



QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL



SUM GALLERY

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CANADA

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**SUM gallery and the Flavourcel Animation Collective present a multi-sensory, experimental exhibition in Chinatown's Sun Wah Centre**

#### **For Immediate Release**

Vancouver B.C., March 17, 2022 | SUM gallery and the Flavourcel Animation Collective invite you to crawl down into the dark depths of the Sun Wah Centre (268 Keefer St., Vancouver) basement for **Centipede—a three-day pop-up exhibition of queerly macabre experimental animation.**

From Apr 7 to Apr 9, Flavourcel's *Centipede* exhibition will enchant and spook audiences as it blends multimedia installation, 3D projection and sound experimentation to present a sensory crawl through a haunting landscape of ghouls, guts, creepies and crawlies. This exhibit is curated by **Queer Arts Festival's** Assistant Curator **Benjamin Siegl**.

Animation as an industry is not without its binaries: join the prosperous but strenuous industry grind, or resign yourself to outsider status making animations "alone in your basement." The Flavourcel Collective subverts this binary by choosing the latter, with one significant exception—they're not alone in the basement. Combining the talents of 10 artists, Flavourcel embraces an alternative approach to animation through collectivist collaboration and resource sharing.

In *Centipede*, movement is recognized as a principal component of fear. From the sudden movement of jump scares in thrillers and haunted houses inspiring our fight-or-flight instincts, to the agonizing dread of movement's absence all together. The Centipede, a multi-sectioned organism, moves in unison towards an undiscovered future, encapsulating both the animated image and the bold, collective journey Queer folks undertake when creating space in this world—foot over foot, frame by frame.

For decades, queer movement was restricted to the darkness — in the corners of dark bars and margins of our minds. As queerness moves further and further into the light, there is a ripple

both backwards and forwards; towards the future, but not without the intrinsic hauntings of all that's been shouldered.

*Centipede* culminates in a closing reception on **Sat, Apr 9 from 3 to 5pm**. Register to attend this event by visiting [sumgallery.ca/centipede-flavourcel-exhibition/](http://sumgallery.ca/centipede-flavourcel-exhibition/). The exhibition is open for drop-in visits on the Lower Ground Floor of the Sun Wah Centre from 12 to 6pm, Apr 7 to 9.

### **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 Flavourcel Animation Collective ([flavourcel.com](http://flavourcel.com))**

Flavourcel is an animation collective of 10 artists based in the Unceded Coast Salish territories. They work collaboratively to make short-form experimental animations that entertain the contemporary narrative of what animation is, and can be. This includes GIFs, music videos, installations, print media, and more. They are heavily settled in collective decision-making structures and aim to keep the collaborative spirit at the core of what they do. In other words; democratizing resources and prioritizing voices that are not so often heard.

### **About curator Benjamin Siegl**

Benjamin Siegl is a multidisciplinary artist and curator, having experience in textiles, graphic design, public murals, animation, painting, illustration, education and arts administration. Recent endeavours include research in the field of queer experimental animation and a strong focus on advocacy for the LGBTQ2S+ artistic community through work with Queer Arts Festival and SUM gallery.

*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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