

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Vancouver Art Gallery Connects Art with Climate Awareness— Both Inside and Beyond the Gallery Walls

Summer exhibitions inspire new sustainability initiatives, public programs and partnerships with UBC Climate Action Lab, Samsara and The Bike Valet



June 29, 2026, VANCOUVER, BC // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the xʷməθkʷəy̅əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

The Vancouver Art Gallery extends the climate and nature-focused conversations at the heart of its exhibitions into a broader suite of sustainability initiatives, creative collaborations and public programs. Anchored by two major exhibitions—*That Green Ideal: Emily Carr and the Idea of Nature* and *Future Geographies: Art in the Century of Climate Change*—the season invites audiences to consider changing relationships between art, land and ecology.

“Art has a unique ability to help us understand our relationship with the natural world in new ways. At a time when the climate emergency calls for collective action, cultural institutions have an important role to play—not only by reducing their own environmental impact, but by creating spaces where people can gather, learn from one another and imagine new possibilities together,” says **Eva Respini**,

Co-CEO and Curator at Large at the Vancouver Art Gallery. “As we continue to advance our sustainability commitments, collaboration and discussion will remain essential tools for shaping a greener future.”

Future Geographies: Art in the Century of Climate Change brings sustainability into focus. In addition to addressing the urgency of the climate crisis through contemporary art, the exhibition has served as a platform for scientific exchange and a testing ground for more environmentally friendly exhibition-making practices.

In partnership with the University of British Columbia Climate Action Lab, the Gallery brought together more than 40 students from across disciplines—led by **Eva Respini** and **Dr. Sara Harris** of UBC’s Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences—to provide scientific context for the exhibition’s themes. Through the collaboration, students produced a series of educational videos, presented throughout the exhibition, that invite visitors to engage more deeply with the climate crisis while creating opportunities for shared learning.

The Gallery is also advancing more circular exhibition practices through its participation in **Sustainable Arts and Green Ecosystems (SAGE)** and partnerships with **Great Northern Way Scene Shop** and **Urbanjacks**. Together, these collaborations help reduce waste, support material reuse, and ensure exhibition materials are responsibly repurposed. Sustainability considerations are embedded throughout exhibition development, from the earliest planning stages to installation and deinstallation, with a focus on reusing existing walls, plinths and exhibition furniture, prioritizing recycled materials, and shipping artworks by ground wherever possible.

As part of the exhibition, the Vancouver Art Gallery presents *SANCTUARY: The Ancient Forest Experience*, an immersive installation by **Dr. T’uy’t’anat Cease Wyss**, **Damien Gillis** and **Olivier Leroux**. Housed within a dome inspired by an 1,800-year-old red cedar, the 360° experience transports visitors into some of British Columbia’s last remaining ancient forests while highlighting the ecological and cultural importance of these threatened landscapes. Central to the project is cedar, which **Dr. Cease Wyss** describes as sacred to Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast—an enduring source of shelter, sustenance and knowledge. On June 27, Wyss will lead a guided plant walk through Stanley Park, inviting participants to further explore Indigenous ecological knowledge and deepen their relationship with the land.

Public programs throughout summer and fall further expand climate conversations. Visitors can take part in artist and curator talks with **Eva Respini** and **Jean Shin**, as well as a walkthrough of *Future Geographies: Art in the Century of Climate Change* led by artist and researcher **Amanda White**.

Community facing partnerships take environmental initiatives beyond the Gallery walls. Visitors are encouraged to travel to the Gallery by bike through a new partnership with **The Bike Valet**, operated by **BEST Mobility** and supported by the **BC Cycling Coalition** Bike Valet Grant program. From July 25 to September 25, free, secure bike parking will be available on Robson Square during Gallery opening hours, making low-emission travel to the Gallery easier and more accessible.

In collaboration with Vancouver-based women’s cycling brand **Samsara Cycle**, the Gallery has also launched a low-impact, limited-edition apparel collection inspired by Emily Carr’s iconic British Columbia landscapes. Drawing on the artist’s expressive brushwork and deep connection to the

natural environment, the collection translates Carr's artistic legacy into contemporary cycling and outdoor apparel—taking her work back into the landscapes that inspired it.

To celebrate these collaborations and the launch of The Bike Valet, the Gallery and Samsara will host a community group ride from Stanley Park to the Vancouver Art Gallery on July 25. Participants will enjoy a guided, no-drop ride through the city, secure bike parking upon arrival at the Gallery and a tour of *That Green Ideal: Emily Carr and the Idea of Nature*, linking the landscapes that surround us with those on display inside the Gallery.

Families are also invited to explore nature and sustainability through The Making Place, the Gallery's drop-in, hands-on creative program hosted every Sunday. Upcoming activities include eco-posters, Canadian landscape pastels and sound sculptures. The Making Place is free with Gallery admission, and admission is always free for visitors 18 and under.

