



## March 2019

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 March, we will be investigating the exhibition *French Moderns: Monet to Matisse 1850-1950*.

We acknowledge that we learn, create and live on the unceded territory of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skw̓xw̓ú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and sə́lilwətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

All activities are free for children and members, or with Gallery 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 activities, questions and conversations relating to what your family notices.

## THE MAKING PLACE

Every Sunday, 12–4 PM

The Making Place offers making activities inspired by the materials and processes that you see in the exhibitions. Drop in any time between 12 and 4 PM.

## Upcoming Making Places: *French Moderns: Monet to Matisse 1850-1950*

### **March 3: *Rebelling Against the Academy***

*French Moderns: Monet to Matisse 1850-1950* highlights the important role Paris played in modern art. Paris was an artistic hub for salons, galleries and an innovative space for new ways of thinking. New styles of art emerged creating different art movements. Artists rebelled against traditional artist teaching by creating their own styles and choosing their own subject matter.

Families will be discovering the initial break away from the Academy with our Art Agents, asking questions about the subject of the painting, why is it important, and the environment in which the painting takes place? What is different about the art work? We will be working with different media in the Making Place to discover the shift in materials and styles within the art.

### **March 10: *Place and Time***

The idea of modern art at the time meant representing modern life or the everyday life. With the rebellion against the Academy, artists were looking at the world around them rather than a perfect world. Artists began to paint what they wanted instead of following to the rules. They were trying out new compositions and perspectives as well as stylistic changes. One movement became known as Impressionism. This coincided with change in technology of the materials. Paint became available in tubes that allowed the artist to work outdoors. Artists were able to capture the textures and forms of the observable world.

Families are invited to practice looking through the viewpoint of the artist. What perspective does the artist have in the landscapes, where are they standing, what looks important or interesting? We will be working with artist materials to explore the different painterly brushstrokes through an impressionist style.

### **March 17: *Movement and Figures***

Modern art continued to change within sculpture, mirroring the themes from painting. Artists chose to represent people beyond the idealism of heroes and religious figures. They took this as an opportunity to show more familiar people that lived and worked in everyday life. The posture of the figures became life like through the muscle tone and angles of the body.

Families will be looking at the artists' choices within the sculptures, asking questions to learn why the artists chose the subjects, what does their posture say about the figure? How does the artist show movement in the sculpture? We will be working with 3-dimensional material to build our own sculpture of what we see as a modern figure.

### **March 24: *Portraits and People***

Portraits have always played an important role in the art world representing the social position of the people such as royalty or having biblical connections. Once again, the age of modernity changed the people we see in portraits. We start seeing common people like farmers and labourers. What is so interesting about these people? Are there stories about who they are?

Families will be looking for the differences and similarities in these portraits, learning about the changes in artistic movements. Are there historical or social references in the clothing or posture? We will be working with paint to explore our own artistic choices in representing a person. How can the artistic rules be broken? What story can be told and why?

### **March 25-29: Spring Break Family FUSE Week: *The Everyday in Different Ways***

How do modern and contemporary artworks transform our understanding of our everyday life experiences?

From March 25–29, the Vancouver Art Gallery's Family Programs will host a week of programming that connects young audiences to interdisciplinary artistic practices through a variety of art educational approaches and experimental making activities, inspired by the materials, processes and ideas at work in the Gallery's current exhibitions: *French Moderns: Monet to Matisse 1850-1950*, *Affinities: Canadian Artists in France*, *Displacement, and Mowry Baden*.

Join us as the Gallery becomes a space of exploration and active collaboration, where visitors can explore their questions, ideas and responses to the artworks they encounter through workshop-based activities presented by local artists and art educators.

Each day participants can engage with our Art Agents in the Gallery to take a closer look at the exhibition *French Moderns: Monet to Matisse, 1850–1950*. At The Making Place, visitors can experiment with a variety of media, processes and ideas as they create their own responses to *French Moderns: Monet to Matisse, 1850–1950*.

### **March 31: *Everyday Objects***

During the French Modern period, artists were playing with the idea of representing the everyday and the mundane, reflecting the idea of real life for the majority of the people at this time. Artists at this time were experimenting with different styles of painting. They were rejecting imitative colours while playing with wispy brushstrokes and dots of paint that blend into each other, creating a different perspective of the subject matter. The work coming out at this time is called Fauvism which is translated as wild beast referring to the bright bold colours. Matisse moved into this style which allowed more experimentation with colour and shape within the still life setting.

Families will be discovering the details in the different still life and decorative arts paintings, focusing on the experimentation that took place. What does the loose style say about the subject matter? Can the simple subject matter be represented with a new meaning? We will be forming our own still life settings, making choices of colour, shape, and composition. We will be experimenting with different styles to discover the importance of still life painting.

\*Please feel free to send an email request for programming content, such as an Art Hunts. All inquiries can be sent to our interim Family Programs Coordinator Tatiana Semotiuk at [tsemotiuk@vanartgallery.bc.ca](mailto:tsemotiuk@vanartgallery.bc.ca)