

WINTER 2025

# Surrey Art Gallery



ENGAGING  
CONTEMPORARY  
ART FOR 50 YEARS



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**REGULAR HOURS**

Tuesday–Thursday: 9am–9pm  
Friday: 9am–5pm  
Saturday: 10am–5pm  
Sunday: Noon–5pm  
Closed Mondays and holidays

**FREE ADMISSION / FREE PARKING**



Visit our website to read our anti-racism and systemic change statement and learn more about accessibility: [surrey.ca/arts-culture/surrey-art-gallery/accessibility-gallery](https://surrey.ca/arts-culture/surrey-art-gallery/accessibility-gallery)

Surrey Art Gallery is situated on the unceded territories of the Salish peoples, including the ꝑícəy̓ (Katzie), ꝑʷɑ:ṇəłən (Kwantlen), and Semiahma (Semiahmoo) nations. Within our varied subject positions, we are committed to continuous learning, deepening understandings of related responsibilities in all areas of work.

**CONTACT**

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[surrey.ca/artgallery](https://surrey.ca/artgallery)  
[artgallery@surrey.ca](mailto:artgallery@surrey.ca)

On the cover: Rajni Perera, **Storm**, 2020, mixed media on marbled paper, 76.2 × 61 cm. Courtesy of James McKellar. Photo courtesy of the artist and Patel Brown © Rajni Perera.

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**THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS**



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SAGA surrey art gallery ASSOCIATION

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We're fifty! Celebrate with us the Gallery's service to art, artists, and communities since 1975. As we launch each season's programs from 2025 to the end of 2026, we look forward to gathering with you through art parties full of activities.

This winter, artists and artworks traverse through troubling times, delving into cycles of life; ecosystems and their fragility; diasporic arrivals; and the dystopic, even apocalyptic. Yet there also emerges a fierce optimism and strength. Centering and amplifying critical voices through artworks and publications, as well as our talks, tours, workshops, and more, we encourage you to share in the conversations and through your own creative expressions.

The Gallery has long and ongoing relations with Semiahmoo Arts Society, Surrey School District, Surrey Art Teachers Association, and Surrey Art Gallery Association (SAGA). We honour their decades of work supporting artists and artistic practices. In particular, thank you to SAGA for their gift of Nash'mene'ta'naht Atheana Picha's **Two Sturgeons** (2022) print and woodblock on their 40th anniversary last year.

As ancient beings, sturgeons are often referred to as "living dinosaurs," existing as long as 200 million years ago. Due to climate change, they are now at risk, with habitat loss and erosion, increasing water temperatures, and damage to spawning areas. This fragile ecosystem of the stəɫəw̓ (Fraser River)—their home—is important to maintain, given also that the river's health is related to the health of us all.

As we consider what is inherited over the past fifty years and longer and what is being formed currently—from responsibilities of our time and for future generations—we hope you will forge forward with us as we see, experience, make, and plan for extraordinary art and art experiences together.

Alison Rajah  
Director



PHOTO: COURTESY OF ARTIST

Nash'mene'ta'naht  
Atheana Picha,  
*Two Sturgeons*,  
2022, block print  
on Stonehenge  
paper. Collection of  
Surrey Art Gallery  
SAG2024.05.02.

**NEXT PAGES**  
Picha lightly tracing a carved crescent below the central egg of her touchable woodblock during Invisible Fish exhibition at the Gallery. Collection of Surrey Art Gallery SAG2024.05.01. Photo by Dennis Ha Photography.



Experimenting with mediums as varied as painting, sculpture, and photography, Toronto-based artist Rajni Perera expresses her vision of imagined futures in which mutated subjects adapt to exist in dystopian realms through strength and resilience.

Perera draws deeply on the artistic traditions of Sri Lanka, her childhood home. Indian miniature painting, medieval armour, South Asian textiles, and science fiction also factor into her body of work that spans feminist and diasporic narratives while contemplating survival in an environmentally degraded future.

Her work responds to existential threats with creativity and invention, offering a vision charged with humour, sharp critique, hope, and dread. Looking to the past and to the future, and endowed with a powerful imagination, Perera is singularly equipped to express the increasingly chaotic, often frightening, and sometimes hopeful world in which we find ourselves today.

**Futures** includes nearly thirty works from various stages of the artist's career. Through the manifestation of various mediums from functional sculptures to intricate paintings, Perera looks ahead to uncertain times threatened by climate change and looming social inequities. Her future goddesses and inventive armours prevail over dystopic realms, mutating to adapt to challenging environments.

This exhibition is organized and circulated by the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. It is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue featuring an interview with the artist by curator Sarah Milroy, as well as essays by leading international literary figures Fariha Róisín and Britt Wray. Surrey Art Gallery is the only West Coast stop on the tour.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF ARTIST AND PATEL BROWN © RAJNI PERERA

Rajni Perera,  
*Dancer 2*, 2018,  
mixed media on  
millboard. Courtesy  
of Ivan Lin and Jeff  
King.

