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**First American Solo Gallery Exhibition of
Visual Contemporary Artist Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas
Opens April 2nd at Stonington Gallery, Seattle**

March 26, 2015, Vancouver, BC - The first major U.S. exhibition of artist and author Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas opens at the Stonington Gallery on April 2nd, 2015. Following Yahgulanaas' successful debut of *RED: A Haida Manga* at the Seattle Art Museum, this exhibition provides Seattle's first in-depth look at his wide-ranging artistic practice. Featuring over 20 original works, including *Coppers from the Hood* and limited edition and open edition prints of *RED: A Haida Manga*, the exhibition communicates a world view that while particular to Haida Gwaii, his ancestral North Pacific archipelago, is also relevant to a contemporary and internationally engaged audience.

"In my 30 years at Stonington Gallery, I have had the pleasure of seeing works of the rarest and highest quality, made by artists whom I can only term "visionary". Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas is one of these," said Rebecca Blanchard, Co-Director of Stonington Gallery. "An innovator whose works have deep levels of thought behind them, he also manages to bring a vivacity and humor that is rarely seen. The scope of Michael's ambition is vast, yet the work lives up to its promise: it takes us to unexplored territory, prompts us to grow our thinking, and mischievously tweaks our noses along the way."

Spanning a diverse range of art forms, each piece in his practice incorporates the art form he innovated, 'Haida Manga'. Haida Manga blends North Pacific Indigenous iconographies and framelines with the graphic dynamism of Asian manga. Haida Manga offers an empowering and playful way of viewing and engaging with social issues as it seeks participation, dialogue, reflection and action.

"It is a privilege to launch my first-ever U.S. solo exhibition with the good people at Stonington Gallery," said Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas. "My practice seeks to stretch itself across formally diverse cultures, generations and disciplines, and I am excited to share this exploration with Seattle, a city that is so artistically vibrant."

Exploring themes of identity, environmentalism and the human condition, Yahgulanaas has created an artistic practice that is celebrated for its vitality and originality.

Exhibited Works:

Limited Edition Prints of [RED: A Haida Manga](#)

Limited edition and open edition prints of Yahgulanaas' "RED" will be available during and after this exhibition. Each set of limited edition prints come in an archival quality box, and include an edition of the graphic novel *RED: A Haida Manga* and other materials. The box sets include all 18 prints that make up the original mural. Open edition Giclées will be sold individually, to allow collectors to choose their favorite panels.

[Hoods and Flappes](#)

Of particular note are Yahgulanaas' two sculptural series *Coppers From the Hood* and *Flappes*,

which are made from actual car parts. The *Coppers from the Hood* series was inaugurated in 2007 at the Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver, Canada, as part of the exhibition *Meddling in the Museum*. Using an automobile hood, the works are covered in copper leaf and painted with Yahgulanaas' distinctive Haida Manga imagery. The sculptures reference both traditional Haida coppers - a symbol of wealth in the indigenous community - and the car as signifier of social and economic status in contemporary society. Likewise, his *Flappes* series is made from the gas cap covers from actual cars, which are covered in copper sheeting and painted over. *Coppers from the Hood* series have found homes in public and private collections around the world, including the British Museum and the Museum of Anthropology at UBC.

Raven Exercises, original ink drawings on paper

Yahgulanaas channels the spirit of sumi-e painting with his ink on rice paper paintings. These are the newest works in the exhibition, and the seven paintings reflect the many moods of the Northwest's great trickster ravens.

Tripudio

The last two works from the small series *Tripudio* will be on exhibit. *Tripudio*, meaning 'to jump for joy', is a colourful and hyperkinetic adventure in watercolour and ink.

Ceramics

Launette Rieb's and Yahgulanaas' ceramics with glazing pigments will be sold for the first time at the exhibition. The marriage of these two art forms proves how Yahgulanaas' innovative style can be successfully transferred to variety of mediums.

To learn more about Yahgulanaas' visual art practice click [here](#). To view images of exhibited pieces click [here](#). High resolution images and interviews are available upon request.

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About Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas

Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas is an award winning visual contemporary artist and author. His art works are in numerous public and private collections and have exhibited broadly. Institutional collections include the British Museum, Vancouver Art Gallery, Calgary's Glenbow Museum and Vancouver's Museum of Anthropology. His large sculptural works are part of the public art collection of the City of Vancouver, City of Kamloops and University of British Columbia. Yahgulanaas' publications include national best sellers *Flight of the Hummingbird* and *RED: A Haida Manga*. For more information visit: mny.ca

About Stonington Gallery

For thirty years the Stonington Gallery has offered one of the Pacific Northwest Coast's most inspiring visual art experiences. The Gallery's artists and their work are the embodiment of the region's history, people, traditions and environment. For more information visit: stoningtongallery.com