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**Rotary Centre for the Arts Invites the Community to its Fall  
Exhibitions Featuring art by  
Clea Haugo, Victoria Verge, Angie Marchinkow, and Brock Gratz**

**(Kelowna, BC)** - The Rotary Centre for the Arts (RCA) fall art exhibitions feature four Okanagan painters. *Sub/Urban Complex* features paintings by local artists, Clea Haugo and Victoria Verge, and is currently in the RCA Galleria from August 25 to October 26, 2021. *EMBELLISHED CONVERSANCE* features the abstract work of Angie Marchinkow and will be on display in the Mezzanine Gallery from September 1 to January 2, 2021. *Animesque: Anime-Inspired Artwork* by Brock Gratz will be on display in the first floor studio hallway from September 13 to January 3, 2021.

Community and Educational Programming Specialist, Andrew Stauffer, says, "These exhibits explore important and timely issues as well as personal experience, whether through memory or abstraction. We are fortunate to have such interesting, challenging, and beautiful works of art created by local artists here at the RCA and we invite the community to view these works this Fall." These original art pieces are all for sale with proceeds from art sales supporting the Rotary Centre for the Arts.

***Sub/Urban Complex***

The paintings by Victoria Verge and Clea Haugo depict and explore buildings and architecture from different perspectives. Verge's work, informed by her youth as a mobile military child, portrays military-style homes in different locations, always on the move. Rather than viewing the military as simply "a machine, a tool, or a force," Verge sees the military as "a community, a home, and a way of life." Verge says, "Through production, I challenge myself to re-evaluate my ingrained sense of pride in my upbringing and to analyze honestly the effects this nomadic sub-culture has on both myself and military families of the past and present."

Haugo's series of paintings, which features businesses, demolished homes, and other structures in Kelowna, explores issues of development, gentrification, and sustainability in the Okanagan. Haugo states that the structures depicted in her paintings "demonstrate how current day society depends on and is simultaneously obsessed with, the façade and the beautiful image of a perfectly polished nail or new condominium,

whichever it may be.” Her timely work offers a challenge to Kelowna’s current trend toward large-scale, sometimes superficial growth at the expense of sustainable, community-focused development.

Victoria Verge is an interdisciplinary artist currently based in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada. She received her BFA in Visual Arts (with an equivalent major in Art History) from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 2015. She is currently the Education Coordinator of Adult Programming at the Kelowna Art Gallery and an active member of the local arts community.

Clea Haugo is currently the Assistant Curator and Registrar at the Kelowna Art Gallery. She moved to Kelowna from Montreal in 2013. She holds a BFA with a joint major in Studio Art and Art History from Concordia University. In 2008 she completed an Advanced Honours Diploma in Applied Museum Studies from Algonquin College, Ottawa.

### ***EMBELLISHED CONVERSANCE***

Marchinkow’s exhibit includes a series of abstract paintings inspired by her experience of being in water. Marchinkow states, “[D]ancing is swimming on the land, swimming is flying in water, and painting is watching those movements continue though completely still.” These soft, vibrant paintings, full of beautiful textures, forms, and colours, encourage viewers to take a meditative approach to the appreciation of art.

Angie Marchinkow is a multi-disciplinary visual, photographic, and performing artist and collaborates with other artists and musicians in Kelowna, British Columbia.

### ***Animesque: Anime Inspired Artworks***

Brock Gratz is an emerging artist based in Kelowna, British Columbia, whose work is inspired by anime, a medium that has evolved from the cultural exchange of animation between France and North America with Japan in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His work challenges the dichotomy of anime as a “lower art” relative to other works one might see in a gallery setting. Although Gratz works in multiple artistic mediums, he says, “[my anime art] is the most widely viewed, shared, and appreciated of the works that I produce. Anime is truly international, and I continue to look forward with great enthusiasm at the potential opportunities yet to come from that wide audience.” This is his first public solo exhibition.

*Animesque* also features a work by Brendan Gervais, a winner of the British Columbia Youth Parliament’s Phoenix Rising Art Competition.

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### **About the Rotary Centre for the Arts**

Located in the heart of Kelowna’s Cultural District, the [Rotary Centre for the Arts](#) is a multidisciplinary visual and performing arts centre. The RCA continually strives to improve the economic, cultural, and social quality of life in the community by fostering participation in, and appreciation of the arts. As a world-class venue celebrating creative expression through diverse art forms and disciplines, the Rotary Centre for the Arts is a unique City of Kelowna facility in which individuals of all ages and backgrounds come together to share in the excitement of strengthening art and culture in the Okanagan. The Rotary Centre for the Arts respectfully acknowledges that it is located on the unceded, traditional territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) people.