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 UNTIL FEB 9

**Pass the Mic!**

Organized by the Semiahmoo Arts Society, this exhibition privileges art created by people who find themselves typically outside the mainstream art world. Artists include those who identify as, but are not limited to, Indigenous, Black, persons of colour, non-white, persons with disabilities, of any gender, of any sexuality, of any level of mental wellness, and as members of any other minoritized or marginalized communities. Through paintings, mixed media, writing, and performance, local artists are given the microphone to express and share their stories. Themes range from personal experience to critiques of current societal and political issues. Some artists choose to focus on regional topics, such as local painter Hang Shu's loving watercolour rendition of Grandview Heights Secondary School. Others take a deeper, more personal approach, such as Sanjoy Das' portrayal of different states of consciousness.



Sanjoy Das, *Arising of Consciousness*, 2003, mixed media on paper.

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 FEB 15–APR 27

**Art by Surrey Secondary Students**

Since 1983, the Gallery has collaborated with the Surrey School District and Surrey Art Teachers Association for the annual **Art by Surrey Elementary School Students** and **Art by Surrey Secondary Students** exhibitions in alternation. This winter, the Gallery celebrates the curiosity, creativity, and skills of over fifty local high school students. Selected artworks share stories of personal growth, social engagement, and material exploration and experimentation, demonstrating the impact of art education in British Columbia's largest and fastest growing school district. Visitors will see artworks in a variety of media: paintings, drawings, collages, photographs, and more.



Travis Mayes-Wong, *To the West*, 2022, felting.



*Winter Garden*, 2024.

PHOTO: NK PHOTO

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 UNTIL APR 27

**Cheryl Pagurek: Winter Garden**

Using machine learning software, Pagurek's interactive installation mirrors the presence and movement of viewers via a webcam, creating an ever-changing collage. The concept began from a series of still life photographs depicting a small oasis of indoor plants that the artist tended to during the lockdown in winter 2021. Inspired by the memento mori (Latin for "remember death") theme in classical paintings, **Winter Garden** uses vibrant motifs of flowers and fruits, common subjects in these paintings, to contrast them with the lifeless winter landscape in the background. The juxtaposition between the two reminds the viewer of the cycles of life while evoking a sense of joy and solace. Curated by Gallery Curatorial Assistant Zoe Yang.

## WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

**Create your own Museum! and Collaborative Cardboard Future Metropolis!**

Our 2024 summer exhibition **Future Memoria** highlighted themes of utopia and dystopia. Artist-educators Puneet Datewas, Claire Moore, and Yan Song focused on three artworks in the exhibition—Robert Youd’s interactive sculpture **Bruno Taut’s window / start your own museum** (2019), Keith Langergraber’s graphite series **City of Future Past** (2005), and Alex McLeod’s digitally generated city simulation **Prismatic Planes** (2011)—to inspire two art activities. In the vitrines on the way to the classrooms on the lower level of the Arts Centre, visitors can see the imaginative responses to these activities from Family Art Party and Young Architects Camp participants. From 2D transparencies to 3D structures of museums that care for people’s emotions, as well as earthly materials and creatures along with underwater, floating, and galactic cities, young artists share their extraordinary visions for the future. Installation curated by Engagement Facilitator Manmeet Dhanoa.



PHOTO: GALLERY STAFF

*Collaborative  
Cardboard Future  
Metropolis!,  
2024, mixed media  
sculptures.*



PHOTO: MICHAEL LOVE

## UNTIL FEBRUARY 9

**a'su'n – blanket**

Visitors are invited to add to a growing and collaborative felt blanket until February 9.

Created by the Gallery’s Curator of Art and Education Initiatives Alanna Edwards, a Mi’gmaq/settler artist who grew up on the West Coast, the blanket references the connections between coastal nations and the complexity of the meaning of home. A’su’n means blanket in the Mi’gmaq language. Bordering the blanket are abalone buttons and dentalia shells, as well as double-curve motifs that resemble unfurling fiddleheads and represent cosmological views of the Mi’gmaq and other Wabanaki nations.

Visitors are encouraged to recall a favourite memory of Bear Creek or to take a walk through the park and note the plants and animals who make up and inhabit the land. Sign out a blanket box at the front desk and add your own interpretations of plants and animals to the blanket using felt. Cut out and pin your creation to the fabric and respond to what other visitors have left behind or begin a new scene based on your observations.

UNTIL FEB 23

### Nicolas Sassoon: Liquid Landscapes

Colourful pixel animations with sound capture the movement of water, light, wind, and air from seven key geographic sites around Surrey: Serpentine River, Redwood Park, Crescent Beach, Nicomekl River, Boundary Bay, Serpentine Fen, and the Fraser River. Nicolas Sassoon renders the scenes in limited but vibrant colours informed by each location as well as by the retro, pixelated look of early web design. A piece of music produced by a local electronic artist accompanies each animation.

Over the course of each artwork, the images become progressively more abstract, until it is no longer obvious what the subject of the animation originally was. In this way, Sassoon alludes to how screen-based technologies distance us from reality.

