

RAG

**RICHMOND ART GALLERY
School Art Program**



Teacher Guide

ArtRich 2019

Organized by the Richmond Artist Coalition

December 7, 2019 –December 31, 2019

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Program Overview

Dear Teachers,

This guide contains information about the exhibition, the artists, and some classroom activities that will help you to prepare your students for their visit to the Richmond Art Gallery. Please review this package with your students to get the most out of your gallery visit. The suggested activities require a minimum of materials and are adaptable to the needs of different grade levels.

Throughout the guide you will find art vocabulary words in bold that are defined in the glossary section, and resource links have been included for further topic explorations.

Program Goals

The goals of the gallery tour and art workshop are to encourage students to:

- Describe and respond to works of art and explore artists' intent
- Observe and share how artists use processes, materials, and techniques to express ideas
- Explore personal experience, community, and culture through art making
- Examine the relationship between art and the wider world
- Create artworks using ideas inspired by imagination, inquiry, experimentation, and purposeful play

Big Ideas explored

- People create art to express who they are as individuals and as a community
- People connect to others and share ideas through the arts
- Exploring works of art exposes us to diverse values, knowledge, and perspectives
- Works of art influence and are influenced by the world around us
- Artistic expressions differ across time and place
- Experiencing art challenges our point of view and expands our understanding of others

Before Your Visit

Discussion: Vocabulary for looking at art

The ArtRich 2019 exhibition is an open exhibition of juried work from artists all across Richmond and the Lower Mainland. The artists were able to choose any **subject** and any **medium** they wanted. This exhibition showcases a wide variety of **techniques** which the artists have used to create interesting **textures**, set a mood or emotion, or emphasize an aspect of their subject to the viewer.

When looking at art, it can be hard to articulate exactly why we like or don't like an artwork, and using the following criteria, we can start to deconstruct the components of an artwork and how the artist has used them to create a specific end product or effect. At the gallery, students will have the opportunity to look at the artwork and choose their favorite artworks based on different criteria, and then consider those criteria in the creation of their own artwork. Before your visit, go over the following vocabulary with your students and look at a few examples of artworks that demonstrate them.

Subject – what an artwork is about or what it shows. Some examples: people, animals, buildings, nature, landscapes, flowers, fruit.

Discussion: What subjects do you love to draw or paint? What are some popular subjects in art? (portraits = people, landscape = nature etc.)

Medium – what material an artwork is made of. Some examples: paint, pencil, clay, fabric, stone, wood, and mixed media (several materials used together in one artwork).

Discussion: What mediums have you used to make art before? Do you have a favorite art medium? Why do you like using this medium?

Technique – how the artwork has been made. Some examples of painting techniques: splatter, stippling, dripping, swirling, sponging, and fingerpainting.

Examples of artists with different techniques : Georges Seurat (pointilism), Jackson Pollock (dripping, splatter), Vincent Van Gogh (complementary colours).

Texture – how something feels to the touch, or the appearance of how it feels. Some examples: furry, smooth, rough, bumpy, prickly, slimy, and soft.

Discussion: How many texture words can you think of? How could you create a texture in an artwork? What materials could you use to create a soft texture? A rough texture?

At the Gallery

Your visit will start with a gallery tour of our current exhibition **ArtRich 2019**. During the tour we will discuss what a **juried** show is, and the role of a **jury** in selecting work for an exhibition. We will talk about the different lenses through which we can judge a work of art and students will have the opportunity to choose their own favorites based on different criteria and to articulate their reasons for selecting a particular work of art.

After the tour, we will go into the gallery classroom and students will be introduced to the following watercolour painting techniques.

- Creating washes
- Wet on wet
- Wet on dry
- Creating textures with lifting
- Creating textures with salt
- Gradation

Students will choose a subject, select colours to create a mood, and experiment with watercolour techniques to create textures and effects. All sessions are tailored to age and grade level.

The paintings will be wet at the end of the workshop, and will need to be picked up at a later date. Paintings will be available at the gallery for pick up as early as the day following your workshop. To pick up your paintings drop by during our open hours (M-F 10am-6pm, Sa-Su 10am-5pm) and speak to the art gallery attendant who will retrieve them for you.

