



VANCOUVER COAST & MOUNTAINS

All things are possible!

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Vancouver Art Gallery's Historic Rotunda to Become Two-Story Stage for DJs, Dancers and Multi-Media Performance at next FUSE: February 22 from 6pm to midnight

VANCOUVER, BC – With three live bands, three DJs, multi media performances and unconventional Gallery talks throughout the night, the Vancouver Art Gallery's *FUSE* on February 22nd will put the Gallery in downtown Vancouver's spotlight - until midnight. In the rotunda, Vancouver's hippest thespians will present a performance that draws inspiration from David Byrne and Brian Eno and beats from local DJ collective no luck club. On the fourth floor, *FUSE*-goers will be transported by contemporary Persian musical improvisations, and in the Gallery's historic courtrooms visitors will be enveloped in sonic environments of utopia and dystopia. Add drinks, an indie rock band and DJs in the *FUSE* Lounge, and *FUSE* makes for downtown Vancouver's perfect night out for daters dating, singles seeking and people partying.

Innovative Vancouver theatre group Theatre Conspiracy will present the multi-floor installation *Live from the Bush of Ghosts* in the Gallery's rotunda. Co-created with electronic hip hop band no luck club, choreographer-performer Tara Cheyenne Friedenbergh and videographer Candelario Andrade, the performance is inspired by Nigerian novelist Amos Tutuola's 1954 book *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts*, and David Byrne and Brian Eno's 1981 recording of the same name. Theatre Conspiracy's innovative performances are known for connecting local audiences with a world-wide theatre conversation through the work of contemporary international playwrights. no luck club is a hip hop group that combines turntable improvisation with sample-based rhythms for a sound comparable to DJ Shadow and Kid Koala, and Tara Cheyenne Friedenbergh is an innovative Vancouver performer whose dance-theatre solos have been staged to great acclaim at home and abroad.

In the *FUSE* Lounge, Vancouver indie band the Petroleum By-Products will rock out, mixing the art-punk energy of New York's 1980s No Wave scene with the happy pop sounds of bands like the B52s and Devo. Recent finalists in Shindig, CiTR's annual battle of the bands, PBP has become the focus of the kind of buzz that launched local bands Hot Hot Heat and You Say Party! We Say Die!. Between sets, DJ She, one of Vancouver's most recognized female DJs, will

spin an eclectic range of music from old-school soul and funk to urban and house music. John Cougar, who has DJ'd with bands Franz Ferdinand, TV on the Radio and The Klaxons, and whose disco punk dance party Casbah! has helped launched the careers of many prominent Vancouver musicians, will join She on the tables bringing deep grooves to the Friday night crowd. Programming in the lounge is made possible with support from Aritzia, the sponsor of *FUSE*.

Musical ensemble ion Zoo will set up shop in the Gallery's two historic courtrooms to explore the boundary between utopia and dystopia through sound and image in the performance *Ramshackle Heaven*. Inspired by the duality between truth and beauty presented in the exhibition *TruthBeauty: Pictorialism and the Photograph as Art, 1845-1945*, the group will create opposing sonic environments in each room. Using a wide range of musical ingredients, including bebop, noise, baroque aria and Weimar cabaret, ion Zoo creates aural feasts of haunting melodies, angular chamber music and lush atmospheric textures. The members of the improvising quartet include saxophonist Steve Bagnell, vocalist Carol Sawyer, bassist Clyde Reed and pianist Lisa Miller.

On the Gallery's fourth floor, Safa, an ensemble of three of Vancouver's most talented musicians, will bring contemporary Persian improvisations to life in a concert of rhythmic play and melodic contrasts. Mixing traditional Persian sounds with an exuberant new-world edge, the performance titled *Alight* will present an improvised dialogue for clarinet and kulintang to arrangements of four Sufi poems sung in Farsi. Safa members include Amir Koushkani, François Houle and Sal Ferreras.

Timed to coincide with the openings of major exhibitions, the Vancouver Art Gallery's *FUSE* puts the city's leading visual arts destination in an entirely new light—at night. *FUSE* tickets are \$15 per person. Members of the Vancouver Art Gallery receive free admission.

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