Each of the seven animations will be displayed on a different night of the week. This artwork was previously shown in 2018 and the work has since been acquired as a part of the Gallery's permanent collection. Curated by Assistant Curator Rhys Edwards, *Liquid Landscapes* celebrates the geographic diversity throughout Surrey and challenges us to think about our complicated relationship with nature and technology.

Learn more about *Liquid Landscapes* in our publication *Art After Dark: 10 Years of UrbanScreen* available on the Gallery website.

Rendering of Nicolas Sassoon's Serpentine River animation, part of the *Liquid Landscapes* series at the new UrbanScreen site.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF ARTISTS

FEB 27–MAY 4

### Varvara & Mar: We Are the Clouds

This interactive outdoor art installation returns to Surrey to invite passersby to join a community of clouds. Visitors can perform live in front of an onsite kiosk and have their "cloud persona" appear immediately on screen, projected onto a brilliant blue sky across the side of Surrey Central Library. Capturing only the silhouette of a given participant, the technology allows all prospective cloud-makers to contribute to the formation of an ephemeral cloud community. The use of the silhouette is a reminder that everyone is welcome to participate.

Prior to the exhibition's original opening date in 2020, Surrey locals were invited to attend production workshops with the artists where their on-camera performances were recorded to create the initial body of imagery. Varvara & Mar, an Estonia-based artist duo, used software designed specifically for this project in conjunction with a Microsoft Kinect camera. Curated by Assistant Curator Rhys Edwards, *We Are the Clouds* brings people together within a space of playmaking and creativity.

Learn more about *We Are the Clouds* in our publication series *Surrey Art Gallery Presents* essay "Soft, fluffy power" by Stacey Koosel, available on the Gallery website.

Varvara and Mar, *We Are the Clouds*, 2020, interactive digital image still.

UrbanScreen exhibitions begin 30 minutes after sunset and end at midnight.

On Surrey City Centre Library facing Surrey Civic Plaza, 10350 University Drive

The relocation of UrbanScreen was made possible through Pacific Economic Development Canada's Community Revitalization Fund, Surrey Public Art, and Surrey Art Gallery Association.



Photo by Pardeep Singh.



Photo by Lauren Thomas.



Photo by Millissa Martin Photography.



Photo by Simone Chnarakis.



Photo by Pardeep Singh.

SAT, JAN 25 | 6–9PM

**Winter Opening: Forming Futures Art Party**

Celebrate the launch of the Gallery's 50th anniversary series of art parties with our winter season of exhibits. The evening includes artmaking with Claire Cilliers, poetry with Heidi Greco, a conversation between guest curator Sarah Milroy and Gallery Curatorial Assistant Zoe Yang, sound installation with Ruby Singh, and more!

THU, FEB 6 & 20 | 7:30–9PM

**Thursday Artist Talk: Walter Quan, "Grant Writing Workshop for Artists"**

This two-part grant writing workshop will offer artists guidance and tips for creating competitive grant applications. Part I will be informational, leading to the preparation of a practice grant application. In Part II, participants will gather to "jury" the submissions and provide gentle critique to share how others may judge an application within a competitive process. Limited spots; registration required at [artgallery@surrey.ca](mailto:artgallery@surrey.ca).

SAT, MARCH 1 | 2–4PM

**Tour and Conversation with Negarra A. Kudumu and Rajni Perera**

Join independent curator and writer Negarra A. Kudumu for a conversation with exhibiting artist Rajni Perera. They will present on prominent themes in Perera's work—namely her engagement with futurism, mythic creatures, and ancestors. A tour with Perera of the exhibition **Futures** will conclude the event.

THU, MAR 6 | 7:30–9PM

**Thursday Artist Talk: Chris Murdoch, "What's Next? Maintaining Creativity as an Artist"**

Speaking about his transition from theatre to circus and teaching to film, multidisciplinary artist Chris Murdoch will explore the question of "what's next?" from different angles and stages of life and will include some performance activities. Since 1987, these talks have been made possible through Surrey Art Gallery Association.

SAT, MAR 8 | 12–4PM

**Art & Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-thon**

Help increase the representation of women and non-binary artists on Wikipedia! In partnership with **Rungh** magazine, we invite you to learn how to create and edit entries on the world's largest online encyclopedia. Pre-researched artists and artworks in the Gallery's permanent collection will be available or come with artists in mind. No prior knowledge or practice of editing Wikipedia is required.

SUN, MAR 9 | 12–4PM

**Family Art Party**

Get creative with friends and family inspired by the exhibition **Rajni Perera: Futures**. Learn about artworks in the exhibition through the Art Monster activity book with Gallery Youth Docents. Imagine a futuristic version of yourself by designing your own wearable artwork and sculpting a sci-fi-inspired mask! Take in an interactive musical performance with Ruby Singh in the Studio Theatre.



The Gallery offers a range of art and artmaking opportunities for children and students through to older adults. These include tours, workshops, classes, takeout courses, online videos, and so much more (see [surrey.ca/galleryeducation](http://surrey.ca/galleryeducation)). This season, we're highlighting our Welcome Program.

