

MEDIA ADVISORY

The Vancouver Art Gallery prepares to welcome the world this summer

International exhibitions, family programs and soccer-inspired art invite local and international visitors to experience the stories of British Columbia



June 12, 2026, VANCOUVER, BC // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the $x^w m \theta k^w \text{ə} y \text{ə} m$ (Musqueam), $S \text{ł} w x w \acute{u} 7 \text{m} e s h$ (Squamish) and $s \text{ə} l i l w \text{ə} t \text{ł}$ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

As Vancouver is set to welcome hundreds of thousands of visitors this summer, the Vancouver Art Gallery invites audiences from near and far to discover the art, ideas and cultural histories that shape British Columbia. With four floors of exhibitions, hands-on family activities, special retail offerings and free soccer screenings hosted at the 1931 Gallery Bistro, the museum offers a vibrant cultural destination in the heart of the city.

Summer 2026 at the Vancouver Art Gallery

Internationally acclaimed exhibitions:

- [*Future Geographies: Art in the Century of Climate Change*](#) — the first major exhibition in Canada to explore climate change through contemporary art on a global scale, featuring more than 30 artists from around the world.

- [SANCTUARY: The Ancient Forest Experience](#) – an immersive 360-degree installation transporting visitors into the heart of British Columbia’s remaining ancient forests.
- [That Green Ideal: Emily Carr and the Idea of Nature](#) – the Gallery’s most comprehensive exhibition of work by iconic Canadian artist Emily Carr in more than two decades.
- [Highlights from the Collection](#) – more than 200 works tracing the evolving artistic and cultural histories of British Columbia and beyond, with free guided tours every Wednesday at 12:15 PM.

New for summer! Program highlights

- **Game/Culture: Where Art Meets Sport** – Join art historian **Adrienne Fast** on July 3, 5-6PM, as she delves into a humorous exploration of art and sport—and where the two meet—in a special one-off talk in 4East.
- **The Making Place** – a weekly Sunday drop-in artmaking studio (11 AM–4 PM) where families can create artworks inspired by the Gallery’s exhibitions. On select Sundays, participants will have the option to partake in soccer-inspired activities, including artmaking with circles and hexagons.
- **Art-inspired afternoon tea** – The Vancouver Art Gallery has collaborated with Fairmont Hotel Vancouver’s Notch8 Tea Salon to present [Among the Trees with Emily Carr](#), an afternoon tea inspired by [That Green Ideal: Emily Carr and the Idea of Nature](#). Visitors can pair their exhibition visit with afternoon tea until September 20, 2026.

Outdoor match screenings

- Visitors can continue their day at the Gallery with free patio screenings of select international football matches hosted by the 1931 Gallery Bistro.
- Screenings include Canada’s group-stage matches, select knockout fixtures and the July 7 Round of 16 match hosted at BC Place.
- Food and beverages will be available for purchase. A full schedule and reservations are available through 1931 Gallery Bistro. Find out more: www.1931gallerybistro.com

Football-inspired merchandise

- Limited-edition postcards and stickers created especially for the city’s summer celebrations featuring *Towards the Goal* (1934), a historic photograph by Dutch-Canadian photographer **John Vanderpant**.
- A special-edition football designed by British Columbia-based Nisga’a and Métis artist **Chantelle Trainor-Matties**, reflecting the artist’s ongoing exploration of connection to land, animals and storytelling.
- Postcards featuring Vancouver artist **Karin Bubaš**’s new series *Under Pressure* (2026), which portrays internationally renowned football players at moments of vulnerability and emotion, including Vancouver Whitecaps player **Thomas Müller**, Brazilian goalscorer **Neymar Jr.** and legendary Argentinian player **Lionel Messi**.
- Official tournament merchandise, including tote bags, posters and patches, are also available in the Gallery Store.

Whether arriving from across the city or across the globe, visitors are invited to experience the artists, stories and creative perspectives that make British Columbia unique during this landmark summer for Vancouver.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is open seven days a week, 10AM-5PM, and until 8PM on Fridays. Entry to all exhibitions is included with general admission. Visitors under 18, caregivers and Indigenous Peoples receive free admission year-round. 1931 Gallery Bistro is open seven days a week, 10AM-5PM, and until 8PM on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays—and later on select match days.



John Vanderpant, *Towards the Goal*, 1934, gelatin silver print, Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Acquisition Fund, VAG 90.68.39

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Media package: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/OYbgCzKSYv>

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

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

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Founded in 1931 on the ancestral and unceded territories of the x̱m̱əθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), Skwx̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish) and səliiwətaʔ (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.

ABOUT 1931 GALLERY BISTRO

1931 Gallery Bistro offers a unique dining experience within the iconic Vancouver Art Gallery. Named in honour of the Gallery's founding year, the Bistro celebrates the history and cultural significance of the institution through a recently renovated, 120-seat licensed patio overlooking Robson Square, alongside a vibrant indoor dining space.

Featuring contemporary cuisine, innovative cocktails and a menu inspired by the diverse cultural influences of Vancouver and the West Coast, 1931 Gallery Bistro brings together art, food and community in one of the city's most distinctive settings.

Named by Daily Hive as one of Vancouver's best patios, 1931 Gallery Bistro has hosted a range of cultural experiences, from openings and artist events to live music, comedy shows and community gatherings. Today, it continues to offer a dynamic space where visitors can combine their Gallery visit with a quick bite, a mid-exhibition coffee or a leisurely lunch.