



CENTRE A

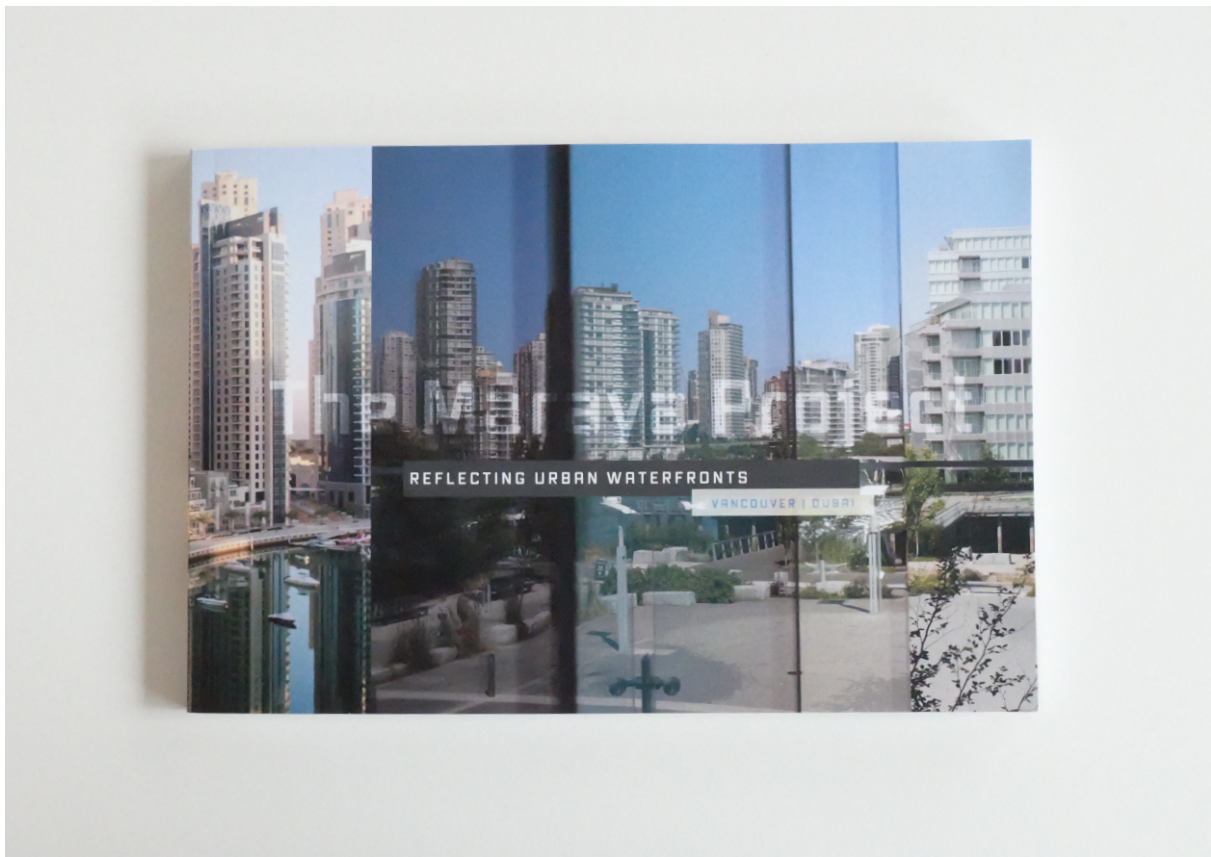
Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

205 – 268 Keefer Street, Vancouver BC V6A 1X5 | 604.683.8326 | www.centrea.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Centre A to Launch Publication Exploring the Waterfronts of Vancouver and Dubai



Vancouver, B.C., Canada (May 5, 2022) – **Centre A: Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art** invite media and the public to join us for the official book launch of “**The Maraya Project: Reflecting Urban Waterfronts: Vancouver | Dubai**” by **M. Simon Levin, Glen Lowry, and Henry Tsang**. The book launch will take place in person on **Friday, May 6, 2022, 5 – 7 PM PDT at Centre A (Unit 205, 268 Keefer Street, Vancouver)**.