### Cultivating Connection and Creativity

Surrey is the fastest growing city in BC, with an average of twenty-eight new residents arriving each day, wanting to contribute and share rich traditions, stories, and creative practices. At the same time, moving to a new country brings unique challenges, from learning a language to navigating unfamiliar systems, finding housing, and securing work.

Considering these complexities, the Gallery's Welcome Program creates a supportive space where groups of all ages can engage with contemporary art through friendly conversations, fostering connections and opportunities for self-expression through art.

The Gallery listens to and works with local organizations, such as settlement agencies and community integration programs, to better understand what groups would like to see and do at the Gallery. Participants are often inspired by the exhibitions, making art, and the socialization.

Since 2011, this Program has introduced new residents to the Gallery and encouraged ways to stay connected through volunteering and participating in our programs, events, and family art parties. New community members are invited to try out the Gallery's current exhibitions through free guided tours that centre on inquiry, sharing, and learning, along with hands-on artmaking sessions with artist-educators where we look at diverse ceramic practices and the medium of clay through the technique of coil-building.

PHOTOS: GALLERY STAFF



FROM LEFT  
Clay coiling  
technique workshop  
with artist-educator  
Claire Cilliers.

Guided tour of one  
of the Gallery's  
exhibitions.

*“For many of the participants, it was their first time visiting the Gallery, and they were pleasantly surprised to learn that admission is free. They were also impressed by the range of services offered. Those who had visited before shared that having a guided tour greatly enhanced their experience, allowing them to better understand the exhibitions, including the stories and meanings behind the artwork. They enjoyed their visit and expressed interest in more interactive sessions with the Gallery in the future.”*

—Erika Liu, Community Connections Worker with Options Community Services

Participants are also encouraged to engage with long-term artworks installed at the Gallery such as **Retro-Perspective** by Drew Atkins, which speaks to q̓ʷa:niłən's long history on the unceded lands where the Gallery is situated. The artwork features colourful, naturally lit silhouettes and shapes, such as circles, crescents and trigons, inspired by a 300-year-old feast bowl and a 3,500-year-old stone wolf carving. It invites reflection on stories of arrival relative to time, responsibilities to deepen understandings, and reciprocal relations.

To learn more about this program, or to book a visit to the Gallery, contact us at 604.501.5566 (dial 0) or [gallerytours@surrey.ca](mailto:gallerytours@surrey.ca).

**Johanna Lasner**  
Volunteer Programmer



Rajni Perera, *I take a journey, you take a journey, we take a journey together*, 2020, leather, trim, cotton, beads, metallic thread, beeralu lace, rubber gas mask. Courtesy of Paul and Mary Dailey Desmarais III.

Curatorial Assistant Zoe Yang asks exhibiting artist Rajni Perera about her art practice and *Futures*.

**Your work is incredibly imaginative and expansive. Where do you draw your inspiration from and how do you translate that into your own work?**

I think my conceptual and aesthetic references are typical of an immigrated person, in that there is a wider exposure to many cultures, ideologies, ways of life, and ways of seeing than someone who was born here, hasn't been displaced, or has generational wealth. I believe that the work of immigrant artists should stand apart from that of "Canadian" or "American" artists per se, because we are presented with a very different set of circumstances, choices, and options than a nation's propaganda would have you believe.

My work is a synthesis of image-making styles that decentre a Eurocentric expression of victory, opulence, and abundance, which is important to me as I talk about immigration, climate collapse, un-bordered peoples, and the future of humanity after the fall of white supremacy. I do insist on a vibrant and jovial representation of hardship and tribulation, preferring to demonstrate innovation, social and spiritual evolution, and adaptation and evolution as revolution instead of showing the difficulties that myself and billions of colonially/capitalistically displaced peoples have had to endure.

NEXT PAGES  
Rajni Perera, *Revenge 3*, 2019, polymer clay, aluminum, paint, leather, lace, Ring for Truth (solid cast bronze wearable unit). Courtesy of the artist and Patel Brown.

Rajni Perera, *Peaceful Cobra*, 2019, mixed media on paper. Courtesy of David Heden.

**What does this exhibition indicate about your vision of the future? Is it more optimistic or pessimistic?**

I don't know if the work itself engages with either polarity—I feel like I'm always arriving at a viewpoint that isn't fixed. I myself am an optimistic person. It's possible the type of representation I worldbuild with is an evolutionary response to hardship, much like my previous exhibition *Traveller*. Evolution shows us that the organism presented with the most extenuating circumstances is the organism that changes for the better and ultimately survives. I like evolutionary theory because it is ruthlessly direct when you look at it properly. The soft and privileged do not seem to make it through drastic environmental changes. In that way, we can suppose that populations bred into hardship over many generations—growing the organs, skin, and minds necessary to make it past a paradigm shift—do come out victorious and are able to innovate, build, and nurture a better world.

