

Cambodian Canadian Artist Ravy Puth To Give Workshops On Illustration As A Cultural Reappropriation Tool For Racial Minorities

Moncton, November 30, 2022 - Montreal illustrator Ravy Puth will be coming to Moncton on December 10 and 11, 2022, to share her artistic practice and research with the public on the subject of "*Illustration as a Bridge for Oral (Hi)story*". Participants without any prior drawing skills are encouraged to attend. The workshop, which will be offered twice - once in English and once in French - is offered by the Frye Festival in collaboration with the Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick, the Multicultural Association of the Greater Moncton (MAGMA), the Writers Federation of New Brunswick (English-language workshop), and the Association acadienne des artistes professionnel.les du Nouveau-Brunswick (French-language workshop).

Ravy Puth is an illustrator and scholar from Montreal born to Cambodian parents. Her published work includes *The Doll*, a picture book she illustrated, written by Nhung N. Tran-Davies (Second Story Press, 2021). Her work is inspired by "erased History," or those moments removed from institutional narratives. More specifically, Ravy Puth creates a rewriting of forgotten oral stories. Through illustration, she proposes an alternative narrative to History. "[F]or Cambodians like me", Ravy Puth told *Women In Design* magazine in an interview, "erasure is part [of] the colonial history with the French protectorate, with the United States' occupation during the Cold War, and with the Khmer Rouge regime. Part of the generational trauma is due to suppressed memories through archives' destruction."

Ravy Puth knows this first-hand, as her parents are survivors of Cambodia's totalitarian regime. In her artistic project and research, she aims to build a bridge between generations past and present by renarrating cultural stories. Previously, she worked on a project about Cambodia's 1960s psychedelic rock, in "*From Buried to Living Archives*", a series of fake archival documents and vinyl records of musicians whose careers and lives were cut short by the genocide. In Ravy Puth's words, this creation "serves as a means of reclaiming history. It resurrects artifacts proving counter-stories from the West's hegemonic narrative of the oriental failed race."

In the workshops, the artist will explain how to leverage illustration to rewrite the dominant narratives of History. Participants will explore the challenges of creation when there is no narrative or representation to draw upon.

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release



“The Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick helps to promote Canadian Asian artists, and we’re pleased to see Ravy Puth’s illustration workshops in one of the events of the Frye Festival”, said AHSNB’s Felisa Chan.

The workshops will be held at the Community Peace Centre, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on December 10 (in French) and 11 (in English). Registration is available on the Frye Festival’s website at www.frye.ca.

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For more information:

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The Frye Festival acknowledges that the land upon which the organization is settled and offers events is the traditional unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq People.

The Frye Festival is the largest literary event in Atlantic Canada and a bilingual celebration of books, ideas, and the imagination. Amounting to ten days of festivities, the festival takes place at the end of April and unfolds in the Greater Moncton region, in neighbouring communities, and, in the case of school visits, all over the province. A yearly programming of workshops and masterclasses is offered each year outside of the festival’s official programming.

Event: Illustration As A Bridge For Oral (Hi)story
<https://www.frye.ca/atelier-illustration-ravy-puth>

Media kit available [here](#).