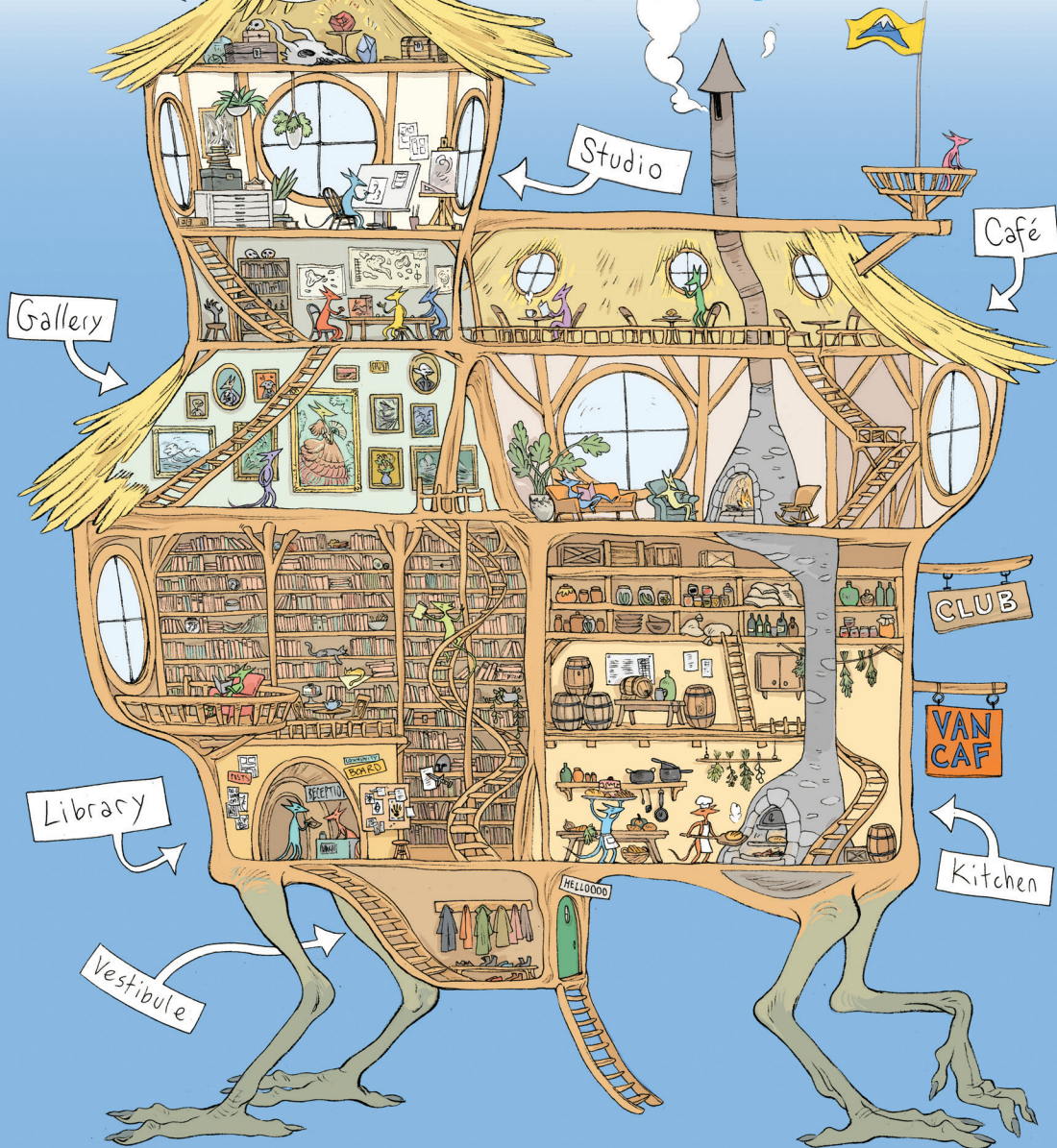


VANCAF | VANCOUVER COMIC ARTS FESTIVAL



May 21 & 22 at the Roundhouse
2022 Program Guide





The Vancouver Comic Arts Festival acknowledges that our work takes place on the stolen ancestral and traditional territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), səliwətaʔl (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) peoples.