**It's been two years since the show was first exhibited at McMichael. Is there a particular work that you're attached to and why?**

How can you ask me to choose a favourite child? I really love the light work *Plane Bend* I made with Kate MacNeill of Concord Custom Lighting. I like to make large-scale fictional spacecraft lanterns inspired by the Vesak harvest festival back home. It lets me talk about immigrant resilience using space travel as a metaphor for immigrant life. In the past, I've made the V-Wing from *Star Wars* and the Starship Enterprise from *Star Trek*. I'm a great lover of science fiction and see it as a very effective tool for prophecy, satire, commentary, and storytelling. The works in *Futures* will show you that.



Rajni Perera, *Plane Bend*, 2020, brass-plated metal, lead, frosted glass, wiring. Courtesy of Patel Brown.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ARTIST AND PATEL BROWN © RAJNI PERERA



Embrace the indoors with an art class. We've got offerings for preschool to seniors onsite and in the comfort of your home, not to mention spring camps to keep the kids in your life engaged when school's out!

PARENT PARTICIPATION

**Art Expressions (2-4 yrs)**

Thu, Jan 16, 12:30pm [2]  
00421232 \$28  
Instructor: Mariana Frochtengarten

CHILDREN

**Art Express (7-10yrs)**

Sun, Jan 19, 2:30pm [6]  
00421199 \$113.40  
Instructor: Mariana Frochtengarten

PRESCHOOL

**Art Explosion (4-6yrs)**

Sun, Jan 19, 2pm [6]  
00421197 \$88.50  
Instructor: Puneet Datewas

**Collage and Composition (8-12yrs)**

Sat, Jan 25, 12:30pm [7]  
00421269 \$104.65  
Instructor: Erin Mulcahy

**Mud Buddies (5-6yrs)**

Sun, Jan 19, 12:30pm [6]  
00419248 \$88.50  
Instructor: Puneet Datewas  
Sat, Jan 25, 10:15am [5]  
00419251 \$73.75  
Instructor: Santana Fung

**Draw, Paint, Create! (7-10yrs)**

Wed, Jan 22, 4pm [8]  
00421213 \$151.20  
Instructor: Jenn Tiles

**Paint at the Play (6-12yrs)**

Sat, Jan 18, 3:30pm [1]  
00421228 \$24.70  
Instructor: Mariana Frochtengarten  
Sat, Mar 1, 3:30pm [1]  
00421230 \$24.70  
Instructor: Claire Cilliers

CHILDREN DRAWING

**Drawing Techniques (10-12yrs)**

Sat, Jan 25, 10:30am [7]  
00419311 \$121.45  
Instructor: Erin Mulcahy

**Drawing Fundamentals (5-6yrs)**

Sun, Jan 19, 3:30pm [6]  
00419304 \$69  
Tue, Jan 21, 5:30pm [8]  
00419306 \$92  
Instructor: Puneet Datewas

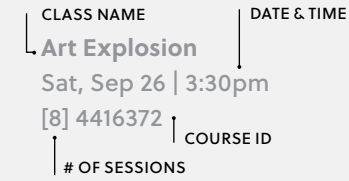
**Drawing Techniques (7-10yrs)**

Sun, Jan 19, 12:30pm [6]  
00419309 \$104.10  
Instructor: Mariana Frochtengarten



PHOTO: PARDEEP SINGH

HOW TO READ CLASSES



INFORMATION & REGISTRATION  
604.501.5100  
surrey.ca/register

SCHOOL'S OUT DAY CAMPS

**Into the Blue Art MashUp (6-10yrs)**

Fri, Feb 21, 9am-3pm [1]  
00419042 \$51.80  
Instructor: Mariana Frochtengarten

CHILDREN CLAY

**Afterschool Clay (6-9yrs)**

Tue, Jan 21, 4pm [8]  
00419224 \$103.60  
Instructor: Puneet Datewas  
Thu, Jan 23, 5:15pm [8]  
00419226 \$103.60  
Instructor: Jennifer Russell

**Clay Sculpture and Pottery (7-10yrs)**

Wed, Jan 22, 4:45pm [8]  
00419229 \$155.60

**Clay Sculpture and Pottery (9-12yrs)**

Sat, Jan 25, 11:45am [5]  
00419231 \$97.25  
Instructor: Santana Fung

YOUTH

**Digital Illustration in Procreate (13-18yrs)**

Tue, Feb 25, 4pm [3]  
00422601 \$60.60  
Instructor: Ridhima Sharma

**Focus on Drawing (12-17yrs)**

Wed, Jan 22, 6pm [8]  
00419298 \$121.20  
Instructor: Jenn Tiles

**Youth Pottery (12-17 yrs)**

Sat, Jan 18, 2pm [8]  
00419252 \$216.80  
Instructor: Murray Sanders



PHOTO: GALLERY STAFF

PHOTO: PARDEEP SINGH



FEATURED CLASS

**Pottery Wheel Basics**

Learning to form clay on the pottery wheel takes a surprising amount of time and practice—ask anyone who has ever tried it! Kickstart your journey in this class where you will experiment with the basic principles of wheel throwing and clay, including wedging and other processes, as well as about tools, materials, and equipment. No clay experience required.