The Gallery's internal practices, partnerships and public programs reflect a belief that climate action requires collaboration across disciplines, sectors and communities. By connecting art with sustainability practices, diverse expertise and scientific research, the Gallery is creating new opportunities for audiences to consider the relationship between art, nature and the planet.

Read more about the Gallery's environmental efforts: www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/sustainability

Related program

Where Plants Speak: A Guided Walk with Cease Wyss

Saturday, June 27, 2026 | 2–4:30 PM | Stanley Park and the Vancouver Art Gallery

Join Dr. T'uy't'ananat Cease Wyss for a guided plant walk that interweaves ecology, storytelling and Indigenous knowledge. Starting at the Stanley Park Field House, participants will move through the landscapes of Stanley Park, as Cease shares teachings about the plants that sustain and shape these ecosystems. Following the walk, the group will return together to the Vancouver Art Gallery for a making and sharing workshop.

Indigenous Knowledge Partner:



ARTIST TOUR: Amanda White

Saturday July 11, 2026 | 11 AM–12 PM | 2nd Floor

Join artist and researcher **Dr. Amanda White** on a walkthrough of *Future Geographies: Art in the Century of Climate Change*. Drawing on her research into the intersections of art, environmental studies and cultural studies, White will reflect on how the featured artists engage with climate, land and ecology. She will also explore how their works both contribute to and challenge dominant understandings of environmental issues at local and global scales. Register here:

<https://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/artist-tour-amanda-white/>

CURATOR TALK: Eva Respini

Thursday, July 23, 2026 | 6:30–8 PM | Room 4East

Join **Eva Respini**, Interim Co-CEO & Curator at Large at the Vancouver Art Gallery, for a behind-the-scenes look at *Future Geographies: Art in the Century of Climate Change*. This talk will introduce the exhibition's central themes and curatorial vision, examining how contemporary artists respond to our shared future on this planet. Register here: <https://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/curator-talk-eva-respini-jul-23/>

SAMSARA GROUP CYCLE AND EXHIBITION TOUR

Saturday, July 25, 2026 | 9 AM–12 PM | Stanley Park and the Vancouver Art Gallery

Join the Vancouver Art Gallery and Samsara Cycle for a community group ride from Stanley Park to the Gallery. Participants will take part in a guided ride through the city, access secure bike parking on arrival and enjoy a tour of *That Green Ideal: Emily Carr and the Idea of Nature*. Participants are required to bring their own bike. Register here: <https://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events/samsara-group-ride-jul-25/>

ARTIST TALK: Jean Shin

Saturday, November 7, 2026 | 2:30–3:30 PM | Room 4East

Jean Shin's practice explores the intersections of technology, consumption and environmental impact. Presented in conjunction with *Future Geographies: Art in the Century of Climate Change*, this artist talk will feature Shin reflecting on the environmental and social implications of technological production and waste, and on how artistic practice can critically engage with the ecological consequences of global technological systems.

THE MAKING PLACE

Every Sunday | 11 AM–4 PM | Room 4East

The Making Place is a family-friendly creative workshop open to all ages. Families are encouraged to make art inspired by the exhibitions on display. Upcoming workshops include designing eco-posters, Canadian landscape pastels and sound sculptures. Family-friendly tours take place every Sunday at 2 PM and are designed for visitors aged 5 to 12 and their families, although everyone is welcome. Find out more: www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/family-programs/

PUBLIC TOURS

Thursdays at 10:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 1 PM and 2 PM and Sundays at 11AM | Tours meet in the Gallery Forecourt

Guided tours offer visitors an opportunity to learn more about the cultural and social contexts of artworks on display. Led by trained Art Educators, each tour is unique and reflects the guide's knowledge and interests. Free with Gallery admission. Find out more: www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/tours/

Future Geographies: Art in the Century of Climate Change is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by **Eva Respini**, Interim Co-CEO and Curator at Large, with **Andrea Valentine-Lewis**, Curatorial Assistant.

Major Partner:



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Certificate in Climate Studies and Action

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For media requests, email media@vanartgallery.bc.ca

Image: Vancouver Art Gallery exterior view with cyclist, June 2026. Photo: Vancouver Art Gallery

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Founded in 1931 on the ancestral and unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's celebrated exhibitions, extensive public programs and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is given to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to those of the Asia Pacific region—through the Centre for Global Asias (formerly the Institute of Asian Art) founded in 2014. The Gallery's exhibitions also explore the impact of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture.

The Gallery's new Art of Wellbeing lab furthers its commitment to community by promoting the role of art in fostering health and wellbeing. Developed in collaboration with healthcare professionals, researchers and Indigenous Elders, the lab creates opportunities for individuals to engage with art in ways that support mental, emotional and physical wellbeing. Committed to inclusivity and accessibility, the Gallery welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to share perspectives, build community and shape our collective future through art.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a charitable not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the B.C. Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.