



May 2018

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

Throughout May we will be exploring the exhibitions *A Cultivating Journey: The Herman Levy Legacy*, *Living, Building, Thinking: art and expressionism* as well as *Emily Carr in Dialogue with Mattie Gunterman*.

All activities are free for children (12 and under) and members, or with admission.



Every Sunday, 12–4pm

Experience the Gallery with our team of curious, funny and informed Art Agents. They engage the exhibitions with activities, questions and conversations relating to what your family notices.



Every Sunday, 12–4pm

The Making Place offers exploration-based making activities that are inspired by the materials and processes that you see in the exhibitions. Drop in any time between 12–4pm.

Upcoming Making Place Activities:

May 6: The Tradition of Still Life

A still life is an artwork that makes us look at everyday objects in new ways. Artists have been arranging inanimate objects into compositions to then paint or draw from for hundreds of years. By looking closely at these arrangements, artists can study light and shade as well as experiment with composition. These objects could be anything from food and plants to kitchen items – anything that does not move. Use an already arranged still life or create your own. Look closely at the shapes of the objects. With oil pastels, create an outline and fill in colours. The colours you choose can be realistic (inspired by what you see) or abstract (from your imagination). Think about where you see light reflection in your still life arrangement. Add white to highlight and black (or another dark colour) where you see shadows.

May 13: Blending Painting and Printing

Neo-Expressionism began in Germany in the 1970s. Young artists were inspired by the way the Expressionists described their inner thoughts and feelings through their prints and paintings. Instead of using minimal lines and shapes like the Expressionists, Neo-Expressionists added bold colours and spontaneous movement to large scale paintings and other media, offering a sense of their own personal reactions to what was going on in the world around them. Using a process that employs both the Expressionists' use of printmaking and the Neo-Expressionists' use of bold colour and brushstroke, create lift prints by adding and removing bold colours of paint from a surface, pressing paper onto the surface and lifting it to reveal the print.

May 20: Painting Memories on a Post Card

Herman Levy travelled to places around the world to research paintings that he wanted to add to his collection. He would collect postcards of the paintings that he wanted to buy or that reminded him of paintings he owned. Did you notice the painting *Church in Domremy* (Vosges) (1923) by Maurice Utrillo and the matching postcard that Mr. Levy sent to himself with notes about it? Think about a scene, object or memory that you never want to forget. Using watercolour paint, create your own postcard and mail it, so that you (or someone else) can remember it always.

May 27: Explorers Documenting Experience

Emily Carr described her experience of the deep forest with oil paint and charcoal, while Mattie Gunterman chose to record her adventures with a 4" X 5" plate camera. Gunterman began taking selfies in 1898! Instead of using a selfie stick and digital camera, she did this "by using a long piece of rubber tubing which was attached to her camera's pneumatic shutter at one end with a rubber bulb at the other. Squeezing or stepping on the bulb released the shutter and made an exposure." Using both photographic and painting materials, explore how you can respond to or insert yourself into the landscape surrounding you here in British Columbia.

Vancouver Public Library. "Mattie Gunterman: Photographer & Camp Cook." www.vpl.ca.
<https://www.vpl.ca/gunterman/biography.html> (accessed April 17, 2018).