PHOTO: PARDEEP SINGH



Claire leading young artists in a nature-inspired clay project.

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE

A practicing artist and innovative art educator, **Claire Cilliers** has a special interest in projects that fuse community and classroom. She has a great enthusiasm for a wide range of artistic media and can share this with students in imaginative and creative ways. This winter, Claire will continue to teach in our school programs as well as Paint at the Play.

ADULT

**Acrylic Painting for Beginners**

Thu, Jan 23, 7pm [8]  
00419295 \$133.60  
Instructor: Pauline Tiongson

**Oil Painting for Beginners**

Tue, Jan 21, 7pm [8]  
00419302 \$133.60  
Instructor: Puneet Datewas

SPRING BREAK CAMPS

	MAR 17–21	MAR 24–28
6–9yrs (9am–1pm)	<b>Cartooning and Character Creation Art MashUp Camp</b> #00420715   \$259 Instructor: Jenn Tiles	<b>Clay Days Camp</b> #00419363   \$259 Instructor: Puneet Datewas
9–12yrs (9am–3pm)	<b>Creative Cartooning Camp</b> #00419358   \$259 Instructor: Sarah Leigh	<b>Young Architects Camp</b> #00419335   \$259 Instructor: Yan Song
12–17yrs (10am–1pm)		<b>Youth Pottery Camp</b> #00419372   \$213.25 Instructor: Teresa Takeuchi

ADULT POTTERY

**Drop In Pottery Studio**  
Tue, 9:30am–1:30pm  
Wed, 2–6pm  
Fri, 12:30–4:30pm  
Select dates during pottery session  
\$12 per session

**Drop In Pottery—Seniors Services (55+yrs)**  
Mon, 10:15am–2:15pm  
Select dates during session  
\$12 per session

**Hand Built Pottery**  
Sun, Jan 19, 2:45pm [7]  
00419235 \$168

**Pottery Wheel Basics**  
Sun, Jan 19, 12:15pm [7]  
00420710 \$168

**Continuing Pottery**  
Wed, Jan 22, 6:45pm [8]  
00419232 \$239.60  
Thu, Jan 23, 10am [8]  
00419597 \$239.60

**Adult classes usually have a supply list—please make sure you get yours upon registration.**

**Pottery For Beginners**  
Sat, Jan 18, 11am [8]  
00419281 \$239.60  
Tue, Jan 21 3:15pm [8]  
00419269 \$239.60  
Tue, Jan 21, 6:45pm [8]  
00419273 \$239.60  
Wed, Jan 22, 11am [8]  
00419274 \$239.60  
Thu, Jan 23, 3:15pm [8]  
00419277 \$239.60  
Thu, Jan 23 6:45pm [8]  
00419278 \$239.60

## ADULT WORKSHOPS

**Eco-Printing on Wool**

Sat, Jan 18, 1pm [1]

00421192 \$65

Instructor: Fernanda  
Mascarenhas**Date Night: Cocktails  
and Clay (19+yrs)**

Fri, Jan 24, 7pm [1]

00419321 \$16.70

(+\$15 supply fee)

Instructor: Teresa Takeuchi

**Natural Dye and Shibori**

Sat, Jan 25, 2:15pm [1]

00421193 \$45

Instructor: Fernanda  
Mascarenhas**Try It: Silk Dyeing**

Sat, Mar 8, 2:30pm [1]

00421194 \$16.70

Instructor: Lyn Lay

## ADULT CERAMIC WORKSHOPS

**Kiln Operations Workshop**

Sat, Mar 29, 12:30pm [1]

00419243 \$47.95

Instructor: Murray Sanders

**Skill Builder:****Sculpting the Head**

Thu, Mar 13, 7pm [1]

00420721 \$49

Instructor: Murray Sanders

**Skill Builder: Tea Pots**

Sat, Mar 29, 10am [1]

00420723 \$49

Instructor: Murray Sanders

**Try It: Pottery Wheel****Throwing**

Sat, Jan 11, 10am–12pm

00419288

Sat, Jan 11, 12:30–2:30pm

00419289

Sat, Mar 22, 10am–12pm

00419291

Sat, Mar 22, 12:30–2:30pm

00419292

4 student maximum

\$49 per session

## ONLINE CLASSES

**Art Takeout: Handbuilding  
with Clay (3+yrs)**

00419328 \$38

Instructor: Amelia Butcher

**Art Takeout: Drawing in the  
Field (13+yrs)**

00419327 \$17

Instructor: Alexandra  
Thomson

## ADULT ADAPTED

**Art Without Limits**

Thu, Jan 16, 10am [2]

00419364 \$25.10

Instructor: Mariana  
Frochtengarten

PHOTO: PARDEEP SINGH

NEXT PAGES  
Docent Ev Zaklan  
leads a school tour  
engaging with  
Maurice Van Der  
Beke's *Mandala  
After a Prayer  
Wheel*. Photo by  
Gallery staff.

