

Vancouver Art Gallery Statement on the Event of November 12, 2022



November 12, 2022, VANCOUVER, BC // *Traditional Coast Salish Lands including Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw) and Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaʔ) Nations*

The Vancouver Art Gallery can confirm that two individuals entered the Gallery and vandalized a work of art in the permanent collection, Emily Carr's *Stumps and Sky*, c.1934. Emily Carr is among Canada's most iconic artists. The Gallery staff are working with the Vancouver Police Department to investigate this act of vandalism.

"The Vancouver Art Gallery condemns acts of vandalism towards the works of cultural significance in our care, or in any museum. A central part of our mission is to make safer spaces for communication and ideas. As a non-profit charity, we are an institution of memory and care for future generations. We do support the free expression of ideas, but not at the expense of suppressing the ideas and artistic expressions of others, or otherwise inhibiting people from access to those ideas." says **Anthony Kiendl**, Director and CEO of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

The Gallery staff believes there will be no permanent damage to the artwork. The Gallery condemns this act and works to preserve and protect culturally significant works for all British Columbians and Canadians.

Please note the following statement provided by the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) issued on November 3rd,

2022: twitter.com/museumdirectors/status/1588166541820018688

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ABOUT VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most respected and innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's ground-breaking 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 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 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 BC Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is situated on the ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, and is respectful of the Indigenous stewards of the land it occupies, whose rich cultures are fundamental to artistic life in Vancouver and the work of the Gallery.

Photo credit: Melissa Baker