

Richmond Art Gallery  
**SCHOOL ART PROGRAM**  
TEACHERS' GUIDE



Mike Andrew McLean, *Rockwall Clearing*  
*Rockwall Trail, Kootenay National Park, BC, 2010, photograph*

February 2 – March 24, 2013  
*Andante, (a walking pace)*

Cheryl L'Hirondelle, Mike Andrew McLean, Haruko Okano  
Ruth Scheuing, UWHAH (Until We Have a Helicopter)



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## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

The title of the exhibition is drawn from the musical term, *Andante*, meaning a moderately slow tempo, or “at a walking pace”. When we walk at a leisurely pace, it is the act of walking itself that is important rather than getting to our final destination. It encourages us to pay attention to our surroundings, and to use our senses to really see, hear, smell, and feel our environment. The five artists in this exhibition have responded to the theme of walking in many different ways. What do you see on your walk, and what can you find along the way? Can you turn the sounds you hear into music, or map the route you take and turn that into art? What do you bring with you on your walk and how do you carry it? Through a range of different media including photography, sculpture, weaving, audio-visual media, and installation, the artists in this exhibition seek to examine how and why it is we walk, and to share with us, the viewer, what they have discovered along the way.



Mike Andrew McLean is interested in the ways in which our identity is shaped by the natural environment, especially the remote extremes of the Rocky Mountains. McLean has used photography to document his walks through Canada’s Mountain National Parks, and his images reveal an awe of the landscape and it’s relationship to the people he encountered along the way. The three-year photographic project began in

the summer of 2008, and his original goal was to make portraits of people encountered on or near summits, a task that demanded difficult climbs with up to forty pounds of camera equipment. McLean later broadened the project to document evidence of human activity in the landscape. (Image: Mike Andrew McLean, *Laura on Iceline Trail*, 2009, Photograph)



*San Augustine Suite* is an organic “travel diary”, created by Haruko Okano as she walked the same road to and from her studio every day while she was artist in residence for three months in San Augustine, Mexico. Along the way, she found seed pods, flowers, grasses, and other natural and man-made materials which she assembled into this series of artworks which serve as a record of her daily walks. In this way, Okano has captured the colours and textures of a specific place, which allows the viewer a unique opportunity to share in her experience of it. (Image: Haruko Okano, *San Augustine Suite*, 2009, Mixed Media Sculpture)

Ruth Scheuing uses the technology of GPS, or Global Positioning System, to track her movements as she goes about daily activities such as trips to the grocery store, visiting friends, or taking a bike ride through a park. The GPS device creates a digital image of her journey in the form of a line tracing where she has walked. Scheuing then uses a Jacquard loom to weave the patterns created by the GPS into textile artworks. Scheuing is interested in the combination of art and technology, and how this combination creates patterns from her movements and tells the stories of her daily activities. (Image: Ruth Scheuing, *The White Pieces* (detail), 2010, Jacquard weaving)





Cheryl L'Hirondelle's work, *Nikamon Ohci Askiy* (*songs because of the land*) was inspired by Songlines, the belief within Aboriginal cultures that ancestral totemic beings sang the landscape into existence, and that the land can be navigated through singing them. L'Hirondelle walked the streets of Vancouver singing and recording audio clips. Each song clip is associated with one of the 16 Cree values, for example sharing, gratitude, and kinship. The musical clips were then uploaded to an interactive multimedia artwork which gallery visitors can interact with. (Image: Cheryl L'Hirondelle, *Nikamon Ohci Askiy* (screenshot), 2008, Multimedia Installation)

Wes Cameron and Matthew Robertson, collectively known as Until We Have a Helicopter, have created the modern person's portage equivalent, a set of luggage crafted from a canoe that carries travellers' belongings, and can be reassembled back into a canoe for emergency transportation. Created for an exhibition in New York City,



