



## January 2019

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 January we will be investigating the exhibition *Guo Pei: Couture Beyond* and we will finish the month with a visit to *A Curators' View: Ian Thom Selects*.

We acknowledge that we learn, create and live on the unceded territory of the  $x^w m \theta k^w \text{ə} y' \text{ə} m$  (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and səliilwətaʔt (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 and 4pm.

Upcoming Making Places:

### **January 6: Past, Present, Future in Shoes**

For fashion designer Guo Pei, design is a way to reflect a complete feeling or story. She mentions, “I think that fashion shouldn’t just be about the present, and I care more about the meaning behind the details.” With this emphasis on the details, she creates all the elements within the collection including shoes, jewelry and hair pieces. What do you notice 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 was associated with a wealthy or regal person.

Can you see how her initial inspiration for the shoes was a flower pot? What do the shoes say about the garments in each collection?

### **January 13: Storytelling through Couture, Collage a Collection**

Guo Pei evokes emotion within her work by layering elements of inspiration from her past, stories told to her as a young girl, historical references, as well as her imagination into the future. Truly a storyteller, Guo Pei notes, “I am like an author with my clothes; I like to tell a romantic story, a fairy tale.” Each collection reads like a dream, journey or story, guiding the audience out of normalcy and placing them in a new world to explore.

Where does her work take you? Is there more to the story? Can you pick out the different collections in the exhibition? Choose one collection and create a story of your own. Who are the people? Where are they? Why are they there?

### **January 20: Upcycle Project Runway**

Fashion takes into account the materials that are used as well as the functionality of design. Haute couture takes explores endless possibilities for design with less emphasis on creating garments that are wearable in the everyday. Guo Pei’s designs are no exception; she offers a unique structure that allows us to question the inspiration as well as the functionality of the design.

Using minimal materials, what designs and textures can you create for a garment that could be modeled on a runway? Think big, think about structure and form, and think about an entire outfit.

### **January 27: Abstraction in *A Curators’ View: Ian Thom Selects***

*A Curators’ View: Ian Thom Selects* explores the process of a curator, the responsibility of a museum and the life of an artwork. As we look at different artists and their processes of creativity through this exhibition, we will focus on the artwork of Jock MacDonald. In his works on display, MacDonald was developing a new abstract style that referenced the spiritual realm with overlapping design elements and inspirations. With a balance between the representative and the imaginative, his work plays with the idea of space.

We will look at composition and abstraction in works by Macdonald, looking at the balance of shape and colour that he created. What kinds of colours influence your feelings and experience? How do the various lines guide your eye through your artwork?

\*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](mailto:tsemotiuk@vanartgallery.bc.ca)