



## August 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 August 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 Place Activities

### August 5: The Shapes of Sustainable Structures

In the 1950s, architect Richard Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983) created a geometric design to maximize energy efficiency and housing costs. The design is called a geodesic dome. You may have seen an example of this in Vancouver at the Bloedel Conservatory in Queen Elizabeth Park. This design was also used by a group in Colorado who created geodesic domes in the 1960s using the rooftops of cars, creating homes for about \$1000 by reusing materials.

Learn about experimental and traditional design models in the Gallery. How can you use every day materials and geometry to create a mini version of a geodesic dome and other structures?

### August 12: Framing Nature

James Benning's video installation *Decoding Fear* (2014) consists of two projected videos which present still shots through cabin windows. In the videos, we hear the sounds of the landscape outdoors as if we are within the cabins.

Create a window frame using a variety of materials. How will you design your window? Next create a painting or collage of the nature you might see outside of the window. What kind of scene is it? Use your imagination to hear the sounds of nature outdoors as you create an artwork that reminds us of how we view the landscape from the safety of a cabin or other built structures.

### August 19: Romanticized Ideas of Cabins and Canadian Landscape

Fredrick Horseman Varley was a painter who came to Vancouver in 1926 to experiment with ways of representing Canadian landscape. He abstracted and simplified the shapes he saw in nature and used colours to evoke emotion, as you can see in the painting *Forest Rangers Cabin, Lynn Valley* (1932). Varley's work often depicts landscapes without any evidence of human presence, despite the fact that Indigenous people have lived on these lands for thousands of years. This kind of art contributed to the idea at the time that Indigenous cultures were declining, which we now understand was not true. Cabins that are built in the Northwest Coast are built on unceded Indigenous territory.

After looking at Varley's abstracted or romanticized version of the forest ranger's cabin, take a look at photographs of other cabins from B.C. Using liquid tempera paint, take inspiration from Varley's use of colour and his brushstrokes to create an abstracted or romanticised version of what you see in the photos. What will you choose to include in your cabin painting? What will you leave out?

### August 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>: Family FUSE Weekend—Listen to Land

What is your relationship with the land around you? What knowledge does the land have to share with you? How can you listen to and learn from the landscape? Join us for *Family FUSE Weekend* to find out how artists across cultures use music, film, visual art and performance to tell their stories about what the land teaches them about themselves and others when they listen closely to it.