*Eight Piece Luggage Set (Canoe)* was carried to the show by friends and family that accompanied UWHAH on the trip. The canoe serves to act as a connection between ourselves and early North American travellers, who both carried and were carried by canoe. How well off would you be if you crashed on a deserted island with the luggage items you typically carry on a flight? At what point did North American pioneers have the opportunity to create art instead of just concentrating on survival? UWHAH ask us to think about the relationship between form and function, and the role art and the imagination can play in both. (Images: UWHAH, *Eight piece Procession*, and *Half Canoe*, 2011, Photograph & Mixed media sculpture)

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Cheryl L'Hirondelle** is an award winning multi-disciplinary artist and singer/songwriter, and in addition to performing both nationally and internationally, she has created and presented her work in galleries and artist-run centres, as well as new media labs/centres, community and educational organizations, and First Nations bands and tribal councils. Her creative practice is an investigation of the junction of a Cree worldview (nehiyawin) in contemporary time and space. She is from the Canadian northern plains and comes from a well-known family of musicians and dancers, and has been singing and performing since she was a child.

**Cheryl L'Hirondelle's Website:** <http://www.cheryllhirondelle.com/>

**Vancouver Songlines Website:** <http://www.vancouversonglines.ca/>

Originally from Lethbridge Alberta, **Mike Andrew McLean** holds a BFA in Media Arts from NSCAD University, and an MFA from the University of Victoria. McLean's work draws upon research into the historical and contemporary uses of photography, and he is currently investigating the earliest forms of production within the medium of photography. He has exhibited his work in both solo and group exhibitions at galleries across Canada, and he is the Media Technologist in Camosun College's Visual Arts Department.

**Mike Andrew McLean's Website:** <http://www.mikeandrewmclean.com/>

For the last two decades, **Haruko Okano's** art practice reflects her concerns for the natural environment. She has begun to integrate elements from her Japanese ancestry as well as holistic traditions common to many cultures in the world of hunters and gatherers. Her work is process-based and she tends to use recycled materials and organic matter to map her territory in search of the natural raw detritus she frequently uses in her installations. An avid advocate for environmental sustainability she endeavors to integrate her lifestyle, spiritual priorities and art practice with this goal in mind.

**Haruko Okano's Website:** <http://www.harukookano.com/>

**Ruth Scheuing** is an award winning artist and writer, and is best known for her textile based works which focus on how textiles communicate through patterns, language and mythology, and how they reflect women's history. Her work often explores new technologies, such as computerized Jacquard looms and GPS, and she is interested in the intersection of art and technology. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in solo and group exhibitions, and she has taken part in international textile symposia. She received the *Chalmers Award* in Crafts in 1996 and the *Mayor's Award* in Vancouver in 2010 and served on the TSA (Textile Society of America) Board of Directors between 2001-4 and 2008-10. She currently teaches in the Textile Arts Program at Capilano University.

**Ruth Scheuing's Website:** [www.ruthscheuing.com](http://www.ruthscheuing.com)

**Until We Have A Helicopter** is the collaborative entity of Vancouver-based artists Wes Cameron and Matthew Robertson. Working together since 2005, they have developed a practice that includes large-scale sculptural production, curatorial projects, gallery direction, and functional-object making. Invoking themes of sport, leisure, travel and adventure to humanize a conceptual approach, UWHAH perpetuate the overlap of life and art with a serious and critical wit.

**Until We Have A Helicopter Website:** <http://uwah.com/>

# BEFORE YOUR VISIT

## ACTIVITY – WALKING ART

Many artists today are inspired to make art out of their own experiences, and walking art is a great way to turn an ordinary, everyday experience into art.

**Part one:** Go for a walk as a class, or ask students to choose one of their daily walks (such as walking to school, the corner store, or a friend's house) to do one of the following activities:

**Walking journal:** Give students a list of things to observe on the walk, or come up with a list as a class. For example, sights, sounds, smells, weather, textures, people, or natural elements.

**Choosing a path:** Choose a start and an end point for a walk, but allow students to choose any path to get from A to B, and draw a map of their route as they walk. Then return to point A, choosing a different path.

**Documenting a walk:** taking photos or videos, doing sketches, recording sounds, using gps to trace your walk, or picking up objects you find along the way.

