



December 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 December we will be investigating the exhibition *Guo Pei: Couture Beyond*.

We acknowledge that we learn, create and live on the unceded territory of the xʷməθ kʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and səliłilwətaʔt (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 informed 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:

December 2: Traditions of Embroidery

Guo Pei's grandmother told her stories about emperors and empresses and what they wore during the Qing dynasty (1644 –1912). The fashion at that time included luxurious silks adorned with detailed gold and metallic embroidery. Guo Pei was inspired by her grandmother's stories and travelled to central China knocking on the doors of people with the most detailed and carefully embroidered curtains to find the best embroidery team. She now employs hundreds of embroidery artists to work on her designs. Often this embroidery takes the form of Chinese symbols of power and good luck. Do you see any images or symbols embroidered into Guo Pei's pieces? Do you know what any of them represent?

Using ribbon, thread, embroidery mesh and fabric, experiment with creating a repeated pattern or image of your own from stories that you remember. Think about colour, repetition, balance and abstraction in your designs.

December 9: Shoes and Accessories

Did you notice anything about the shoes that Guo Pei designs? How would you walk if you were wearing them? During the Qing Dynasty the popular fashion worn by empresses and wealthy people were called Manchu or Flower Pot shoes. They had large wooden platforms so that people would look very tall and so that they would not drag their long dresses and robes in the mud as they walked. These shoes created a certain way of walking that represented a wealthy or regal person.

Guo Pei is also interested in fairy tales, stories and royalty from all over the world. She creates an entire look—clothing designs, jewelry, headpieces— with a connecting theme to create a certain character or mood from a story she imagines.

Using a variety of Guo Pei inspired materials, create accessories that you can wear that all share the same theme. They can be attached to your shoes, your hair, your shoulders— or something completely from your imagination to transform what you are wearing.

December 16: Wearing Architecture

Guo Pei is always using her imagination while she travels. She gets her ideas from things that she sees or learns while in many different countries. While travelling to Switzerland to meet a textile manufacturer, she saw a cathedral in the town of St. Gallen that took her breath away. She looked at the architecture of the building to get ideas for the structure of some of her designs, as well as looking closely at paintings and symbols that she saw there.

Take some time to sketch the architecture of the Vancouver Art Gallery as you walk around the exhibitions. What elements of the building would you use to create a design of your own? Use cardboard and a variety of fabrics and materials to create wearable sculptures.

Thank you for another inspiring year of creating and learning along with us through Weekly Family Programs! **Programs will be taking a break on Sunday December 23rd and Sunday December 30th.** Regular Gallery hours will remain and Sundays will continue to be free for children aged 12 and under. **Weekly Family Programs will resume on Sunday January 6th.**

*Please feel free to send an email request for programming content, such as an Art Hunts, to use during the holiday break. All inquiries can be sent to our interim Family Programs Coordinator Tatiana Semotiuk at tsemotiuk@vanartgallery.bc.ca