

UNIT 17

Manuel Axel Strain

Lives and works from the lands and waters of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Simpcw and Syilx peoples, based in the sacred homelands of their q̓ičəy̓ (Katzie) and q̓ʷa:ńł'əh̓ (Kwantlen) relatives.

Education

2023

MST Futurism, Black and Indigenous Design Collective, Vancouver BC

2011-2012

Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver BC

Solo Exhibitions

2026

Greater Victoria Art Gallery, Victoria BC (TBD)

2025

Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond BC (TBD)

The Polygon Gallery, Vancouver BC (TBD)

2024

Waking Ground, Maple Ridge Art Gallery, Maple Ridge BC

2023

what do you know?, The Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver BC

A HOWL!, Burrard Arts Foundation, Vancouver BC

threshold, Neutral Grounds, Regina SK

Why does the land seem so small?, College Art Gallery 1, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon SK

2022

Manuel Axel Strain, Unit 17, Vancouver BC

puti kʷu ala?, Fina Gallery, UBC Okanagan, Kelowna BC

we go to the Mountains, we go to the Big Water, Alternator Center for Contemporary Art, Kelowna BC

2021

The Perpetual Runnings of the Intercessors, Seymour Art Gallery, North Vancouver BC

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2020

Ancestral Ties to The Flood, The Fort Gallery, Langley BC
Needed Medicine, Gallery Gachet, Vancouver BC

2019

Unsettling Perspectives, Interurban Gallery, Vancouver BC

2018

Mutations, Gallery at Queens Park, New Westminster

2017

Transcendence, Rising Sun Gallery, Surrey BC

Group Exhibitions

2024

Soft Focus, Bradley Ertaskiran, Montreal QC
221A Fellowship Shortlist Exhibition, 221A, Vancouver BC

2023

art Toronto, unit 17, Toronto ON
art Toronto, focus exhibition, Toronto ON
The Art of Conversation, Gordon Smith Gallery, North Vancouver BC
cnéwelc: Follow a Trail, Salmon Arm Museum, Salmon Arm BC
Invisible Fish, Surrey Art Gallery, Surrey BC
a genocide laid bare, Massey Art Gallery, Vancouver BC
hyphen (-), Carleton University, Galley 101, Ottawa ON

2022

Love, Land, Loss, Open Space Arts Society, Victoria BC

2021

Yoko Ono: Growing Freedom, Water Event, Vancouver Art Gallery BC
Canoe Cultures, Vancouver Maritime Museum, Vancouver BC
(Re)Visions, Evergreen Cultural Center, Coquitlam BC
It's Not Easy Being Green, Queer Arts Festival, Vancouver BC
Vancouver Special: Disorientations and Echo, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver BC
Facing Time, Surrey Art Gallery, Surrey BC
Le Commune, Unit Pitt, Vancouver BC

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2020

Fear and Care for the Fate of The World, Gallery Gachet, Vancouver BC

Cool Indians on Main Street, Grunt Gallery, Vancouver BC

Duality Paradox, Ranger Station Gallery, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

Salmon Caravan, Vines Art Festival, Vancouver BC

Rise up, Talking Stick Festival, Round House Gallery, Vancouver BC

Indigenous Arts Symposium, Emily Carr University of Art and Design,

Vancouver Community College, and Native Education College, Vancouver BC

2019

Suburban Indian/Persistence, Vancouver Airport, Richmond BC

Resistance and Resilience: Negating Colonial Constructions of Sexuality and Gender, Interurban Gallery, Vancouver BC

Pushing Boundaries, North Vancouver Arts, North Vancouver BC

2018

Discovery, Seymour Art Gallery, North Vancouver BC

Hot Dog, Parking Spot Projects, Vancouver BC

Performances

2022

Still Here, Open Space Arts Society, Victoria BC

a reading from papas book, Vines Art Festival, Vancouver BC

2021

I'm showing you how we love each other, huli u'tu staluw/Riverbed Project, Nanaimo Art Gallery, Nanaimo BC

for the Birds, The Perpetual Runnings of the Intercessors, Seymour Art Gallery, Vancouver BC

I'm not lonely anymore, Resilient Roots, Vines Art Festival, Vancouver BC

2020

Broadcast for The Land, Fear and Care for the Fate of Our World, Gallery Gachet, Vancouver BC

Ancestral Ties to the Flood, Fort Gallery, Fort Langley BC

My Blood Can't Feel The Land, Needed Medicine, Gallery Gachet, Rise Up, Talking Stick Festival, Roundhouse Gallery, Vancouver BC