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About The Maraya Project

The Maraya Project documents the collaboration of artists M. Simon Levin, Henry Tsang, and writer Glen Lowry as they track the re-appearance of Vancouver's downtown waterfront in the Arabian desert twelve time zones away. Maraya, which means mirror or reflection in Arabic, focuses on the urban regeneration megaproject in Vancouver's False Creek that became an impetus for new thinking about 21st-century urban development and how it subsequently shaped one of Dubai's first master-planned developments, the Dubai Marina.

The publication includes dozens of full-colour photographs, including foldouts, accompanied by poetic texts, descriptions, lists of projects, events, and activities and a foreword by the Maraya team. Central to the book is a long-form essay by Dr. Alice Ming Wai Jim that traces the eight-year interdisciplinary collaboration and posits the Maraya Project as a kind of imaginative worlding research-creation practice that potentially embodies postcolonial urbanism as a critical transnational methodology. Accompanying writings by Robert Ferry and Elizabeth Monoian, and Kevin Hamilton, respectively, provide insight into the experience of living and working in Dubai at a time of sensational and sensationalized growth, as well as reflecting on the experience of pulling the Sisyphean Cart along the waterfronts while considering the relationship between new media artistic practice and colonial spaces.

An early iteration of Maraya curated by Makiko Hara was exhibited at Centre A in 2011. The 2011 project included an exhibition, a series of public talks, walking tours, and a commissioned interactive website. For the first time in Centre A's history, the gallery was able to commission the artists to develop an experimental internet platform.

The book is published by Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art.

The book will be available for purchase for a special discounted price of \$25 at the launch (regular \$30).

About the Maraya Project Team

Glen Lowry is a researcher, writer, editor, and publisher whose work investigates new forms of critical and creative practice, most often from the perspective of collaborative investigation. Trained as a cultural theorist (PhD English), Lowry works with artists and collectives on projects that look at questions of social justice and emergent publics.



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M. Simon Levin has co-created site-based systems that explore the aesthetics of engagement using a variety of designed forms and tools that address our many publics. From large-scale projects in urban environments such as a photo agency for inner city youth, indigenous, medicinal and food-security gardens downtown to a variety of psycho-geographic and psycho-sonic mappings of space, Simon works with diverse communities and audiences towards realizing these spatial and pedagogical projects.

Henry Tsang's projects explore the spatial politics of history, language, community, food and cultural translation in relationship to place. They take the form of gallery exhibitions, pop-up street food offerings, 360 video walking tours, curated dinners, ephemeral and permanent public art, employing video, photography, language, interactive media, food and convivial events, such as *Tansy Point*, a video installation of the site of the 1851 treaty signings by the Chinook peoples and the US government that were never ratified; *360 Riot Walk*, a 360 video walking tour of the 1907 Anti-Asian Riots in Vancouver, Canada; *RIOT FOOD HERE*, a public offering of food reflecting on the 1907 Riots; and *Olympus*, shot in California, Beijing, Torino and Vancouver, that explore overlapping urban and socio-political spaces.

Read full bios here:

<https://centrea.org/book-launch-the-maraya-project-reflecting-urban-waterfronts-vancouver-dubai>

About Centre A

Centre A is situated in Vancouver's Chinatown, on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples. We honour, respect, and give thanks to our hosts. Centre A gratefully acknowledges the support of all of our funders, donors, programming partners, and Centre A members. Centre A is the only public art gallery in Canada dedicated to contemporary Asian and Asian-diasporic perspectives since 1999. Centre A is committed to providing a platform for engaging diverse communities through public access to the arts, creating mentorship opportunities for emerging artists/arts professionals, and stimulating critical dialogue through provocative exhibitions and innovative public programs that complicate understandings of migrant experiences and diasporic communities. In addition to our exhibition space, we house a reading room with one of the best collections of Asian art books in the country, including the Finlayson Collection of Rare Asian Art Books.

Subscribe to Centre A's newsletter [here](#).

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Media Contact

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