

Glenbow

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Visually stunning hand-drawn animation exhibition now open at Glenbow at The Edison

Howie Tsui: Retainers of Anarchy in Calgary for the first time

CALGARY – January 12, 2023 – This week, Glenbow opened the exhibition Howie Tsui: Retainers of Anarchy in the museum’s satellite location Glenbow at The Edison. The 25-metre hand-drawn animation is visually stunning, compelling and reflects Glenbow’s commitment to demonstrating diversity of our community and diversity of art expression.

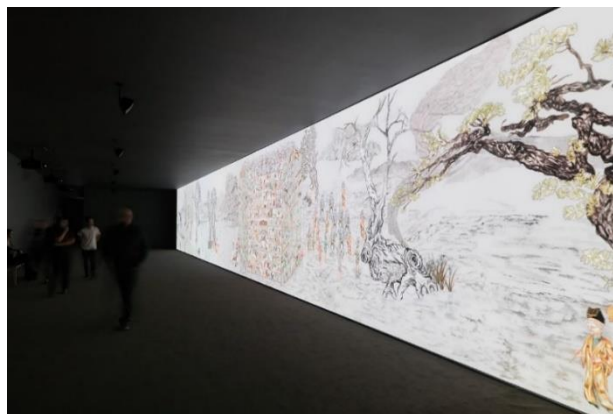
“One of the most important roles an art museum can serve is to provide opportunities to revisit and reimagine historical cultures through a contemporary lens,” says Nicholas R. Bell, Glenbow’s President & CEO. “Glenbow is delighted to make Howie Tsui’s monumental work available to Albertans at a time when our community is eager for access to deeper conversations about who we are and how we engage with our past.”

In Retainers of Anarchy, Vancouver-based artist Howie Tsui brings together martial arts characters and techniques with social and political realities of present-day Hong Kong. Tsui addresses ideas of resistance, using the narrative tool of wuxia, a popular genre of Chinese fantasy fiction and film depicting martial arts battles in ancient China. Growing up between Hong Kong, Nigeria, and Canada, Tsui’s art brings together diverse ideas and experiences to reflect how complex they may be.

“It was important to me to use my art to reflect ideas of resistance,” says artist Howie Tsui. “I grew up untangling both Chinese and colonial cultures, so my practice often expresses the flux between classical and contemporary Chinese art and Western popular culture.”

Glenbow at The Edison hosts the museum’s featured exhibition program while Glenbow’s building renovation is underway. In the space, Glenbow creates opportunities for meaningful community and cultural exchange, and creates greater awareness of diverse perspectives in the visual arts—including race, gender, age, ability and format.

Retainers of Anarchy is organized and circulated by the Vancouver Art Gallery. This exhibition will run at Glenbow at The Edison through to April 16, 2023. Free timed tickets are available on Glenbow’s website and must be reserved in advance. The exhibition will be open Wednesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Howie Tsui, Retainers of Anarchy, 2016 (detail), algorithmic animation sequence, 5-channel video projection, 6-channel audio. Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery; purchased with proceeds from the Audain Emerging Artists Acquisition Fund. Photo: Vancouver Art Gallery.

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About Glenbow

Founded in 1966 as an independent, non-profit museum, archive and gallery, Glenbow cares for an extraordinary collection of more than 250,000 works of art and historical objects – from Canada and cultures around the world – on behalf of the people of Alberta. Glenbow Reimagined is a project to renovate the museum's nearly 50-year-old building and provide a vibrant, thriving cultural resource in the heart of Calgary, committed to expanding the accessibility and impact of arts and culture. Glenbow's main building is closed as it renovates to become the JR Shaw Centre for Arts & Culture. While renovations are underway, visitors can experience exhibitions at the museum's satellite gallery, Glenbow at The Edison. Glenbow at the JR Shaw Centre for Arts & Culture is expected to open to the public in 2025.

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