We recognize that land acknowledgements are just a small portion of rebuilding trust with the peoples of these host nations. As uninvited guests on their land, we are committed to building good relations based on respect, humility, and consent going forward.

We will continue developing these relationships and work to increase meaningful support and programming for Indigenous creators in the comic arts community.

WELCOME TO VANCAF 2022

Hello! I'm Jarrett, VanCAF's Festival Director, and I'd like to welcome you to the 2022 edition of the Vancouver Comic Arts Festival, held at The Roundhouse! Covid Dependant? As I'm writing this I think so but what promises can one make in a pandemic world here from the (semi)comfy realm of early April.

Returning to my hometown and to the festival has been, for lack of a more creative adjective, incredible—VanCAF's growth from a two-day Festival to a year-round organization continues to blow my mind.

This year wouldn't be possible without the extraordinary efforts of Executive Director Robin McConnell, our Volunteer Coordinator Ilinca Barbacuta and all the amazing Volunteers; former Festival Director Isabella Laird and of course, our Board Members; Atenas, CC, Haley, Mary and Miles. Extra-special thanks to Haley for all her work on this Festival Program you're reading this in! (And look at that little drawing of me by my friend, artist Victor Martins!) Huge thanks as well to Juli Majer and Tom Whalen for laying the groundwork for our Shrimpy and Paul Pavilion; and to all of our outstanding community partners for everything they do.

I'm so proud of our team and the artists and exhibitors at this year's Festival, next year's Festival, last year's Festival, at EVERY Festival! The support and love for VanCAF has been a real pick-me-up time after time and I can't express my appreciation for ya'll enough.

With that I say: WELCOME TO VANCAF 2022! Hope to see you there and if you come by, say hi—I'm the giant in the bright green t-shirt and jean jacket. I'm standing by the Pulp Fiction Books table right now, you can't miss me.



Jarrett Evan Samson



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Artwork by: Sunny Singh, Illustration Graduate

Q&A WITH ADAM DE SOUZA



We wanted to talk a little bit with our 2022 poster artist Adam de Souza - so, we asked his partner, artist Lily Snowden-Fine, to grill Adam about the finer points of life, work and their cat!

How did you come up with your idea for the Vancafé poster?

Moving back to Vancouver after years in Toronto, I was struck by how green everything is. It's easy to imagine that, if we were all to vanish overnight, the moss, fungus, and roots would burst through and engulf everything we've left behind. So when I was asked to do a poster for Vancafé, this design was one of the first

to come to mind. The obvious signifiers are the mountains and ocean but I feel like, when we go for walks, the trees are the things that I notice and make me feel like I am in Vancouver! There's something quite comforting about the sight of a large tree.

Do you think where you live affects your work?

I think it has an increasing influence on my work but that may just stem from an appreciation for growing up and living in a place that is so green. I loved living in Toronto, and it was influential and formative for numerous distinct reasons, but there was a part of me that really missed the sight of mountains and the smell of the ocean. When I reflect on my comics, the vast majority really do come from living here. I love when the setting isn't just a set dressing but something that helps drive plot like, "this story could only happen here". I've never even thought about this before but even Blind Alley is as much about the mystery of the titular neighborhood as the characters.

How do you switch between different projects when you have many on the go at one time?

I guess it doesn't exactly feel like switching projects and more like I am finally getting to tackle something else I've been passively writing in my head. Blind Alley is a nice counterweight to working on a long project with an editor; I don't fret about my drawings that much and kinda only do what I think would be fun.

What's your biggest distraction?

Probably the cat. It's impossible to ignore him. He'll jump on my lap while I am drawing or I'll hear him meow and go check on him.

Do you ever get tired of working on a long project? how do you stay energised if that happens?

Not yet! I'm sure once the end is in sight I'll feel differently. Comics are so tedious that I try not to have things overly planned which keeps each phase engaging; I want each point in the process to feel like writing or elaboration. I think working like this has helped me ward off project fatigue. I wouldn't be able to stay focussed if I was locked in with a script that describes every panel and moment - I'd probably burn out immediately.



