

ARTs Education Update

SEPTEMBER, 2022

Welcome to the ARTs Education Update, we hope this will be a useful place for you to find support for the awesome care that you give to our kids!

A Quick Glance Inside . . .

- Allowing OUR Dreams into Being
- Gordon Smith Gallery Fall Exhibit Opening, September 24 at 12 pm
- Visiting our Gallery, BOOK your class!
- Bringing Clay into your Classroom!
- Welcome Back Arts! Please join us September 21, 3:30 – 5:30 pm

Allowing OUR Dreams into Being

*“My elders say that we dream ourselves into being.
That sounds powerfully esoteric but it isn’t nearly as hard to decipher as you might think,
it simply means we have the ability to become whomever we choose to become. All of us.
There’s no limit to our human potential
and there’s no limit to where our spirits can choose to go.
Hot on the heels of the power of choice is the power of allowing.”*

Richard Wagamese, What Comes from Spirit.

The power to allow our dreams into being, truly reflects the essence our work as educators. And with this dream we have all become storytellers for the arts. Beginning with the smallest of gestures of possibility and connection, to the dream of bringing a community together, we continue to place positive and supportive relationships as the priority in all that we do.

As some of you know, in the late 1980s when schools began facing severe funding cutbacks in arts education, a group of teachers became determined to find a way for students to continue to receive the high-calibre art education that had nurtured connection and possibility for our community. Needing a financial model that would be sustainable and support educational objectives, Artists for Kids was founded alongside Artists for Kids’ Editions.

From this model, Artists for Kids, through an Acquisition Committee, acquired a work by a selected Canadian artist. The acquisition was added to the Permanent Collection at the Gordon Smith Gallery. In turn, the selected artist, donated their time and expertise, to create an original multiple, a print, photograph or sculpture. The entire limited edition became exclusive to AFK to sell, with proceeds funding educational programs, art camps for students and teachers, and future acquisitions. Thanks to the exceptional inspiration of our founding patron artists, Gordon Smith, Jack Shadbolt and Bill Reid, AFK’s educational programs have developed some of Canada’s most significant art curriculums.

Bill Reid created the first print for Artists for Kids 33 years ago. Working with many renowned Canadian artists following his example, the print collection has steadily grown into a significant art portfolio, offering

collectors a unique opportunity to acquire work and support cultural growth in Vancouver's communities. Alongside the Permanent Collection housed at the Gordon Smith Gallery, Artists for Kids has exemplified what can be possible by becoming for our community, a place of connection, to share our collective stories.

"Artists for Kids is the largest producer of fine art prints in the country. Their collection has grown to be a true chronicle of art and artists in Canada."

– Greg Murdock, artist

We are thrilled to work with Charlene Vickers to bring to you, our next multiple. Through her generosity, *"Fish in Astral Projection under Moons"* presents an exquisite translation of Vickers' textile work that is truly unique. Vickers' generosity of time within her work is personal and exemplifies for us once more, what can be possible by allowing her story, to dream itself into being.

We hope to see you at the opening of our fall exhibit, PATHS and launch of Charlene Vickers' limited edition print, **September 24th at 12 pm**. Truly, Artists for Kids exists because of the commitment and support of our community. On behalf of Artists for Kids, we are incredibly grateful to you, for your continued trust, and belief in what can be possible.

Please do reach out to [AFK](#) if you would like to know more about this limited edition print.



Gordon Smith Gallery Fall Exhibit Opening, PATHS

Artists for Kids invites you to the opening of the exhibition, PATHS, alongside the launch of Charlene Vickers' limited edition print, "Fish in Astral Projection under Moons", on **Saturday, September 24th from 12 - 4 pm.**

"Paths are the habits of a landscape. They are acts of consensual making. It's hard to create a footpath on your own...Paths connect. This is their first duty and their chief reason for being. They relate places in a literal sense, and by extension they relate people.

Paths are consensual, too, because without common care and common practice they disappear: overgrown by vegetation, ploughed up or built over (through they may persist in the memorious substance of land law). Like sea channels that require regular dredging to stay open, paths NEED walking."

— Robert MacFarlane, *The Old Ways: A Journey on Foot*

The exhibition examines how paths connect us and the collective stories that they hold. PATHS brings together works from the permanent collection, including recent acquisitions from Charlene Vickers, Russna Kaur and Angela George, to explore both real and imagined journeys.

Charlene Vickers will be offering an artist talk at 12 pm on Saturday, September 24th at the Gordon Smith Gallery, in response to her recent limited-edition print, "Fish in Astral Projection under Moons" as well as AFK acquisition, "Turtle Clan Searchers" and "Thunderbird Woman".

Curator Amelia Epp, will be offering an exhibition tour at 12:30 pm on Saturday, September 24th



Visiting OUR Gallery this Fall

AFK is offering a full-day program at the Gordon Smith Gallery to grade 5 classes (including split classes) in the school district. In each program, led by AFK art educators, students will create art inspired by our fall teaching exhibition. The 2022-2023 Gallery Program will run from the week of September 29 until the week of February 20, 2023

Registration opens on September 6. Please register your class [HERE](#).

On October 1st, registration will be open to all classes based on availability.



Bringing Clay into your classroom!

This two-part hands-on clay workshop series with artist and educator [Amelia Butcher](#) will be brilliant! Amelia Butcher will walk you through a lesson designed specifically for elementary grades. She will share practical tips and techniques for managing materials and teaching clay techniques to elementary students. AFK is launching a new clay kit this fall that teachers can sign out. In this kit, you will have all the tools needed to complete the clay lesson taught in this two-part workshop series.

Workshop 1: Oct. 21, 9am-2:30pm

Workshop 2: Nov. 4, 3:30-5:00pm

Cost: \$40/person

Workshops will cover the following topics: managing materials in the classroom, hand building techniques, sculpting with clay, glazing objects, press molds, planning and design process, drying and firing clay artworks

If you are interested, please sign up [HERE](#).

Welcome Back!

Please join us on September 21st at the Gordon Smith Gallery to start our year!

Arts Education will be hosting a Welcome Back Arts kickoff
at the Gordon Smith Gallery, September 21st, from 3:30 - 5:30 pm.
Please RSVP by September 16th (yes, today ☺)

This event is a time to connect as an arts community and to thank the many people
who helped bring arts education into their classrooms, school and our district.



Please RSVP [HERE](#) by September 16th

We look forward
to seeing you!

Arts Education Team