



## September 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 September we will be investigating the exhibition *Cabin Fever*.

We gratefully acknowledge our privilege 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 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:

## **September 2: Designing the Inside of a Cabin**

Liz Magor's *Messenger* (1996–2002) is a cabin with bright lights shining from within, piquing curiosity about what is going on inside it. The objects collected in the cabin give us a sense of who lives there. What can you learn about their everyday life by the belongings that they have stored in the shelves and cupboards?

Using a variety of materials, design the inside of a cabin. What will the walls and shelves look like? What would you store here? If someone else were to peek in, what story about your life in the woods will these objects tell?

## **September 9: Designing, with Consideration for the Land—back by popular demand!**

Cabins are usually seasonal homes located in secluded areas that, in Canada, are often built by settlers on land that has long been the home of Indigenous communities. Building cabins can be a form of colonization—claiming land for one's self that has otherwise been lived on and cared for by Indigenous people. In his article *Decolonizing Cottage Country*, Peter A. Stevens encourages everyone “to embrace the spirit of reconciliation, and to deepen understanding of the place [you] love—in all of its historical complexity.”

Design a cabin using cardboard and wood materials in many shapes and sizes, paying careful attention to the choices you make, and highlight what you love about the land that your cabin would be placed upon. Use watercolour paper and paint to create the landscape.

## **September 16: Postcards to the Artist**

In Ayumi Goto's performance *In Sonorous Shadows of Nishiyuu* (2013), she ran 1568.5 kilometers over 104 days in honour of the Nishiyuu Walkers and played songs by Metis/Cree artist Cheryl l'Hirondelle through a speaker belt. The Nishiyuu Walkers are a group of Cree youth that walked 1600 kilometers from Northern Quebec to Parliament Hill in Ottawa to give draw attention to the Idle No More movement. They wanted better living conditions for Indigenous people in Canada, and when they arrived in Ottawa they invited Canada's Aboriginal Affairs Minister to visit them in their northern Quebec community. Goto thought about the Nishiyuu Walkers as she ran and every day she documented what she learned by creating a painting and writing a letter to her mother.

Goto would be thrilled to learn about your life experiences! Create a painting of what you noticed when you experienced this exhibition. Next, create a letter to Goto telling her about what you think about when you walk or run across the land.

## **September 23: Transforming the Vancouver Art Gallery's Columns**

The artist Haruko Okano has a practice of collecting natural materials during her daily walks. She uses these materials to transform spaces, encouraging us to think of them differently. The materials she used in the work *Intersistere* (2018) can be seen and smelled by visitors as they enter the threshold of the exhibition space. The work is covering large marble columns, a design that is inspired by European architecture and reminds us of Canada's colonial history. How does walking through *Intersistere* change the way that you experience the Gallery space?

Create an assemblage of your own, with materials inspired by Okano's artwork, that you can then place in your home to affect the experience of people who might come and visit.

## **September 30: 2018 Culture Days: Bring the Gallery to Life With Voice and Sound**

Join us for a special Making Place, presented in collaboration with Culture Days, a nation-wide initiative to encourage participation in arts and culture. <https://bc.culturedays.ca/en/about>

Consider how gallery spaces can be transformed by performances and the presence of voices from diverse communities as you make your own Den-Den Daiko (Japanese pellet drums) inspired by Ayumi Goto's work in the exhibition *Ayumi Goto and Peter Morin: how do you carry the land?*

These in-Gallery activities question how we communicate our voices and histories through time and across cultures. These activities will also ask how we can use friendship and exchange to address challenging social and political issues, such as the impact of colonization on a multitude of communities.