VANCAF WEEK EVENTS LISTING

MONDAY MAY 16

Johnnie Christmas "Swim Team" launch

7:00pm - Slice of Life Gallery, 1626 Venables St.

Join Johnnie Christmas for his in-person book launch and panel!



TUESDAY MAY 17

Madeline Berger "Picture Picnic" opening

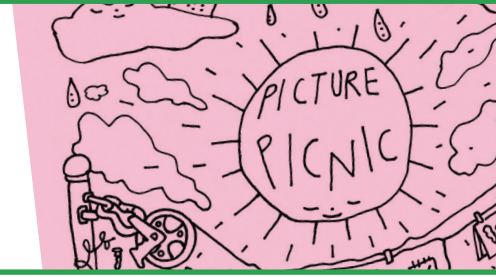
7:00pm - James Black Gallery, 144 E 6th Ave.

Stop by the gallery to experience Madeline's newest comic arts show!

Drink, Draw & Lego Presents: "The Engine's Birthday"

5:00pm - 8:00pm - Slice of Life Gallery, 1626 Venables St.

Celebrate the train's birthday with D, D & L!



WEDNESDAY MAY 18

VanCAF DJ Night at the Lido

9pm - The Lido, 518 East Broadway

Enjoy a chill night of fresh beats with DJ's Justin Gradin, Jarrett Evan Samson & Guests

THURSDAY MAY 19

Jordan Crane Silkscreening Workshop

3:00 - 4:30pm - Blim Vancouver, 115 East Pender St.

Learn about silkscreening with Jordan Crane at Blim!

Jaik Puppyteeth "Ghost Hole" Art Show

7:00pm - Puppyteeth Studios, 79 East Pender St.

Stop by the studio to experience Jaik's newest comic arts show!



SATURDAY MAY 21

Vancouver Comics Jam: VanCAF Edition

7:00pm - 12 Kings Pub, 395 Kingsway

Get together with the comics community and your friends to create comics!

Hue Nguyen Art Show

7:00pm - Red Gate, 1965 Main St.

Stop by the space to experience Hue's newest arts show!

A VanCAF Concert at Red Gate!

9:00pm - Red Gate, 1965 Main St.

Featuring Future Star, Ron Rege, Jr, DJ Marc Bell, and more!



All original work in the program is copyright of the respective creators.

SPOTLIGHTS ON JUNKO MIZUNO AND RONALD WIMBERLY

Having grown up in Tokyo, **Junko Mizuno** is a self-taught artist recognized for her unique visual iconography of powerful and often sexy women. Although her art refuses to be categorized, much of it is based on Japanese pop culture from '70s and '80s with the sources of her inspiration stemming from almost everything that surrounds her. Motivated by the pure pleasure of creating art, she celebrates the power of women and creates a universe of them, full of energy, both positive and negative.

Tell me about your new book?

I'm working on the English edition of the third volume of my graphic novel, Little Fluffy Gigolo PELU right now. I've been thinking about publishing a new art book but I'm not sure when it will happen for now.

Favorite food to try in a new city?

I like trying new things. I usually ask the local people what's good and just try it.

New obsession from being at home during pandemic?

Surprise toys for kids such as LOL Surprise! My most exciting thing to do during pandemic was going out to get new surprise toys for myself.

Favorite travelling life hack?

Not sure if this counts as a travelling life hack but I always make sure to check atlasobscura.com before I visit a new place.



Gratuitous Ninja: A Stealth Epic is a fully funded Kickstarter project by **Ron Wimberly** that takes the reader on an amazing journey with an analog look at a fully digital comic. Read more about it below.

Tell me about your new book?

It's a 400 foot long restorative justice ninja comic.

Favorite food to try in a new city?

This depends on the city, and if it's a new city, how could I possibly have a favorite already?

New obsession from being at home during pandemic?

I have always worked from home... maybe biking. I recently started biking around NYC and it's like getting to know the city all over again.

Favorite travelling life hack?

I wish I knew. I should read others' answers because I could use all the help I can get.

