



March 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 March we will be exploring the exhibition *Takashi Murakami: The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg*.

All activities are free with regular 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.

March 4: Edo Flowers and Rivers

During the Edo period (1615–1868), artists used light reflective materials to illuminate rooms. Ogata Kōrin (1658–1716) is well known for painting folding screens and using materials like gold leaf. Murakami's work *Kōrin: The Golden River* (2015) also uses gold leaf, but he has designed his flowers using patterns and colours in a contemporary way.

Using patterned origami paper and light reflective materials, create your own collage inspired by Edo flowers and rivers.

March 11: Textures, Patterns and Murakami Inspired Shapes

Collaborate with your whole family! Collaboration is very important to Murakami. He works with hundreds of artists to create his large-scale artworks.

Use stencils, rubbing plates and oil pastels to create a large-scale composition inspired by the way Murakami uses patterns in many of his art works, such as *100 Arhats* (2013).

March 18: Eyes and Teeth Compositions

Murakami often uses design elements such as repetition, shape and scale in his work. Cut out and draw circles and triangles in a variety of colours and sizes. Use them to create an abstracted composition inspired by Murakami's painting *PO+KU Surrealism* (1999).

March 25: Bubble Wrap Octopus Legs

This exhibition is called *Takashi Murakami: The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg*. What do you think that means? Murakami got the idea from a Japanese saying. Thinking about Murakami's inspiration from octopus legs, create your own composition of tentacles by adding colour to, printing with and transforming bubble wrap.

March 19 – 23: Spring Break Programs

In addition to the projects listed, we will feature an additional activity each day to highlight the role of collaboration in Murakami's creative process. We will take our inspiration from his works *Flowers, Flowers, Flowers* (2010) and his work created for this exhibition *Waterfall Appears in the Ocean! In Its Midst, Kraken!* (2018).

Monday, March 19: International Manga Influence

Manga (Japanese comics and graphic novels) has inspired artists all over the world, including Murakami. Get inspiration from Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas's Haida manga works and tell a story about your own family with illustrations.

Tuesday, March 20: Nihonga Painting with Glue and Pigment

In his early work Murakami experiments with traditional Japanese materials such as washi (paper) and gold mineral pigment. Using powdered pigment and glue create your own abstract composition inspired by Murakami's work *Colors 1* (1989).

Wednesday, March 21: Painting a Dragon in Clouds

Murakami's painting *Dragon in Clouds-Indigo Blue*, (2010) was created in response to Soga Shôhaku's Edo Period painting *Dragon and Clouds* (1763). Murakami said he loved Shôhaku's non-traditional composition and the ink dripping in the background, which is like an abstract painting. Create your own dragon and clouds painting inspired by these artists.

Thursday, March 22: Nihonga and Anselm Kiefer Inspired Collage

Murakami studied Nihonga, which is a style of Japanese painting that upholds tradition and separates itself from Western influences. Murakami took a trip to New York in the 1980s and began to question why he would want to ignore contemporary Western influences. In New York he was inspired by the German artist Anselm Kiefer who used materials such as burlap and cardboard on a large scale.

Experiment with washi (paper), burlap, cardboard and metallic pastels to create a mixed media artwork inspired by the way Murakami combines materials.

Friday, March 23: Symbols and Branding: Sticker Workshop

Murakami has collaborated with many designers and brands, lending his characters and signature illustration style to their products. His team also creates things like stickers and pins so that more people can have access to his work, and even wear it. Design your own brand logo that represents you and your signature style, and then create a set of stickers based on your designs.