Talks & Lectures

2022

Law, Society and the State, Peter A. Allard School of Law - University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC

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Legacy of Musqueam Land Protection, Vines Art Festival, Port Moody BC
sylix art on sylix land, faculty of creative and critical studies, University of British Columbia
Okanagan, Kelowna BC
Messy Tangle of Self and Society, Cinevolution Media Arts Society, Richmond BC

2021

Paddles Up, Vancouver Maritime Museum, Vancouver BC
Spark Talks, Grunt Gallery, Vancouver BC
Body and Ground, The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, City College University
of New York, New York

2020

Self Portrait With Mended Flesh, Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond BC
Indigenizing Higher Education, Indigenous Arts Symposium, with Emily Carr University of Art
and Design, Vancouver Community College, and Native Education College, Vancouver BC
Take as Needed, Gallery Gachet, Vancouver BC

2019

The Colonial Gaze, Interurban Gallery, Vancouver BC
Guest Lecturer, Vancouver Community College, Vancouver BC (2019-2024)

2018

Mutations, The Gallery at Queens Park, New Westminster BC
Destigmatizing Harm Reduction, Musqueam Cultural Center, Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm)

Public Art

2021

No.3 Road Art Columns, City of Richmond, Richmond BC
Our Connective Tissue and Protective Barriers, Maple Ridge, BC

2020

Self portrait with mended flesh, Capture Photography Festival, Richmond Art Gallery, Aberdeen
Station, Richmond BC
Harmonious Reductions, Platforms 2020, City of Vancouver, Vancouver BC

Socially Engaged Projects

2017-2022

Open Studio Workshops, Raincity Housing and Support Society, Greg Moore Youth Centre,
Phoenix Drug & Alcohol & Education Society, Maple Ridge, Surrey, Vancouver BC

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2020

Accessibility Study, Gallery Gachet, Vancouver BC

2019

Segwses, Katzie Pre-School, Katzie

Áyalexw, Thomas Haney Secondary School, Maple Ridge BC

The Land Can't Hear Your Voices, BC Cultural Days, Maple Ridge Art Gallery, Maple Ridge BC

Residencies

2023

Burrard Arts Foundation, Vancouver BC

2022

The University of British Columbia - Okanagan, Indigenous Art Intensive, Kelowna, BC

2019-2021

Maple Ridge Artist in Resident, Maple Ridge BC

Professional Experience

2023

Emcee, ʔəṁi ce:p xʷiwəl, Come Towards the Fire Festival, UBC, Vancouver BC

Hiring Committee Member, WePress, Vancouver BC

Exhibition Juror, Fort Gallery, Langley BC

2021-present

Communities Engagement Manager, VIVO Media Arts, Vancouver BC

2020-2023

Programmer, Gallery Gachet, Vancouver BC

2019

Curator, "Resistance and Resilience; Negating Colonial Constructions of Sexuality and Gender", Interurban Gallery, Vancouver BC

Public Art Juror, City of Vancouver, Vancouver BC

Awards

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2022

Portfolio Prize, 85-5 Visual Arts Foundation

Sobey Art Award (Longlist), National Gallery of Canada

Press/Publications

The Polyphonous Calls for Land (and Land Back) of Manuel Axel Strain, Momus, by Leo Cocar
Montreal QB

The Many Worlds of Manuel Axel Strain". BlackFlash, vol. 40, no. 2 Aurora Wolf

Review, Invisible fish, c-magazine, issue 156, by Anna Shah Hoque

Review, Manuel Axel Strain at Burrard Arts Foundation, Vancouver By Ogheneofegor
Obuwoma, Akimbo

Manuel Axel Strain, Foreward, "The Oppenheimer Park Community Art book," Gallery Gachet,
Vines Art Festival, Carnegie Center, Vancouver BC

Hagere Selam "shimby" Zegeye Gebrehiwot, Capilano Review, Spring issue 3.42, "On Manuel
Axel Strains's Needed Medicine", review of Needed Medicine, Vancouver BC

Manuel Axel Strain, "Culture, Connection, and Resurgence", "Smudging the English Dictionary"
contributing artist, Mastercard Foundation, Winnipeg MB

Jane Harms, Manuel Axel Strain, Art and Wonder, "Interview in response to Needed Medicine",
Winnipeg MB

Manuel Axel Strain, Stephanie Gagne, "Sh*t Talk", audio book, Vancouver Art Book Fair,
Vancouver BC