

# Glenbow

## Glenbow Museum Appoints Haema Sivanesan as Chief Curator

*Sivanesan selected after Glenbow conducted a year-long international search*

Calgary, AB (May 3, 2021) – Glenbow is pleased to announce that Haema Sivanesan has joined the museum as Chief Curator.

Sivanesan comes to Glenbow with extensive experience across a range of sectors in the visual arts in Canada and abroad, most recently serving as a Curator at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (2015-2021). Previously, she held leadership and curatorial positions in public galleries and artist-run centres in Saskatoon, Vancouver and Toronto. Before immigrating to Canada in 2005, Sivanesan was a curator in the Asian art department at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia (1996-2004), where she worked on several large-scale international exhibitions.

“In addition to her impressive curatorial work, Haema has significant collections research, management and community building experience. Her leadership will help define Glenbow’s future curatorial vision as we head into a very exciting period of revival and reinvention at the museum,” says President and CEO, Nicholas R. Bell.



Sivanesan’s curatorial work typically focuses on art from South and Southeast Asia and its diasporas, with an interest in non-western, post-colonial and transnational histories, world views and practices. In 2018, she was a recipient of a Curatorial Research Fellowship from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts (New York); and in 2016, a recipient of a multi-year research and exhibition development grant from the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation (Hong Kong), for the project *In the Present Moment: Buddhism, Contemporary Art and Social Practice* (forthcoming). Recent exhibitions include, *Imagining Fusang: Exploring Chinese and Indigenous Encounters* (2019), *Fiona Tan: Ascent* (2019), and *Supernatural: Art, Technology and the Forest* (2018). Sivanesan currently sits on the board of the Hnatyshyn Foundation (Ottawa), is a member of the Dean’s External Advisory Committee, Faculty of Fine Arts (University of Victoria), the Awards Committee of the British Columbia Museums Association, and serves on the Membership Committee of the American Association of Art Museum Curators (New York).

“I first learned about the Glenbow when I started in my career in Sydney, Australia 25 years ago, so I have long been aware of aspects of the collection that are of outstanding significance. I am looking forward to developing a compelling curatorial vision that encompasses the breadth of Glenbow’s collections and demonstrates the relevance of art in society,” says Sivanesan, “I’ve been very impressed

by Glenbow's commitment to access and inclusion, and how progressive the work is in this area. This is a critical moment of revitalization for the museum, and I am thrilled to be part of that process."

### **About Glenbow**

Founded in 1966 as an independent, non-profit museum, archive and gallery, Glenbow museum holds an extraordinary collection of more than 236,000 works of art and historical objects, representing western Canada and cultures from around the world. Glenbow is embarking on an extensive renovation that will transform the institution into one of the most vibrant, inclusive art museums in North America. This revitalization includes creating more space for galleries and exhibitions, enabling new opportunities for education and public programming, and prioritizing unprecedented access for the communities we serve.

-30-

### **Media Contact**

Jenny Conway Fisher

[jconwayfisher@glenbow.org](mailto:jconwayfisher@glenbow.org)

403 918 0736

[www.glenbow.org](http://www.glenbow.org)