



SUM GALLERY



Duane Isaac, *Sovereignty* (detail)

sumgallery.ca

## SUM gallery opens its 2022 season with Mi'gmaq photographer and mask-maker **Duane Isaac's** first solo exhibition in Vancouver

### For Immediate Release

Vancouver BC, Jan 11, 2022 | Vancouver's premiere queer-mandated art gallery welcomes photo series *Sovereignty* by Duane Isaac, an exploration of the Indigenous relationship between Land and body. *Sovereignty* is on view from Feb 17 - May 14 at SUM gallery (Suite 425 – 268 Keefer Street).

In a series of portraits documenting the Indigenous body in nature, Isaac's model dons a fantastical mask — one side overgrown with fledgling greenery while the other half conjures a ghost of the human face hidden beneath — and succumbs to increasingly foreboding flames. Motivated by the health and survival of Indigenous bodies and Indigenous Lands, Isaac casts his model as a representation of sovereignty under threat: "The health of the Land will reflect the health of the body and the health of the body will reflect the health of the Land. One cannot survive without the other." The figure's mask embodies this dualism, representing Indigenous identity as inseparable from and equal to the Land.

As Isaac's first Vancouver solo show, *Sovereignty* perfectly captures common themes of his photographic work and contemporary mask-making as a whole: A work informed by Indigenous ways of knowing, the queer gaze, environmental angst and an apocalyptic perspective on the past and future.

Curated by SUM gallery founding artistic director emeritus SD Holman, this exhibition is part of the 2022 Capture Photography Festival Selected Exhibition Program.

For more information on how to attend this exhibition, visit [www.sumgallery.ca](http://www.sumgallery.ca).

### About SUM gallery [sumgallery.ca](http://sumgallery.ca)

One of the only permanent spaces worldwide dedicated to the presentation of queer art, SUM gallery brings diverse communities together to support artistic risk-taking, incite creative collaboration and experimentation, and celebrate the rich heritage of queer artists and art. As the year-round programming arm of the Queer Arts Festival, SUM produces, presents and exhibits challenging, thought-provoking multidisciplinary art that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue.

### About Duane Isaac [duanedisaac.com](http://duanedisaac.com)

Duane Isaac is a First Nation Mi'gmaq from Listuguj, QC. He is a contemporary artist who uses the photography medium in combination with his mask making. His work has been featured in multiple online publications, most recently *Canadian Art Magazine*. He currently resides in Listuguj, QC.

### About SD Holman [sdholman.com](http://sdholman.com)

SD Holman was born in Hollywood, California and graduated ECUAD in 1990. They are an award-winning artist and curator whose work has toured internationally. A laureate of the prestigious YWCA Women of Distinction Award 2014, Holman is known for engagement with themes of sex, death, and identity. Holman's work has exhibited widely, including at Wellesley College, the Advocate Gallery (Los Angeles), the Soady-Campbell Gallery (New York), the San Francisco Public Library, On Main Gallery, The Helen Pitt International Gallery, Charles H. Scott, Exposure, Gallery Gachet, the Roundhouse, Vancouver East Cultural Centre, Artropolis and Fotobase Galleries. Holman's portrait project *BUTCH: Not like the other girls* toured North America and is now in its second edition, published by Caitlin Press, Dagger Editions.

*SUM gallery is closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and acting accordingly by implementing precautions aligned with public health advisories. We acknowledge that event details may change at any time to reflect provincial health recommendations.*

*Please refer to our website [sumgallery.ca](http://sumgallery.ca) for the most up to date information on COVID safety protocols.*

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