Do you find art captivating? Why not try something new and volunteer at the Gallery! Have fun, learn about art, and make friends in a supportive environment.

### Here are some ways you can get involved:

#### Docents (Tour Guides)

Join a dynamic community of volunteers dedicated to enriching art education for children! Gallery Docents lead engaging tours of contemporary art for school groups from September to June. Participants take part in ongoing training with curators, art educators, and artists. New docent training starts January 9.

#### Gallery Event Volunteers

Learn with artists and connect Gallery visitors with contemporary art and ideas. Support vibrant events like exhibition openings, artist talks, and family art parties.

#### Children's Art Program Assistants (CAPA)

Share your passion for art with eager young minds! Assist artist-educators in classes and camps for artists aged five to twelve. Develop leadership skills, organize studios, and work with children.

#### Youth Docents

Explore contemporary art, hone your presentation skills, help develop education programs, and learn to lead. Enhance exhibitions through activities that are both fun and educational.

Applications are being accepted now for upcoming programs. Get in touch with Volunteer Programmer Johanna Lasner at [artsvolunteer@surrey.ca](mailto:artsvolunteer@surrey.ca).





PHOTO: PARDEEP SINGH

Since 1982, dedicated volunteers with specialized library skills have supported the development and maintenance of the Gallery's reference library. Gurjiv Dhami joined them in February 2022 while she was pursuing a diploma in Library and Information Technology at Langara College.

She processed and catalogued much backlogged material that was put on hold during the pandemic when volunteers couldn't come in. A year later, through grant funding, Gurjiv joined as the Gallery's first staff Library Technician.

When she began, her first project was reorganizing the exhibition catalogues to be more accessible and searchable as not every record for shelved material was added to the online database. Gurjiv and a team of volunteers reshelved more than 2500 exhibition catalogues with new labelling to make searching for them simpler.

Gurjiv is quick to point out that none of the advancements to the library could have happened without a team: "Volunteers support the regular processing work of the library, which means they record information of an item in an online database so that it's easier to find. They also label and shelve materials. It's important to have people support the technical work of running a library to also focus on assessing, planning, and developing the collection."



PHOTO: GALLERY STAFF

#### By the numbers:

The library has 5713 recorded items, but the number is actually closer to 7000 because not all are recorded. It grows by about ten items every two months.

#### What types of materials are in the library?

Books, exhibition catalogues, artists' files, rare books, artists' books, periodicals, and audiovisual material.

#### Any quirks in our collection?

We have a lot of books on saris because of the 2007 exhibition **Art of the Sari**. We've also got lots of children's books on cultural identity in relation to hair customs and practices because of the **un/tangling, un/covering, un/doing** exhibition in 2024. Like this, the library's collection often includes materials related to past exhibitions, so in a way, the library acts as a historical record of the Gallery's work within contemporary art communities.

The library supports the research needs of Gallery staff: a resource of books and magazines related to artworks and artists in the permanent collection, texts on the histories and theories of art since the 1960s, and records related to contemporary artists in British Columbia with a focus on those based in the South of Fraser region. The library is available to visiting scholars and museum professionals by appointment.

When asked about the future of the library, Gurjiv shares: "I'm actively writing multi-year grants to support decolonizing and access initiatives prior to building an OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) that would increase the collection's visibility and engagement within the larger arts community. This library could become a more accessible resource for artists, researchers, and community members who are interested in specialized art research that centres local art and culture histories."

**Charlene Back**  
Communications Coordinator



Building on her experience as a resident of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and artist of Manitoba Cree heritage, Judy Chartrand has created a series of ceramic bowls showing how colonialism affects contemporary Indigenous lives.

"If This is What You Call 'Being Civilized,' I'd rather go back to Being a 'Savage'" depicts eight of the single resident occupancy (SRO) hotels in the Downtown Eastside notorious for being run down, unclean, and poorly maintained. Instead of the repetition of flora and fauna that decorate the surfaces of traditional North American tableware, Chartrand inserts the repeating symbol of the cockroach. This choice points to the infestation of insects and pests that have been, and largely remained to this day, rampant in these hotels (The Astoria, The Patricia, The Empress, etc.) and similar buildings in urban centres across the province.

The cockroach is a not-so-subtle affront to the viewer: how would you like to eat or live here? The artwork title indicates the reality that many of these SROs house high numbers of Indigenous peoples who have travelled across the province or country to find a better life in Vancouver. Rather than becoming the beneficiaries of "civilization"—which was the fallacious aim of the residential school programs and Western education system more generally—Indigenous peoples have been frequently subject to ill-suited and dehumanizing conditions, including those found in the SRO hotels. Each ceramic bowl includes an image of the hotel's neon and light box street signs. The series resembles the matching bowl or dish sets that memorialize iconic Vancouver architecture and related neon signage found in the tourist shops of historic Gastown and flagship luxury hotels. In this way, Chartrand continues her artistic practice of inverting commercial product branding and advertising to comment on racism and white supremacy in Canadian culture.

