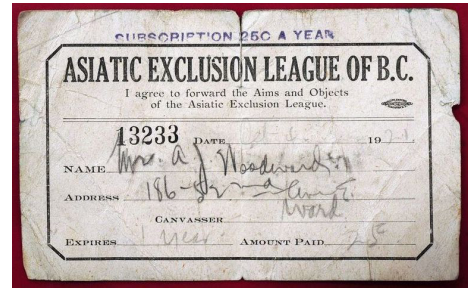
RIOT
FOOD
HERE
PROVISIONS
Henry Tsang

Riot Food Here is a public art project by Henry Tsang that recalls the 1907 anti-Asian riots through the form of food offerings in 4 locations over 4 days in May and June 2018. The riots grew out of a demonstration organized by Vancouver's Asiatic Exclusion League that began with a highly publicized march led by parade marshall Major E. Brown, followed by carriages, marching bands playing "Rule Britannia," and "Stand for a White Canada" banners. Their destination was City Hall, where city officials, business, religious and union leaders made inflammatory speeches to a crowd of eight to ten thousand. From there, an angry mob formed and set off to attack the Chinese and Japanese neighbourhoods nearby.

The riots raged for two days and nights and involved hand-to-hand combat. The Japanese and Chinese bought out all the firearms in local gun stores, resulting in the city banning any further sales to Asians, but not whites. A general strike was called by the Chinese that lasted for two days, effectively shutting down the city.

The Vancouver chapter of the Asiatic Exclusion League was founded less than a month before this historic event, initiated by The Vancouver Trades and Labour Council, and backed by the Knights of Labour. This was not an isolated incident; white nationalist racism had been rising along the west coast for decades. Just three days prior, the Bellingham Riots took place, when 500 white men attacked South Asian lumber mill workers in Bellingham, Washington, driving hundreds out of town and force-marching them towards the Canadian border where they were allowed to cross because they were British subjects.

RIOT FOOD HERE launches with a walking tour led by Michael Barnholden, author of "Reading the Riot Act: A Brief History of


SUBSCRIPTION 25C A YEAR

ASIATIC EXCLUSION LEAGUE OF B.C.

I agree to forward the Aims and Objects of the Asiatic Exclusion League.

13233 DATE 19

NAME

ADDRESS

CANVASSER

EXPIRES AMOUNT PAID

Riots in Vancouver." The food offerings, prepared by Chef Kris Barnholden, will be presented over the four following weekends at these locations:

Beatty Street Drill Hall/Cambie Street Grounds (now Larwill Park), where the demonstration began;

City Hall (at the time in the Old Market Hall next to the Carnegie Centre), where a mob formed to attack Chinatown and Nihonmachi;

Chinatown, where rioters smashed windows and property and attacked any Chinese caught on the streets;

Powell Street Grounds (now Oppenheimer Park) in Nihonmachi, where the Japanese held a mass meeting on the final day of the riots, with Mayor Alexander Bethune in attendance.

The food tastings reflect 5 cuisines that people in the area would have been eating at the time of the riot: English, Chinese, Japanese, Aboriginal and Punjabi. RIOT FOOD HERE stimulates dialogue and awareness of this historic event as a way to reflect upon the ongoing struggle since colonial times about who has the right to live and eat here.

Menu

SALMON AND WILD GREENS

DAAL AND CHAPATI

ROAST BEEF WITH HORSERADISH AND
YORKSHIRE PUDDING

CONGEE WITH PORK

MOCHI

Schedule

ALL EVENTS 2 - 4PM
or until the food is gone

MONDAY MAY 21
Walking Tour with Michael Barnholden (meet at 2:00)
Beatty Street Drill Hall, 620 Beatty Street

SUNDAY MAY 27
Beatty Street Drill Hall, 620 Beatty Street

SUNDAY JUNE 3
Former City Hall, 425 Main Street

SUNDAY JUNE 10
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden, 578 Carrall Street

SUNDAY JUNE 17
Oppenheimer Park, 400 Powell Street

Riot Food Here is part of Ten Different Things, a series of public art commissions in Vancouver that engages ten artists to investigate the role of culture as a critical ingredient in the construct and vitality of the contemporary city. Ten Different Things is a collaboration between CityStudio Vancouver (Janet Moore and Duane Elverum co-founders) and Living Labs at Emily Carr University of Art + Design, curated by Kate Armstrong and supported by the City of Vancouver Public Art Program.

Project Partners: Carnegie Community Centre, Oppenheimer Park Fieldhouse, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden.

Ten Different Things is produced on the traditional unceded Territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

tendifferentthings.ecuad.ca/
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Cover: [Unknown]. "Building Damaged during Vancouver Riot of 1907 - 130 Powell Street, $139." P. Japanese Canadian Photograph Collection. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Library.

Asiatic Exclusion League of BC membership card, 1921.

Philip T. Timms, "Inspection Day, Cambie Street Grounds," circa 1909. City of Vancouver Archives.

Chinatown: [unknown]. "Hastings Street and Columbia Street, southeast corner after anti-oriental riots of 1907." Chung Collection. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Library.

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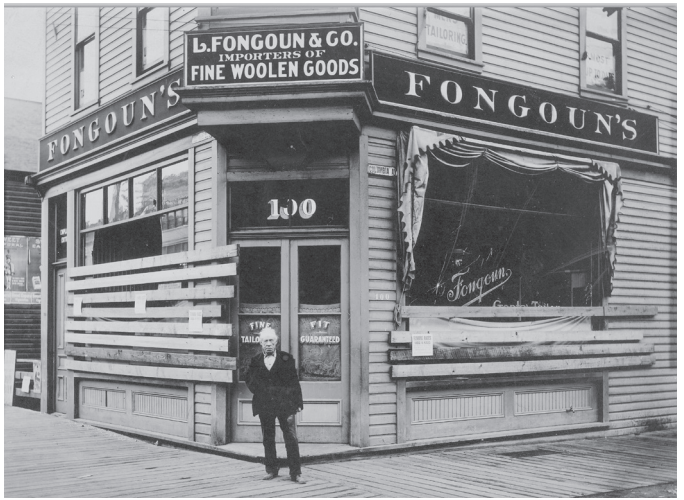

Many Thanks to Rita Uto and Doris Chow at Carnegie Community Centre, Hollie McKeil at Oppenheimer Park Fieldhouse, Debbie Cheung at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, Michael Barnholden, Kris Barnholden, Stephan Wright, Alex Hass, Cease Wyss, Larry Grant, Charan Gill, Harvey Chiang, Phinder Dulai, Kevin Huang, Nikkei Museum, Cindy Mochizuki, Kate Armstrong, Adrian Sinclair, on-site volunteers and supporters, and especially Emiko Morita.

Henry Tsang is a visual and media artist whose work has been exhibited internationally. His projects explore community and identity through place and the global flows of people, culture and capital. Henry teaches at Emily Carr University of Art & Design.