



January 2020

Every Sunday from 12 to 4 PM, the Gallery offers unique activities geared toward visitors aged 5- to 12-years-old and their families.

Throughout the month of January, we will continue to explore the themes and various approaches of several of the 21 Indigenous artists featured in the exhibition *Transits and Returns*.

We respectfully acknowledge that the Vancouver Art Gallery is situated within the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and sə́lilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

All Weekly Family Programs activities are free for children aged 12 and under, when accompanied by an adult. Participation is free for Gallery Members or with admission.

ART AGENTS

Every Sunday, 12–4 PM

Experience the Gallery with our team of curious, funny, and informed Art Agents. They engage with the exhibitions through in-gallery activities, questions, and conversations relating to what your family notices about the artworks on display.

THE MAKING PLACE

Every Sunday, 12–4 PM

Visit The Making Place to experiment with hands-on art-making activities, inspired by the themes, processes and materials that you see in the exhibitions on display. Drop-in any time between 12 and 4 PM to take part.

Upcoming Making Place Activities:

January 5: Exploring Movement Through Weaving

Making fabric involves taking thread, wool or other materials and binding them together through a process called weaving. Debra Sparrow, for example, practices Salish weaving traditions of the Musqueam using hand-spun sheep's wool. Yellow and red cedar bark is also traditionally used to make regalia, basketry, mats, clothing and rope. These materials are of great cultural importance to First Nations peoples on the West Coast.

After examining Sparrow's work in the exhibition *Transits and Returns*, we will use a similar weaving process to create our own small blankets by intertwining strips of pre-cut fabrics. Families will also be invited to work together to weave a larger collective cloth using materials from different areas of the world.

January 12: Create a Diorama of Your Built Environment

Your daily life is made up of not just home, school, work and family. It includes the bus driver, who brings you from Point A to Point B; the trees and mountains that you see outside your window; the air that you breathe; and all the other many things that make up your lived environment.

By thinking outside the box of all the beings that make up our daily lives, we will bring into dialogue the places where we are from, where we live and where we are guests by building dioramas out of cardboard and paper.

January 19: Exploring Migration in a Maritime Scene Made of Paper

The body of water known today as the Pacific Ocean has had many names throughout the ages. For many communities of Oceanic indigenous origin, the chosen term when identifying this body of water is 'The Great Ocean,' a space of connection that fosters all 21 artists taking part in *Transits and Returns*.

Living here in Vancouver, we are also part of this pattern of movement, and the shoreline is always present in our lives. This week, we will make our own maritime scenes inspired by The Great Ocean, using collage and mixed media techniques to explore the creative possibilities of different papers and fabrics.

January 26: Symbols of Kinship Sculpted from Clay

The notion of kinship can be described as a sense of belonging to a place or community and includes the social connections that make this feeling possible. What habits do you practice to foster your community? Whether you come from a small island in the middle of the Pacific or from the coasts of Australia, New Zealand or North America, the dinner table is often one of the communal areas where these relationships are nurtured. The installation *Hākari as guests* (2019), created by Aotearoa New Zealand-based artists BC Collective (Cora-Allen Wickliffe and Daniel Twiss) with Samoan artist Louisa Afoa, explores this communal dynamic in *Transits and Returns*.

Inspired by this work, consider the different foods you eat when surrounded by friends and family. Once you've identified your favourite dishes, imagine the kind of dinnerware that would suit it best. Does a plate give you enough room, or can you think of a shape that would fit your item more comfortably? By shaping and combining different layers of air-dry clay, you will create a custom-made dish to be displayed during your next family meal.

*If you have any questions, or if you are interested in receiving some of the Family Programs content, such as the Art Hunt, please contact interim Family Programs Coordinator Stéphanie Bernard at sbernard@vanartgallery.bc.ca.