

THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY ASSOCIATES

A Message from your Co-Chairs

Already, our 2016/2017 year has gone by.

As your Co-Chairs, we have been so inspired by the extraordinary efforts of our committee chairs who dedicate their valued time to the Associates. Due to their commitment, along with their committee members, we are able to enjoy a wealth of educational experiences, special events, collector's tours, artist studio visits and exceptional travel.

We are especially appreciative of the support we have had from Associate members who have each helped us continue to offer financial support of the Vancouver Art Gallery and its valuable programs. We are excited to be a community partner with the Gallery on the *In Dialogue with Emily Carr Series*, and look forward to our ongoing relationship.

We are looking forward to the coming year. You will soon hear details of the interesting events planned. If you would like to join any of our committees, please do let us know. Our email addresses are below.

We would also like to acknowledge Pamela Oram, who has graciously taken on the task of compiling this newsletter.

We also wish to acknowledge the support we have had throughout the year from the Gallery, Liz, Brittany, Marie, Johanie and Lyn. At this time, we wish Liz farewell for one year as she begins her maternity leave. She will be missed.

Have a wonderful summer, we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Sincerely

Evelyn Froese

Susan Evans

Email: efroese@telus.net

Email: susanjevans@shaw.ca



Thank you Darlene

Many Associates had their first encounter with a new exhibition when they took a tour guided by Darlene Forrester.

Facts, analyses, anecdotes: These were the well-marshalled resources Darlene brought to her volunteer job as guide for the Associates' regular tours of exhibitions at the gallery. For about 10 years, every third Friday—and some Tuesday evenings—she reliably guided us through the rich gamut of art displayed there. From Renaissance to Impressionists to manga and contemporary First Nations art, we counted on Darlene to dispel the mystery, to answer the questions, to enrich our understanding.

Darlene started as a gallery docent 12 years ago; what she learned in docent training was the starting point for her Associates' tours. As a docent she usually guided children, but she was adept at tailoring her comments to her adult audiences. Always gracious, she says she especially enjoyed hearing what we had to say about the art

It's hard to believe she won't be guiding a flock of Associates through crowded galleries, but it is time to move on to the next phase of her life, which will probably include some travel.

Updates from *your* committees

Educational Activities – Judy Lindsay

Our educational events this year have included a tour through “Vancouver Special: Ambivalent Pleasures” our eyes widening at the large abstracts of Mina Totino and the felt hangings of Rebecca Brewer. Our guide, Darlene Forrester, led us through Susan Point's works in wood, paper and glass, her talent and productivity a wonder to us all.

The Monday morning study group included the photographic seascapes of Roni Horn, introduced by renowned collector Claudia Beck, and the analysis by India Rael Young of Susan Point's beautiful prints. An executive from Waddington's Auction House enlarged our understanding of the role of the auction house in raising the profile of artists while moving art to new owners.

Local artists Denna Erickson, Bobbie Burgers and Lori Sokuluk gave us generous access to their methods and intentions when we visited their studios. Each gave us background to their art that only personal contact with an artist in her studio can offer.

As a special educational event we descended to the Gallery's underground, led by operations director Tom Meighan. An opportunity to visit this storied area, where much of the Gallery's work gets done and where most of the collection is stored.

In May we met Dana Cromie at his studio in Vancouver, and June will see us at the West Vancouver studio of Lil Chrzan. The study group concluded its season on May 29 with a look at Diego Velazquez' The Rokeby Venus.

Special Events Activities – Debbie Side

Some great highlights from our special events this year include our Welcome back Luncheon at the Gallery with an Artist Talk by Bobbie Burgers and a curated tour of the 4th floor *In Dialogue with Emily Carr Series* in September.

In October, we had a tour of the Museum of Anthropology which was paired with afternoon tea at the Secret Garden Tea Company.

The winter season brought us the exciting TELUS Corporate Art Collection Tour in November, and the Gallery's appreciation was shown once again at the Christmas Soiree in December.

Early this year, we enjoyed a special tour of the art collection at VGH with an introduction and history by Roberta Beiser and Grace Robin. The collection comprises of more than 2000 pieces, which hang in waiting rooms, corridors and courtyards of VGH, UBC Hospital and GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre. All works are donated by collectors and artists.



Pictured: Hill Fire, Jack Shadbolt. Taken at the VGH Tour.

In April, we had a fabulous Private Collectors Tour hosted by Bruce Munro Wright; a previous Director of the Art Gallery. Mr. Wright provided us with a tour of his wonderfully displayed eclectic collection in a home designed by Arthur Erickson.



Pictured: Left – Bruce Munro Wright in his home; Right – Cindy Charkow, Bruce Munro Wright & Evelyn Froese

This May, we completed a guided walking tour of Chinatown where history and stories of Chinatown were shared while viewing the architecture and enjoying the ambience of the village.

And finally in June, we enjoyed our Summer Soiree, where we enjoyed a curated tour of the *Claude Monet's Secret Garden* exhibition and was accompanied by music, food and wine.

Travel Activities - Christine Burdett

Last July, we visited Whistler for a private guided tour of the Audain Art Museum.



The Permanent Collection primarily celebrates British Columbian First Nation Artists from the traditional to the contemporary. Several Emily Carr paintings are included. A tour of the current visiting exhibition from the Beaverbrook Gallery was also offered.

Associates in Berlin September 26 to October 1, 2016- Annick Boisset

An unforgettable visit through history and art in Berlin, organized by Jeffrey Boone, took fifteen Associates to historical sites, major museums, artist studios and private collections. Time in Berlin is measured by “before, or after, the Fall of the Wall” dotting conversations with Berliners. Strikingly, remains of the Wall are deliberately integrated in the urban landscape as a testimony of history.



Barry Belec, Annick Boisset, Barbara Cross.



Christine Nicolas Marguerite Ko, Eileen Mate, Barbara Cross

Our next trip was to Ottawa on May 21. We visited 3 Collectors, 3 artist studios and toured the Parliament Buildings, the National Gallery, Rideau Hall, Canada Council of the Arts, the Museums of War and History as well as other points of interest including the Tulip Festival.

The short history of the Associates' partnership with IN DIALOGUE WITH CARR SERIES

The *In Dialogue with Emily Carr* exhibitions are presented each year on the fourth floor of the Gallery. The Associates of the Vancouver Art Gallery recently entered into a formal partnership to help raise vital funding for exhibition production. Particularly, this community partnership greatly contributes to the success of the Gallery's educational programs for school groups, families and adults who utilize these presentations for thought-provoking, creative activities.

The Associates look forward to playing a strategic role in the continued success of the Gallery's ability to strengthen the ways in which we contextualize art through consideration of important work from the past.

JOIN A COMMITTEE:

We are looking for volunteers. Are you interested in travel, art education, events or communication? Would you like to volunteer occasionally and contribute to our well-established committees?

If yes, please contact our co-chairs Evelyn (efroese@telus.net) and Susan (susanjevans@shaw.ca) to confirm the type of committee you would like to get involved with and they will be in touch. Thank you.

HAVE YOU MOVED OR CHANGED NAME OR CONTACT INFORMATION?

We want to ensure that you receive information from the Vancouver Art Gallery and the Associates. Please send your updates to membership@vanartgallery.bc.ca. Thank you.

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to this newsletter:

Evelyn Froese, Susan Evans, Annick Boisset, Denis Walz, Grace Robin, Judy Lindsay, Debbie Side, Christine Burdett, Pamela Oram and VAG Staff: Liz Ayre and Brittany Chiu.