



July 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.

We gratefully acknowledge our privilege as we learn, create and live on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-waututh people.

Throughout June we will be investigating the exhibition *Emily Carr in Dialogue with Mattie Gunterman* as well as *Cabin Fever*.

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 exploration-based 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

July 1 — Sport BC Canada Day Summer Warm-Up, 9am-5pm

This land has been a teacher to Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-waututh communities for thousands of years. We are honoured to learn from their cultural histories. The land that we are on is an inspiration for artists and athletes across cultures. We feel it in all of our actions, movements and play. How do you learn from the land? How do you share what you learn with others?

As you join us on the ground, connecting to the earth beneath us, add your own expression with paint on canvas about what you learn from and love about the land that we are on.

July 8 — Sketching and Studio

Emily Carr travelled across the North West Coast of BC, bringing her painting materials into the deep woods and sketching her experience of what she noticed in nature. She would then take her small sketches back to her studio and recreate them onto large canvases, often changing the shapes, colours or scale of her initial sketches. Use a white oil pastel or wax crayon in the Gallery and sketch what you notice about Emily Carr's paintings. Next, bring your sketch into the workshop to transform the shapes and lines that you noticed with colour.

July 15 — Light Exposure

To create a photo, artists have to think about composition—how the photograph is arranged, how the subjects are posed and, of course, the effects of light. Photographers in the late 19th century, like Mattie Gunterman and Tsimshian portrait photographer B.A. Haldane, had to use chemicals and solvents to develop their glass plate negatives into contact prints. Think about how an arrangement can tell a story. Create a composition with shapes and natural materials on sun print paper. Expose your composition to light, soak it in water and watch the image develop.

July 22 — Designing Considering Land

Cabins are usually seasonal homes 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 diorama of a cabin using boxes that includes your choices about how you relate to land and its history, and what you love about the land that your cabin would be placed upon.

July 29 — Nature and Commercial Media

In the mid 1980s Vikky Alexander was working with mass-produced images found in newspapers, magazines, television and advertising. She wanted viewers to think critically about the images that they saw in the media. In her work *Lake In The Woods* (1986–92), Alexander combines mirrors, wood panels and pictures of nature from magazines to make the viewer experience those images in a different way. Combine magazine images with wood and man-made materials to create your own collage that frames the images of nature in unique ways.

Stevens, Peter A. *Decolonizing Cottage Country*, ACTIVEHISTORY.CA. retrieved from <http://activehistory.ca/2018/02/decolonizing-cottage-country/> June 2018