



JUNE 16 - 17, 2016

CONTACT! UNLOAD [SYMPOSIUM]



You are cordially invited to a Symposium on *Contact! Unload* – a project that combined scholars, veterans, and community artists to illuminate the unique experiences of veterans transitioning back into civilian life. Presented by Dr. George Belliveau, Dr. Marv Westwood, and Foster Eastman. Registration is free, but please RSVP by June 13th and indicate days you will attend the Symposium and number of guests to: candace.marshall@alumni.ubc.ca.

Thursday, June 16
5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

The Foster Eastman Gallery
1445 W. Georgia St., Vancouver

On Thursday night join us at the Foster Eastman Gallery for reflections from project leads, a reading of *Contact! Unload*, a panel discussion with veterans, and a reception with finger food.

Friday, June 17
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

UBC Ponderosa Commons - Room 1009
6445 University Blvd., Vancouver

- 9:00 - 9:30 Arrival/check-in and light breakfast (provided)
- 9:30 - 10:30 Panel on Counselling Psychology (Dr. Marv Westwood, Dr. Marla Buchanan, Candace Marshall)
- 11:00 - 12:00 Panel with Community Artists (Dale Hamilton, Janice Valdez, Ian Morrison)
- 12:00 - 1:15 Lunch (provided)
- 1:15 - 2:15 Panel with Audience Members (Dr. Marion Porath, Dr. Lynn Fels, Aaron Bedard)
- 2:30 - 3:30 Panel on Men's Health (Dr. John Ogrodniczuk, Dr. David Kuhl)
- 3:30 - 4:00 Closing remarks (Dr. George Belliveau and Dr. Marv Westwood)

Project background: Funded by the Movember Foundation through the Men's Depression and Suicide Network [menshealthresearch.ubc.ca], *Contact! Unload* is part of the Man/Art/Action project, which aims to extend our knowledge of working with Canadian veterans by pursuing a non-traditional approach of drama and visual art as an innovative intervention for male veterans. Through the process of combining narratives of the veteran's lived experiences within the context of a carefully scaffolded action-based arts process, veterans are able to engage with the emotional, physical and cognitive. *Contact! Unload* debuted at Vancouver at Studio 1398 on Granville Island in the spring of 2015 to three sold out performances. The impact of *Contact! Unload* generated international interest whereby the company was invited to perform at Canada House in London, England in November 2016 and included multiple performances to audiences including; international scholars, dignitaries, international military leaders and, HRH Prince Harry. The company of *Contact! Unload* will also be performing this September in Ottawa on Parliament Hill.