



VANCOUVER IS AWESOME

THE OPENING — THIS WEEK'S PICKS

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THE OPENING is all about delving into the fascinating, quirky and wonderful visual arts in Vancouver. Each week we'll feature an artist, cover an exhibition, discuss a lecture and everything else in-between to delve deep into who and what makes art happen!



Vancouver Is Awesome, and we are dedicated to everything that makes it that way.



Though Vancouver's art scene is famously labyrinthine, the Opening's new monthly feature will help you navigate the wilds with our top three picks of the moment. In this edition: Kitsum Cheng & Jenny Heishman, Howie Tsui, and Walter Benjamin.

If you want to read ugly, bad news about this beautiful city of ours, you're going to have to look to traditional media and other blogs; V.I.A. promotes everything that makes our city awesome, from old to new and everything inbetween. We're like the human interest piece on the news... only different.

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Jenny Heishman, *Floor Tom*, 2013



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1. Kitsum Cheng & Jenny Heishman: *Searching for Land* | **Dynamo Arts Association**

As a cohesive exhibition, *Searching for Land* is the perfectly in-tune long-distance correspondence that your high school penpal never was. Cheng and Heishman's correspondence, which spanned oceans and months, sought exactly that: the similarities in each other that could be built into a collaborative body of work. The result is a charming, precarious arrangement of light colours and spare figures that exude — if not a literal connection to nautical themes — a sense of safe moorage: of calm and relief.

Opening reception: tonight, November 8th, 7-11pm



Howie Tsui, Celestials of Gold Mountain, 2013

2. *Howie Tsui: Celestials of Gold Mountain* | **Wil Aballe Art Projects**

The ever-prolific **Howie Tsui's** latest offering, *Celestials of Gold Mountain*, attempts to subvert the problematic yet widely-accepted portrayal of early Chinese immigrants as nondescript, victimized, and

hapless labourers by portraying them as mythic beings. “Conversely,” Tsui adds, “these exaggerated otherworldly depictions may further perpetuate the view of this ethnic group as a monstrous and mysterious other.” Bend your head around Tsui’s richly-coloured, chimerical works at **WAAP** — a humble apartment space that has become one of our city’s most written-about and critically acclaimed galleries to date.

Opening reception: tonight, November 8th, 7-9pm



Walter Benjamin, Recent Writings, published by New Documents

3. Book Launch: *Recent Writings* by Walter Benjamin | **Or Gallery Bookstore**

Seemingly immortal philosopher, examiner, and patron saint of art school smarts Walter Benjamin releases another folio of posthumous writings at the Or Gallery bookstore tomorrow afternoon. Benjamin, whose lush particularities, stormy demeanour, and tragic end all continue to exert their hold over contemporary imaginations the world over, will also be present at the event by way of a screening of ‘Mondrian ’63-96’, a lecture that Benjamin delivered (also posthumously) at the Marxist Institute in Ljubljana.

Opening reception: tomorrow, November 9th, 4pm



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