COFFEE RUN

BY JAZZ GRODEN-GILCHRIST



SALMON RUN ANTHOLOGY

Over the last nine years, comics artist and illustrator Cole Pauls (Tahltan) has done a lot of interviews. Over and over he's been asked how it feels to be "the only Indigenous comics artist" on the West Coast. He's not, and it's frustrating, but now Pauls is doing something about it. He's fulfilling a long held curatorial dream and turning the spotlight on his local peers and heroes. Salmon Run is the first anthology of its kind: a broadsheet celebration of 12 different West Coast Indigenous comics artists from 12 different First Nations.

"I really wanted to emphasize the West Coast aspect, and the representation of Vancouver artists and Indigenous artists from our neighborhood," Pauls said. "Really give them a platform to just sing their song and represent who they are. Because I haven't really seen that in any other publication."

Since moving to Vancouver from Haines Junction (Yukon territory) almost a decade ago, Pauls has been attending the Vancouver Comic Arts Festival (VanCAF), first as an aspiring artist and now as a seasoned professional. Pauls is the creator of two beloved series: Pizza Punks, a strip about pizza-eating punks, and the award-winning book Dakwākāda Warriors. Over the years, he's formed close relationships with VanCAF organizers Jarrett Evan Samson and Robin McConnell.

"We've talked about our hopes for the comic future and what we would like to see changed," Coles says. "I think it was Robin who suggested, 'How about you do your own thing for VanCAF?' I have that relationship with him where I can go to him and, and bitch to him about professional things in the comics world. So, he's listened to me for these nine years. And he's like, 'Okay, you want to change that? You want to make a difference?' And I do."



IN CONVERSATION WITH COLE PAULS

They decided on a broadsheet newspaper as the medium, and Samson and McConnell encouraged Pauls to "shoot for the stars" when inviting people to participate. Hill (The 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book, The Anti-Capitalist Resistance Comic Book, and The Antifa Comic Book) and Yahgulanaas (Flight of the Hummingbird, RED, a Haida Manga) were at the top of his wish list, and both said yes. Pauls' invitation to the artists specified a colour palette—"black, white and red to represent the recurrent colors that all of our nations use"—and a theme: momentum. It was a broad enough word to evoke myriad meanings, responses, and interpretations.

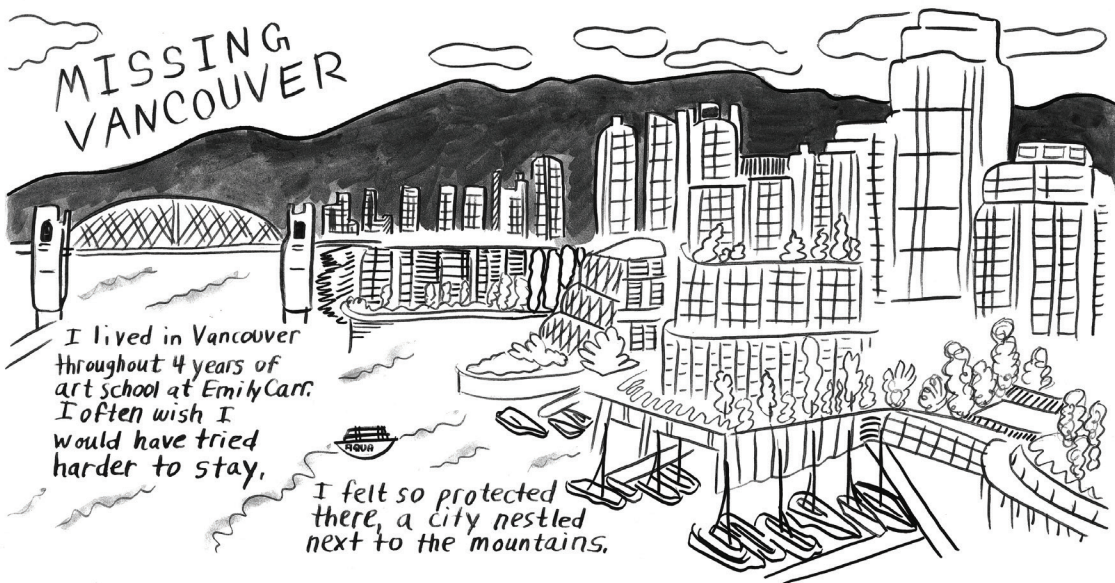
In his own contribution to the project, Pauls chose to explore beadwork. "But I didn't want to pigeonhole anyone and be like, this has to be about indigenous issues, or this has to be about your great, great grandma. I wanted the artists to just speak their own story."