**Part two:** Create art based on your walk. Some ideas:

- Create a drawing or painting incorporating the details observed in the walking journal.
- Write a poem or short story inspired by the observations made during the walk.
- Create a collage out of photos/drawings, and objects collected when documenting a walk.
- Plot on a map all the different routes taken by the class when choosing a path

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Walking and art:

<http://www.walkingand.org/category/art>

Walk Richmond guide to walking trails in Richmond

<http://www.richmond.ca/parksrec/sports/walkrichmond/walk.htm>

GPS Lesson Plans

<http://sciencespot.net/Pages/classgpslsn.html>

## AFTER YOUR VISIT

When we visit an art gallery or a museum, we often don't think about the choices that have been made in selecting the art objects on display. There are many different types of exhibitions, for example you may visit the gallery and all the art on display is by a single artist. This is called a **Solo** exhibition. Sometimes the artwork in the gallery is all made out of the same material or art medium, like an exhibition of paintings or clay artworks (called ceramics). Sometimes all the artwork addresses a chosen **theme** or **idea**, such as with the *Andante* exhibition. The artwork in this exhibition has been created by different artists, using different materials and mediums, however all of the artwork explores the theme of walking.

A **Curator** is a person who's job it is to create exhibitions. Curators develop an organizing idea or theme for each exhibition, and then select artworks that explore that idea or theme. Curators also arrange the artwork in the gallery itself, deciding where and how the artwork will be displayed. For example, a curator might place an artist's early work first so that visitors can see how their style developed over time. In this way, many exhibitions will tell a story. Curators also write about the artwork in brochures and informative labels, and give tours and talks to the public about the exhibition. Curators are like teachers, they help gallery visitors gain a deeper understanding of art by the way it is chosen, arranged, and labeled.

### ACTIVITY – CURATE A CLASSROOM ART EXHIBITION

1. Decide as a class, what your exhibition is going to be about. Some ideas:

Choose a single art medium for the exhibition. For example: drawing, painting or collage.

Choose a single genre of work. For example: portrait, landscape, or still life.

Choose a specific subject matter or idea. For example: dreams and nightmares, dinosaurs, the environment, family, etc.

2. Gather together all the items for the exhibition, including existing artwork and/or new original artwork created for the exhibition.



3. Lay out all the artwork in a group, and choose which items to include in the exhibition. Students can submit more than one piece, and choose which one of their items best fits the exhibition theme.

4. Decide how to display all the artwork. Lay all the items on the floor, and have students play with arranging the items, placing different items together to get a sense of what arrangement “feels” right. Things to try:

Grouping the art by medium, size, colour, or subject

Grouping similar work versus placing contrasting works together

Grouping work close together, or leaving lots of space around each work

5. Display the artwork. If it is mounted on a wall or bulletin board, add a neutral or coloured background so that the artwork stands out, or have students add “frames” to the artwork by mounting it on coloured paper.

6. Create labels for each artwork. Most labels list the artist name, the title, the date created, and the medium. Gallery labels can also include extra information that explains the artwork, so students can write a sentence about their chosen artwork and why it fits the chosen theme.

7. Throw a party! When an art exhibition opens, a gallery typically has an **Opening**, which is a celebration of the exhibition attended by the artists, their friends and family, and the public. Invite classmates, teachers, friends and family to an opening celebration of your exhibition. Your young curators can give your visitors free tours!

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Video: What does a curator do? <http://www.meetmeatthecorner.org/episode/museum-curator-at-the-metropolitan-museum-of-art>

Curious Curator’s Lesson plan – Suitable for Grade 5-8.

<http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/lessons/curious/index.html>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Exhibition Opening and Artist-led Tour

**Saturday, February 2, 2013, 2:30-3pm, Free**

Join the exhibiting artists for an informal artist talk and tour in the Art Gallery from 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm, followed by the exhibition Opening Reception. Everyone welcome to attend.

### Free Film Screening: *puujee*

**Saturday, February 9, 2:00-5:00pm**

Documentary / Japan / 2006 / 110min

Director: Kazuya Yamada / Language: Japanese, Mongolian with English subtitles.

Japanese explorer Yoshiharu Sekino is on a voyage to trace the journey of the human race back to its point of origin. Suitable for all ages.