**Jordan Strom**  
Curator of Exhibitions and Collections

Judy Chartrand,  
*"If This is What You Call 'Being Civilized,' I'd rather go back to Being a 'Savage'"*: Balmoral Hotel, 2007, hand built ceramic bowl, low-fired clay with underglaze and glaze lustre. Collection of Surrey Art Gallery SAG2007.01.01.



PHOTO: SITE PHOTOGRAPHY

"If This is What You Call 'Being Civilized,' I'd rather go back to Being a 'Savage'" series of ceramic bowls was recently exhibited in the Gallery's group exhibition **Future Memoria** in 2024 and is now on view at the National Gallery of Canada until April 6, 2025 as part of the Sobey Art Prize exhibition. The prize is one of Canada's most esteemed awards for visual artists and Chartrand was the nominee for the Pacific region. Read more about Chartrand and her work in the Open Book essay, written by Amy Gogarty, available on the Gallery website.



PHOTO: PAULINE PETTY

Judy Chartrand and Surrey Art Gallery Assistant Curator Rhys Edwards at the National Gallery of Canada Sobey Gala in November 2024.

Surrey Art Gallery Association's (SAGA) Art Rental Program works to raise public awareness, appreciation, and critical understanding of visual art. By offering the rental and purchase of artworks, the program provides a unique way to support and engage with local artistic communities South of the Fraser.

Recently, SAGA installed works by local artist Jen Clark at the Healthy Communities office in Surrey City Hall. Healthy Communities is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all by fostering safe, inclusive communities through accessible services, innovative programs, and collaborative partnerships.

Clark's art uses opposing themes, such as light and dark, chaos and order, and the wild versus the "civilized." Her three works—**Morph** (2021), **Full Circle Clear** (2021), and **Conversation I** (2021)—balance between abstraction and representation. She uses geometric shapes, expressive brushstrokes, and bold colour contrasts to achieve this. According to Clark, art in public spaces should encourage reflection on contemporary culture and offer a vision of potential futures.

Healthy Communities staff describe Clark's pieces as "thought-provoking artworks [that] spark conversation and imagination among staff and patrons of all ages, fostering meaningful connections as everyone shares their own perspective." They also note that the "vibrant visuals" enhance the space's aesthetic appeal and create an inviting atmosphere.

Those interested are encouraged to stop by the Healthy Communities office on the first floor of City Hall to view Clark's paintings. Arts Centre artworks as part of this program will be relaunched this spring, as well as SAGA's Gift Shop with 80% of sales going directly to artists.

**Jas Lally**  
Assistant Curator

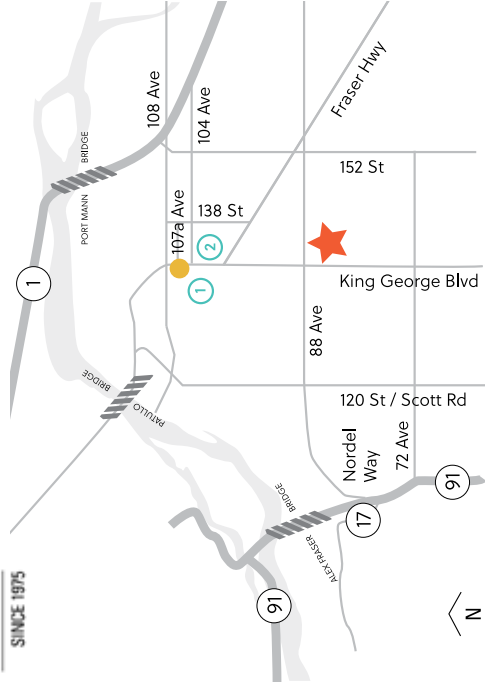
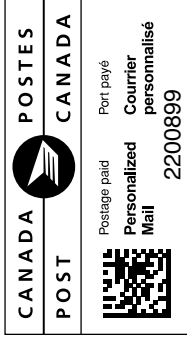


LEFT TO RIGHT  
Jennifer Clark,  
*Morph*, 2021,  
acrylic on wood  
panel.

Jennifer Clark,  
*Full Circle Clear*,  
2021, acrylic on  
canvas.

Jennifer Clark,  
*Conversation I*,  
2021, acrylic on  
wood panel.

13750 88 Avenue  
Surrey, BC V3W 3L1



★ SURREY ART GALLERY / SURREY ARTS CENTRE  
13750 88 AVE IN BEAR CREEK PARK

● URBANSCREEN / SURREY CIVIC PLAZA  
13450 104 AVE

**SKYTRAIN STATIONS**

- 1 SURREY CENTRAL (FOR CITY HALL, LIBRARY, & R1 NEWTON EXCHANGE OR 321 BUS TO SURREY ARTS CENTRE)
- 2 KING GEORGE (TO CATCH R1 NEWTON EXCHANGE OR 321 BUS TO SURREY ARTS CENTRE)

**STAY INFORMED**

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While you're there, sign up for News & Updates!

