



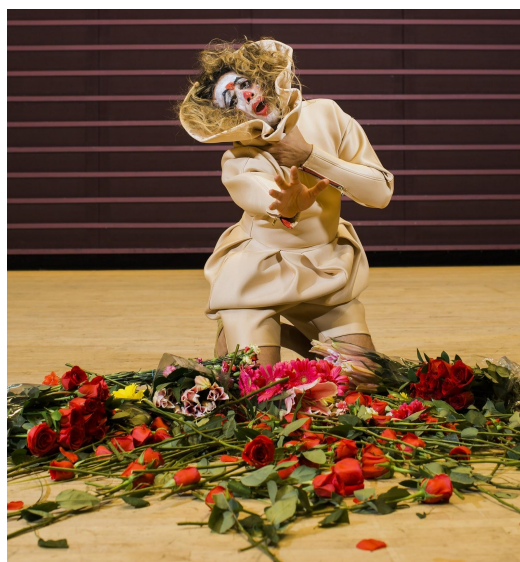
QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL



SUM GALLERY

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Trauma Clown - a photo series by multidisciplinary artist [Vivek Shraya](#) at [SUM gallery](#), presented as part of the [2021 Capture Photography Festival Selected Exhibition Program](#).

For Immediate Release

Vancouver B.C., February 23, 2021 | *“We’re going to make you comfortable by allowing you to laugh at us.”* - **Vivek Shraya**. In a cultural climate where laughter and pain go hand in hand, Vivek Shraya shuffles through a deck of trauma cards, exploring what type of sad clown we embody when we externalize our suffering. Oppression and commodification meet in her photo series *Trauma Clown*, opening at [SUM](#)

[gallery](#) (Suite 425 – 268 Keefer Street) **Thursday, April 1st, 2021** with a reception from 5 – 8pm PST. An exclusive Artist Talk with Shraya will take place **April 3rd, 2021**, from 3 to 5pm PST (details TBA).

Over the course of the series, Shraya’s “trauma clown” revisits traumatic experiences for entertainment and is rewarded with increasing accolades—to her own detriment. Through satirical humour, Shraya’s work invites viewers to question the mediums of modern spectacle and the depths of their own appetite.

SUM gallery is closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and acting accordingly by implementing precautions aligned with public health advisories. At this time, reservations are required to visit the gallery. We acknowledge that exhibition details may change at any time to reflect provincial health recommendations. Please refer to our website [sumgallery.ca](#) for the most up to date information on Trauma Clown and future exhibitions.

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For more information and interview requests, please contact: Tanya Commisso,
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Artist Bio

Vivek Shraya is an author, musician, visual artist, performer and six-time Lambda Literary Award Finalist. Her visual art practice includes the internationally acclaimed photo series *Trisha*, featured in *Vanity Fair*, *Village Voice* and *India Today*, and in solo exhibits in New York City and the Southern Alberta Art Gallery. *Trauma Clown* was featured on the cover of *Now Magazine* and in the Patel Gallery. vivekshraya.com is a digital archive for a living trans artist of colour, featuring her music, writing, visual art, theatrical and film works, from 2002 to present. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Calgary.

Curator bio

SD Holman is an artist and curator whose work has toured internationally. A 1990 ECUAD graduate, Holman was picked up by the Vancouver Association for Non-commercial Culture (the NON) right out of art school. Holman was appointed Artistic Director of the Pride in Art Society in 2008, and spearheaded the founding of the Queer Arts Festival, now recognized among the top 3 of its kind worldwide, and SUM gallery. Holman has programmed the likes of Kent Monkman, Cris Derksen, Jeremy Dutcher, Paul Wong, Angela Grossman and Jonathan D. Katz. Curatorial highlights include: *TRIGGER*, the 25th anniversary exhibition for Kiss & Tell's notorious *Drawing the Line* project, Adrian Stimson's *Naked Napi* solo show, and Paul Wong's monumental, multi-curator *Through the Trapdoor* underground storage locker exhibition.

About SUM gallery (sumgallery.ca)

SUM gallery is the year-round programming arm of the Queer Arts Festival and Canada's only queer mandated visual art gallery and one of only a few worldwide. SUM produces, presents and exhibits with a curatorial vision favouring challenging, thought-provoking contemporary art that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue. SUM brings diverse communities together to support artistic risk-taking, incite creative collaboration and experimentation and celebrate the rich heritage of queer artists and queer art.