### Walk Richmond and Richmond Art Gallery present: Walk, Tour and Talk

**Saturday, March 9, 10:00am-12:30pm**

#### **Walk Richmond - Minoru Park, 10-11am**

Join Walk Richmond for a free guided walk through one of Richmond's most beautiful parks! Meet 10 minutes before scheduled time at the east side of Minoru Sports Pavilion, 7191 Granville Avenue. There will be a guided warm up and cool down as well as light stretching. The walk will happen rain or shine. First Aid and volunteer walkers are available on the walk. Enjoy the walk at your own pace. For more information, visit [www.richmond.ca/walk](http://www.richmond.ca/walk)

#### **Curator Tour - *Andante (a walking pace)*, 11-11:30am**

Join us in the Art Gallery after your walk for some tea and treats as the Gallery Curator leads a short tour of the current exhibition, *Andante (a walking pace)*.

#### **Gallery Talk - A Podiatrist's View: The Art of Walking with Dr. Lindy, 11:30am-12:30pm**

The joy of walking is becoming totally absorbed in your surroundings; the sights, sounds, and smells. Your feet play a big part in this experience but ideally they should perform and go unnoticed. An enjoyable walk begins and ends with comfortable feet. Dr. Marc Lindy will discuss how we walk, how to prepare for various types of walks, and how to keep your feet functioning and pain-free. Dr. Lindy is a second-generation podiatrist, who has practiced as a medical and surgical foot specialist for thirty-four years in Vancouver, Detroit, and Wellington, New Zealand. Dr. Lindy hosts a weekly radio program on Vancouver Co-operative Radio as well as playing tuba for various ensembles including the Homegoing Brass Band and the Butter & Egg Band.

# GALLERY PROGRAMS

## Family Sunday

**Drop-in 1:00 – 4:00 pm, Free**

Families are invited to participate in various exhibition-related art projects and activities on the fourth Sunday of each month. Stories, music, art...activities vary from month to month! It's free, thanks to the RBC Foundation.

**2013 Schedule:** Jan 27 • Feb 24 • March 24 • April 28 • May 26 • June 23 • July 28 • Aug 25 • Sept 22 • Oct 27 • Nov 24

## Morning Tea

**Drop-in 10:30 – 11:30 am, Free**

Join us each month for a *Morning Tea with the Curator*. These monthly events are a space for community members to share ideas about art over tea and baked treats. Everyone is welcome to ponder provocative subjects and to join in the group discussion. Morning Tea takes place in the Art Gallery's *Hope Smith Art Lounge*. Light refreshments provided.

**2013 Schedule:** Feb 27 • March 20 • April 24 • May 29 • July 31 • Sept 25 • Oct 30 • Nov 27

## Lightning Tours

**12:05-12:20 pm, Free**

Short on time and culture? Drop into a free Lightning Tour of the current exhibition for a quick zap. Tours are with the Art Gallery Curator or Education Coordinator, for all ages.

**2013 Schedule:** Feb 6 • March 6 • April 17 • May 1 • June 5 • July 3 • Aug 7 • Oct 2 • Dec 4

## Tear it Up! Collage Night

**6:30-8:30 pm, \$2 - \$5 Suggested Donation**

The Richmond Art Gallery invites all artists and the public to participate in our monthly Collage Night. Scissors, tape, glue, collage materials and music provided, but feel free to bring your old magazines or other collage materials to "tear it up". Every month will include a theme for participants to respond to.

**2013 Schedule:** Feb 21 • March 21 • April 18 • May 16 • June 20 • July 18 • Aug 15 • Sept 19 • Oct 17 • Nov 21

## Pick up a Pencil! Drop-in Drawing for Adults

**Drop-in 6:00 – 9:00pm, Free**

Draw inspiration from original works of art! Join local artists in the gallery for informal sketching fun. Instruction provided every thirty minutes. Come and go as you like between each session. Some materials are provided, but feel free to bring your own sketchbook and drawing materials. For ages 16+

**2013 Schedule:** Feb 7 • March 7 • May 2 • June 6 • July 4 • Aug 1 • Oct 3 • Dec 5