

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Vancouver Art Gallery Launches New Event Series Dedicated to Seniors

A weekly line up of interactive offerings seek to empower seniors in their communities, inspire creativity and improve wellbeing



September 19, 2024, VANCOUVER, BC // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwəta1 (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is excited to announce the launch of a new community-based event program, **Art At Any Age: Movement and Making at the Gallery**, made possible with funding received in part from the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP).

Launching in October 2024, **Art At Any Age** is a free series of social and educational opportunities designed by and for seniors. The program aims to enrich participants' lives through art by encouraging creativity and enhancing wellbeing. Each week will offer new ways for seniors to gather at the Gallery, from hands-on making to reflective responses facilitated by guest artists. The program includes tea-and-tour sessions, meditative experiences and intergenerational workshops, all inspired by the exhibitions on display.

"I am thrilled to see **Art At Any Age** come to life through creative collaboration and through the generous support of the Government of Canada—without which the program would not be possible," says **Anthony Kiendl, CEO & Executive Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery**. "This unique program represents the Gallery's commitment to building communities, continuous learning and inspiring a love of art for all ages. These programs will provide an important platform for expression, connection and imagination, which we believe will foster an improved sense of wellbeing and belonging for seniors."

Art At Any Age is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery in collaboration with **Dr. Kathryn Ricketts**, a Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina, and in consultation with an advisory group of seniors. Ricketts has worked in dance, theatre and the visual arts for over forty-five years and has developed numerous projects that explore how creative work with seniors can improve quality of life.

“I am excited to be working with both the advisory group of seniors and the Vancouver Art Gallery’s Public Engagement & Learning team,” says **Dr. Kathryn Ricketts, Lead Facilitator of Art At Any Age**. “This combination of partners is a perfect synthesis of my passion for creative empowerment with the aging community in sophisticated and artful contexts. Over the past thirty years, I have developed a very productive relationship with the Vancouver Art Gallery, and it continues to surprise me and blossom in the most unexpected and delightful ways.”

The Vancouver Art Gallery intends **Art At Any Age** to be foundational in the Gallery’s ongoing commitment to providing vibrant and meaningful experiences for seniors. A second iteration of the program will take place from January through March, 2025.

For more information, visit vanartgallery.bc.ca/art-at-any-age.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Art At Any Age is open to Gallery Members and the public. Advance registration is required. All sessions will take place at the Vancouver Art Gallery at 750 Hornby Street.

Tour and Tea: Words and Movement

Led by Kathryn Ricketts, in dialogue with *Black and White and Everything in Between: A Monochrome Journey*
Wednesday, October 23 | 10 AM

Tour and Tea: Sound and Rest

Led by Laurel Murphy and Songrise, in dialogue with *Black and White and Everything in Between: A Monochrome Journey*
Wednesday, October 30 | 10 AM

Tour and Tea: Dance and Nature

Led by Celeste Snowber, in dialogue with *Emily Carr: A Room of Her Own*
Wednesday, November 6 | 10 AM
*This session is offered in English, Mandarin and Cantonese

Tour and Tea: Collage and Colour

Led by Kathryn Ricketts, in dialogue with *Firelei Báez*
Wednesday, November 13 | 10 AM

Tour and Tea: Story and Music

Led by Vicki Kelley, in dialogue with *Shelley Niro: 500 Year Itch*
Wednesday, November 20 | 10 AM

Tour and Tea: Story and Music

Led by Vicki Kelley, in dialogue with *Shelley Niro: 500 Year Itch*
Wednesday, November 27 | 10 AM

Tour and Tea: Collage and Colour

Led by Kathryn Ricketts, in dialogue with *Firelei Báez*
Wednesday, December 4 | 10 AM
*This session is offered in English, Mandarin and Cantonese

Government Partner:

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New Horizons for Seniors Program

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MEDIA CONTACT

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ABOUT THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most 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. 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 səllilwətał (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.

vanartgallery.bc.ca

