

Photo Exhibition Draws a Portrait of Vancouver's Chinatown in a Moment in Time When the Community Was Resolute to Not Take Discriminatory Policies Sitting Down

VANCOUVER, BC (September 25, 2014) – Centre A is pleased to announce tonight's opening of *Jim Wong-Chu Photographs: 1973-1981: People, Place, Politics*, an exhibition consisting of nearly 100 black-and-white photographs taken by Jim Wong-Chu during the years he attended Emily Carr, then known as the Vancouver School of Art. The photographs personally selected by the artist from hundreds of shots he took during that period include works from his *Pender Street East* series, various community photos and protest images from the drive to save BBQ Pork, the democratization of Chinese Benevolent Associations, and the Quebec-Columbia Connector Freeway protests. This three week long exhibition coincides with the LiterAsian Festival of Pacific Rim Asian Canadian Writing and comes on the heels of Jim's significant contribution of funds to the UBC library.

Born in Hong Kong in 1949, Jim Wong-Chu settled in Canada in 1961. Witness to and participant in much of the Chinese Canadian activism in the 1970s and early 80s, Jim became one of its documenters. After completing a degree in Creative Writing at UBC in the 1980s Jim published *Chinatown Ghosts* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 1986), the first book of poetry published by an Asian Canadian. As a persistent activist and cultural producer Jim co-founded the Asian Canadian Writers Workshop, Ricepaper Magazine, Pender Guy Radio, the Asian Canadian Performing Arts Resource (ACPAR), literASIAN: A Festival of Pacific Rim Asian Canadian Writing and the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Festival. With the sheer girth of his activity Jim has been instrumental in creating a cultural scene inclusive of Asian Canadian talent.

This exhibition of Jim's photographs is an important addition to the exhibition history of Centre A in how, in the tradition of *Redress Express* (2007) and other such exhibitions it contributes to and gives a cultural-historical perspective on conversations about confronting and overcoming discrimination. Uniquely, this rare collection of photographs draws a portrait of Vancouver's Chinatown in a moment in time when the community was resolute to not take discriminatory policies sitting down.

Jim Wong-Chu Photographs 1973 – 1981: People, Place, Politics will be on display from September 25th to October 18th 2014.

Opening reception: Thursday, September 25th from 7 – 10pm.

literASIAN 2014 Events at Centre A:Fiction Book Launch/Reading

Friday, October 10

7-9:30pm

Featured Writers: Yasuko Thanh, Doretta Lau, Kim Fu, Corinna Chong, Elsie Sze and Tom Cho

Poetry Book Launch/Reading Event

Saturday, October 11

7-9:30pm

Featured Writers: Souvankham Thammavongsa, Elaine Woo, Louise Bak and Fred Wah

About Centre A:

Established in 1999, Centre A is Canada's only public gallery devoted to contemporary art of the Asia-Pacific. Located in Chinatown's East Georgia Gallery Cluster, we have presented the works of over 300 Canadian and international artists and produced over 80 original projects. As a key piece of Vancouver's cultural infrastructure, Centre A works with artists, curators and other cultural producers from throughout the region to facilitate critical inquiry and provide a platform for conversation and artistic experimentation.

Centre A is a collaborative effort powered by generous support from:

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Available for comment on *Jim Wong-Chu Photographs 1973-1981: People, Place, Politics*:

Curator: Tyler Russell

Artist: Jim Wong-Chu

Press Images and a PDF of the Press Release are available through our [Dropbox press pack](#).

To arrange an interview with any of the above, or for media requests and further information, please contact:

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