



explorASIAN



**Generation
ONE**

A distinctive art exhibition that features artworks of inter-cultural and inter-generation Pan-Asian artists

Given the huge waves of immigration in the early 90's and the new millenium, VAHMS saw the need to help promote immigrant artists as they struggled to adjust to their new country and still maintain their art-making. "Generation One" was created in 2009 to not only involve Asian immigrant artists who were born in Canada, but also include those who immigrated here and wish to continue or pursue art. Intercultural as well as intergenerational sharing of art processes and experiences became an integral part of explorASIAN festival.

In 2014, Generation One celebrated its 5th anniversary with 40 member artists participating in "So This Is Canada" Art Exhibition at the International Village Arts Gallery. The exhibition was specifically themed to address a growing need to discuss Canadian values and sensibilities and what it means to be Canadian. This shift was initiated in VAHMS as the organization saw the need to bridge the different silos that have evolved as the different cultural communities became increasingly self-contained thus diminishing integration into Canadian culture.

In 2016, VAHMS' 20th anniversary, Generation One continues to reach out to the artists. At the Opening Ceremony in April, paintings from art shows related to the festival, will again celebrate the artists and their works, thus continue to bridge and weave our communities to build a stronger Canada.