhibition dedicated to the radical history and vibrant aesthetics of artists' zines from North America. Organized by the Brooklyn Museum, this monumental exhibition offers a thrilling journey through counter- and subcultural movements of the twentieth century.

Zines or "fanzines"—self-published booklets, often made with a copy machine—have been a potent tool for artists and activists since the 1970s, putting the power of print in the hands of everyday people. Artists have harnessed the medium's essential role in communication and community building and its significance to subcultures, grassroots movements and avant-garde practices, from punk and street culture to conceptual, queer and feminist art.

Featuring over one thousand zines and artworks by more than one hundred artists—including **Vaginal Davis, Bruce LaBruce, G.B. Jones, Raymond Pettibon** and **Miranda July**—*Copy Machine Manifestos* demonstrates the role of zines within artistic production across Canada, Mexico and the United States. The exhibition also showcases zines' intersections with other mediums, including collage, craft, film, drawing, fashion, painting, performance, photography, sculpture and video. Zines continue to challenge the status quo and are an important catalyst for social change.

“We are excited to be the exclusive tour venue in Canada for this ambitious exhibition, honouring the rich history of Vancouver’s expansive zine culture. Vancouver has been a vital site for the development of all kinds of DIY artist publications and communication methods in art, **said Anthony Kiendl, CEO & Executive Director** of the Vancouver Art Gallery. “I hope that audiences come away from the Gallery with a love for artist publications, this compelling history, and an appreciation for the contributions that these artists have made to art and culture over the past 50 years.”

Copy Machine Manifestos is organized roughly chronologically and by communities and networks, opening with a section devoted to zines that grew out of the 1970s mail art scene in Vancouver and beyond. Among the highlights of this section is local artist **Anna Banana** and her satirical and sardonic publication *Vile* (1974–79) that mocked the visual languages of popular culture and mass media. Other exhibition sections include: **The Punk Explosion, 1975–1990**, which features zines, records, film and photography from the 1970s and 1980s punk movement. Publications including *Destroy all Monsters* by **Cary Loren** with **Mike Kelley, Jim Shaw** and **Niagara**; *J.D.s* by **G.B. Jones** and **Bruce LaBruce** and *Just Another Asshole* by **Barbara Ess**, highlight the close relationship between zines and music. **Queer and Feminist Undergrounds, 1987–2000** demonstrates how marginalized communities used zines to establish control over their own representation; **Subcultural Topologies 1990–2010** explores the mid-1990s when zines were becoming integrated into commercial art galleries and museums; while **Critical Promiscuity, 2000–2012** further reveals the significance of zines to queer creativity. The exhibition concludes with **A Continuing Legacy, 2010–present**, which showcases the vibrancy of present-day zine-making and the relevance of zines to contemporary art practice.

“Looking at the history of zines is a vibrant and exciting way to approach the last five decades of artistic practice, while simultaneously challenging and transforming the way we understand that period of art history by foregrounding a range of new and underrepresented voices and perspectives,” says **Branden W. Joseph, Frank Gallipoli Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art**, department of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University

“To document a single history of zines would be impossible due in large part to the sheer volume, variety and experimental nature of the medium,” says **Drew Sawyer, Sonda Gilman Curator of Photography** at the Whitney Museum of American Art. “Instead, we hope that *Copy Machine Manifestos* offers a compelling look at how artists have not just created and used zines but have also been central to the format’s development, including its contemporary popularity.”

To complement *Copy Machine Manifestos* at the Vancouver Art Gallery, a reading room inside the exhibition will showcase a selection of zines and small publications produced by local artists and makers, including **Sonja Ahlers, Whess Harman, Erica Wilk, Cole Pauls, Cheryl Hamilton, Lisa g Nielsen, Liz Knox** and many more. The reading room encourages visitors to enjoy a small sample of the robust zine culture that exists in the city, including a site-specific print installation by local artist and zine maker **Marlene Yuen**, titled *Pockets of Time* (2023/2024). Visitors are also invited to explore the **Vancouver Zine Guide—prepared by the Gallery’s Library and Archives**—which provides information on where to find zine collections and communities across the greater Vancouver area.

Copy Machine Manifestos: Artists Who Make Zines opens on Sunday, May 12 and is on view through September 22, 2024. An exclusive exhibition preview and tour will take place on Thursday, May 9 at 12 PM, followed by lunch and a Q&A with the curators. RSVP by emailing media@vanartgallery.bc.ca

Please note that this exhibition contains graphic content and language. Viewer discretion is advised.

