



## April 2019

Welcome to the monthly newsletter for the Vancouver Art Gallery's Weekly Family Programs. Every Sunday, the Gallery offers unique activities geared toward 5-to-12-year-old visitors and their families.

Throughout the month of April, we will be investigating the exhibitions *French Moderns: Monet to Matisse, 1850-1950* and *Affinities: Canadian Artists and France*.

We respectfully acknowledge that we learn, create and live on the unceded territory of the x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and sə́lilwətaʔṯ (Tseil-Waututh) peoples.

All activities are free for children aged 12 and under when accompanied by an adult. Participation is free for Gallery Members or with admission.

## ART AGENTS

Every Sunday, 12–4 PM

Experience the Gallery with our team of curious, funny and informed Art Agents. They engage with the exhibitions through in-gallery activities, questions and conversations relating to what your family notices about the artworks on display.

## THE MAKING PLACE

Every Sunday, 12–4 PM

The Making Place offers art-making activities inspired by the materials and processes that you see in the exhibitions on display. Drop in any time between 12 and 4 PM to take part.

Upcoming Making Place Activities:

### **April 7: Surrealism Dreams**

Over the span of a century from 1850 to 1950, the idea of what was considered acceptable subject matter for art shifted in France. Artists were beginning to look inwards, and there was a formal and conceptual shift from naturalism to abstraction and from the pictorial to the idea. Yves Tanguy is an artist who started reflecting on his thoughts and dreams. He created images of otherworldly landscapes that overlapped abstract forms with loose suggestions of shapes and figures. His ideas stemmed from the subconscious mind, reflecting the ideas of the avant-garde movement, Surrealism.

Families will take a journey through the exhibition *French Moderns: Monet to Matisse, 1850-1950* to see the growth and change in the artists's works. What dreams or internal feelings are being expressed? Can colours evoke other meanings? As we look inward for our inspiration for the workshop, what dream-like worlds can be created? What inner meanings might these imagined places have?

### **April 14: The Abstract**

The abstract art movement came along later in modernism. It included multiple different styles of representation, such as combining flat shapes with volumetric ones. We will find a combination of shapes, lines and colours that further explain the concept of abstraction and provide more options for interpretation, evoking new meanings.

Families are invited to explore this innovative realm of artmaking by letting go of all the rules and creating their own abstract art. We will be looking at the choices the artists have made and how their works can be interpreted. Does our own artwork have a deeper meaning?

### **April 21: Emily Carr in Paris**

The period between the French Revolution of 1848 and the end of the Second World War was an era of deep intellectual, political and social evolution that had a huge impact on the art world globally. Many Canadian artists were interested in the conversations that were taking place in France at the time. They were looking for inspiration and growth within their own practice. Emily Carr made the trip to France herself to be part of the conversation.

We will be looking at the exhibition *Affinities: Canadian Artists in France* to see how modernism affected Canadian artists. Families will discover the changes in style, focusing on the experimentation that took place. How does Emily Carr use colour differently? Is the subject matter represented with a new meaning? We will create our own still life settings, making choices of colour, shape and composition. We will experiment with different styles to see how they change the outcome of the artwork.

### **April 28: Pushing the Boundaries in Canada**

Canadian artists continue to look towards France as innovators in the art world. Many Canadian artists worked in France to explore new styles. We will be looking at how these styles evolved into post-modernism.. Artists were becoming more experimental in their artwork, applying paint in new ways and using new materials.

Families will reflect on how Canadian artists joined the modernist movement that came out of France. We will look at what the artists were doing, how they evolved their own styles, and how this exploration in art continued to develop and advance.

\*If you have any inquiries, or if you are interested in receiving a copy of the Gallery's Family Programs content, such as the Art Hunt, please contact interim Family Programs Coordinator Tatiana Semotiuk at [tsemotiuk@vanartgallery.bc.ca](mailto:tsemotiuk@vanartgallery.bc.ca).