The response is a wildly creative array of styles, storytelling, and art, from being on the front lines and grappling with the obligation and honor of befriending elders to surviving capitalism and the joy of connecting with one's culture.

For Pauls, Salmon Run is a testament to the vibrance of his community. But it's also an invitation to readers and publishers to widen their lens. "This is just our neighborhood, and there's so many other Indigenous artists and comic artists out there to read and discover. So I hope you broaden your sense of what Indigenous art is, and what it can be."

Interview by Andrea Warner





I loved the train station, the arriving there and the leaving, for years I got new pics at the photo booth and ate at the A&W inside.

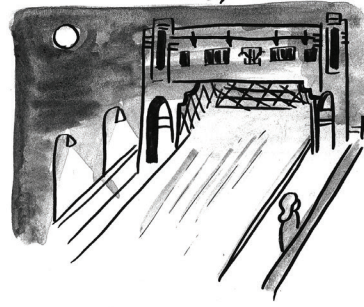
I miss the seawall, a beautiful, 17-mile walkway that winds along English Bay, the Burrard Inlet, and False Creek,



the Asian markets in every neighborhood,

hearing so many languages spoken on mass transit,

night walks across bridges from downtown movie theatres,



traveling long distances for hidden art shows,

looking for "treasure" at thrift stores with precious friends ...

Beyond the quips about hockey, Tim Horton's, poutine, and mounted police, you must know -



That Vancouver is a place for artists!
♥ Kelly Proh

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hue nguyen

huê nguyen
solo art show
saturday,
may 21
red gate
7pm



Art Show



GHOSTS

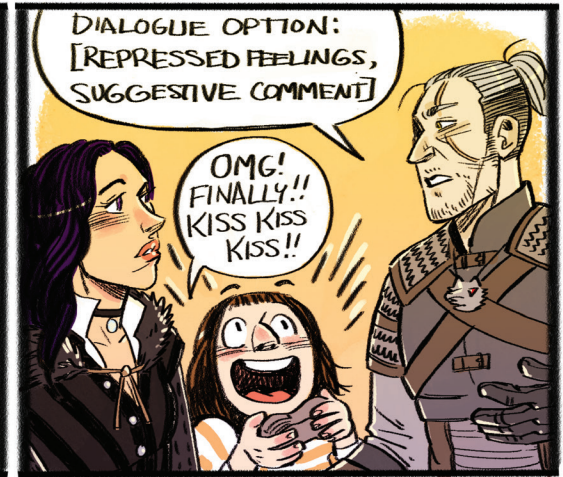
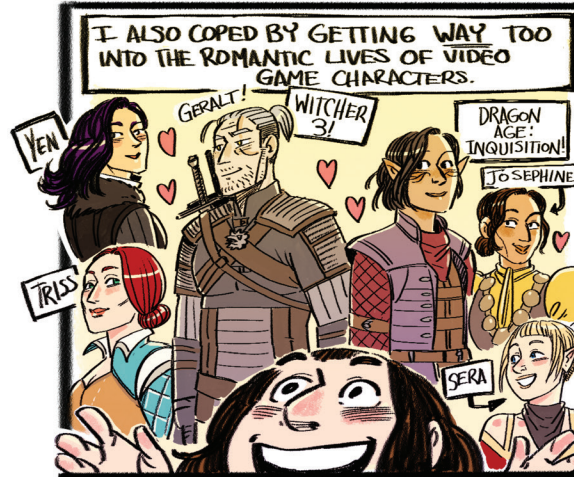
A FLASHLIT EXHIBITION BY JAIK PUPPYTEETH



MAY 19th 6-9pm

P.S.S.T.

PUPPYTEETH SECRET SOCIETY TEMPLE
79E PENDER STREET ALLEYWAY



Comic by Faith Erin Hicks



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