



November 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 November we will be investigating the exhibitions *A Curator's View: Ian Thom Selects* as well as *Guo Pei: Couture Beyond*.

We acknowledge our privilege as guests as we learn, create and live on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-waututh people.

All activities are free for children and members, or with Gallery admission.



Every Sunday, 12–4pm

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



Every Sunday, 12–4pm

The Making Place offers 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 Places:

November 4: Mixed-Media Walking Silhouette

Michael Snow is a Canadian mixed-media artist. When he lived in New York in the 1960s he began a series of artworks called *Walking Woman*. One day he found a large piece of cardboard and cut out a silhouette (outline) of a friend that he photographed—jazz musician Carla Bley. He realized that he had a stencil that he could do anything with. He created over 200 artworks with the walking woman silhouette. This is the first sculpture that he made! What kinds of materials did he use?

Trace a silhouette of someone as they pose in a movement like the walking woman. Use recycled materials to transform the traced silhouette into a sculpture.

November 11: Making the Ordinary Very Special

Canadian artist Gathie Falk takes ordinary subject matter and makes it look very special. In her sculptures *30 Grapefruit* (1970) and *40 Oranges* (1969 -70) she creates an architectural form out of organic-inspired materials. Each fruit is hand-made, piled into a pyramid and then fired in a kiln (giant oven). After the sculpture is fired, it is glazed (painted) to give the glossy effect to the surface and then fired again. Look at the way the sculptures are presented. Falk wants to make the oranges and grapefruits seem like they are floating in space so the viewer can see them in a magical way.

Create your own pyramid of everyday objects that will make viewers notice them in a new way. Sculpt each individually and decide how you would like to pile them.

November 18: The Act of Painting

Canadian painter Gordon Smith is interested in the act of painting—he is 99 years old and still paints every single day! In *Untitled* (1996) he has created a gigantic landscape, but chose to paint it in a way that does not look realistic. He uses colours and shapes from his imagination to offer a sense of a landscape rather than painting the details one might see in nature. Try to figure out how he painted it. Do you see evidence of him applying paint onto a canvas that is on a wall or easel in front of him? Do you see evidence of him placing the canvas on the ground and applying the paint?

Think about the action of painting a landscape. How can you apply paint in different ways? Use tools like extended paint brushes and experiment with brushstrokes as you paint on the ground with large gestures and actions like Smith does.

November 25: Couture Designs for a Fantasy World

“Couture” means that a clothing design is one of a kind and has been handmade for a specific person. Designer Guo Pei uses her personal memories, fantasies and influences from many cultures to create fashion that can also be considered wearable sculpture or artwork.

Think about a fantasy world—is it inspired by things here on earth like the sea or animals, or is it from another planet or Galaxy? Using a variety of materials create what you would wear to transform yourself to live in another world. What will your inspiration be? Imagined animals? Landscapes from another planet?