Copy Machine Manifestos: Artists Who Make Zines is organized by the Brooklyn Museum and curated by **Branden W. Joseph**, Frank Gallipoli Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art, department of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University; and **Drew Sawyer, Sonda Gilman Curator of Photography at the Whitney Museum of American Art** (formerly Phillip and Edith Leonian Curator of Photography, Brooklyn Museum); with **Marcelo Gabriel Yáñez**, Research Assistant; and **Imani Williford**, Curatorial Assistant, Photography, Fashion and Material Culture, Brooklyn Museum. The Vancouver Art Gallery presentation is coordinated by **Siobhan McCracken Nixon, Assistant Curator**. Major support is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

The exhibition is accompanied by the first comprehensive publication to explore artists’ zines—published by the Brooklyn Museum with Phaidon Press. This richly illustrated volume includes over 800 images of zines and works in other media alongside texts by the curators and specially commissioned essays by Gwen Allen, Julia Bryan-Wilson, Tavia Nyong’o, Alexis Salas and Mimi Thi Nguyen, as well as an extensive section featuring biographies of all the artists represented in the project. The publication is available to purchase via the Gallery website or in the Gallery Store.

For more information, please visit vanartgallery.bc.ca/exhibitions/copy-machine-manifestos

FEATURED PROGRAM

ART PARTY

Saturday, May 11 | 8 PM–12 AM

An incredible evening of art, music, drinks and the first opportunity to preview *Copy Machine Manifestos: Artists Who Make Zines* before its public opening. In addition to incredible art, visitors are invited to experience a cutting-edge contemporary dance performance by **OURO Collective**; an interactive video installation by **Chimerik 似不像**; a performance and DIY zine-making activity by **Art Action Earwig**; a DJ set by **Nancy Lee 李南屏**; and more.

ZINE NIGHT LIBRARY TALK

with Jordan Strom

Friday, June 14 | 5:30-8:30 PM

Hyperdoodles in Drippytown: Collaboratively Drawn Art Zines as Embodied Counter-Social Media on Canada's West Coast from 1995 to 2015

Join us for a talk with curator and historian **Jordan Strom**, presented in conversation with the exhibition *Copy Machine Manifestos: Artists Who Make Zines*. Strom's presentation will focus on British Columbia-based art zines, produced in the 1990s and 2000s, that featured collaborative drawing and collective collage. This event will take place in the Gallery's Library with the support of Jared Wiercinski, Head Librarian of the Vancouver Art Gallery Library and Archives. Capacity is limited. Registration is required.

ZINE NIGHT WORKSHOP

with Sonja Ahlers & friends

Friday, June 14 | 5:30-8:30 PM

A practical zine-making workshop that begins with a short zine demo by artist **Sonja Ahlers** and facilitated by the Gallery's knowledgeable Art Educators. Participants are invited to create a small zine while mingling and listening to music. This event is free and offered on a drop-in basis. Advanced registration is recommended.

ZINE NIGHT EXHIBITION SHOW-AND-TELL

with Sonja Ahlers

Friday, June 14 | 6:15 PM | with Sonja Ahlers & friends

Artist **Sonja Ahlers** will deliver a personal spotlight tour of *Copy Machine Manifestos: Artists Who Make Zines*. She will also discuss her own collection of zines that are on view. Free for Gallery Members or with admission.

ZINE NIGHT WORKSHOP

with Ho Tam & friends

Friday, July 12 | 5:30-8:30 PM

A practical zine-making workshop facilitated by the Gallery's knowledgeable Art Educators. Participants are invited to create a small zine while mingling and listening to music. Artist **Ho Tam**, whose work is on view in the exhibition, will give a short artist talk. This event is free and offered on a drop-in basis. Advanced registration is recommended.

ZINE NIGHT EXHIBITION SHOW-AND-TELL

with Jonathan Middleton

Friday, July 12 | 6:15 PM

Jonathan Middleton of Vancouver Art Book Fair will deliver a personal spotlight tour of *Copy Machine Manifestos: Artists Who Make Zines*. He will discuss the power of self-publishing and the upcoming book fair, returning to Vancouver from July 26 to 27, 2024. Free for Gallery Members or with admission. This event is hosted in partnership with Vancouver Art Book Fair.

Find out more at <https://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events>

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For media requests, email Sarah Osborne at media@vanartgallery.bc.ca
[Download the Exhibition Media Package here](#)

Image: Robert Ford with Trent Adkins and Lawrence Warren, *Thing*, no. 4, Spring 1991, offset zine, Collection Steve Lafreniere, Courtesy Arthur Fournier, Photo: Evan McKnight, Brooklyn Museum

ABOUT VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Founded in 1931, 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 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 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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-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 to the work of the Gallery.

vanartgallery.bc.ca
#CopyMachineManifestos