About The Exhibition

Adapted from the Richmond Arts Coalition website: richmondartscoalition.com

ArtRich 2019 features artworks by local and regional visual artists from all over the Lower Mainland. The exhibition provides an opportunity for emerging and established artists from Richmond and nearby communities to exhibit together and celebrate local talent.

Unlike our usual exhibitions which are **curated** and which feature the work of just a few artists, this exhibition is a group show, and the artworks are selected by a **jury**, rather than by a **curator**. In a **juried exhibition**, artists submit work to be judged by a **jury** who score them to select a number to be displayed in the show. The jurors look for new works (completed within the past two years) that show personal creative explorations and artistic commitment. Jurors also consider the technical execution of the work and select a balanced representation of styles, subject matter, and media from the submissions.

This year, ArtRich celebrates artists with a strong connection to the Lower Mainland, and features their experiences of living in the region. The entries do not fit any specific theme, but rather reflect the diversity of our community. The 62 artworks from 62 different artists included this year were chosen by a panel of three art professionals, Nan Capogna, Paige Gratland, and Hannamari Jalovaara, and represent a variety of mediums, from painting to sculpture to textiles.

“RAC is thrilled with the record number of entries for our third bi-annual ArtRich event,” says RAC Chair Linda Barnes. “The talent in Richmond and region are hungry for opportunities to showcase their art, and RAC is happy to partner with RAG to provide gallery space for this month long show. All artists who entered will be invited to our opening night gala on December 6, celebrating the arts in Richmond.”

ArtRich 2019 will also feature a set of People’s Choice awards for our community’s favourite artworks, with cash prizes. Awards will be announced by the Richmond News at the end of the exhibition.

The opening reception will take place on December 6th, from 7pm-9 pm, and is open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

About The Organizers

Adapted from the RAC Website: richmondartscoalition.com

This exhibition was organized by the Richmond Arts Coalition. The Richmond Arts Coalition brings artists and arts organizations together to discuss issues and advocate with one voice. Ever since its establishment in August 2005, the RAC continues to build a strong, united, member-driven organization that serves the interests of artists and arts and culture organizations in Richmond. Among many other art initiatives, the RAC co-produce the annual Richmond Arts Awards with the City, lobby for new Performing and Visual Arts Centres in Richmond, and speak regularly with the Richmond's City, provincial and federal representatives.

Their Vision

To be a welcoming and inclusive member-driven association that will support and celebrate culture and arts activity in Richmond.

Their Mandate

To create support for a diversity of cultural and arts experiences by ensuring that artists, arts organizations and arts supporters can contribute to the quality of life in Richmond, as expressed in the following ways:

- Advocate for arts and culture to all levels of government
- Work with other coalitions for arts and culture
- Provide a communications platform for culture and the arts
- Advocate for a new cultural and performing arts facility in Richmond
- Ensure that Richmond arts and culture are represented at major events in Richmond.

Want to get involved in the arts in Richmond?

Become a member of the Richmond Art Gallery Association and the Richmond Arts Coalition.



The Richmond Art Gallery School Art Program is one of many gallery programs made possible by the Richmond Art Gallery Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to extending the reach of our gallery exhibitions through community programming. Become a member richmondartgallery.org/support-us/membership/



Be a part of the dynamic growth of a great City and show your support for arts, culture, and heritage by joining the Richmond Arts Coalition. richmondartscoalition.com/membership/

After Your Visit

Activity: Create your own exhibition

Using the artwork created at the school workshop create an exhibition in your classroom.

Review the watercolour techniques learning in the workshop:

- Wash
- Wet on Wet
- Wet on Dry
- Lifting
- Salt
- Gradation

For younger students, do a gallery walk and allow each student to talk about their painting to the class. Some sample topics for students to address:

- My subject is:
- I chose this subject because:
- I chose these colours because:
- One technique I liked best was:
- I liked this technique because:
- I created this texture by:

Older students can write a label and artist statement to accompany their artwork in the classroom exhibition.

Title: (in italics)

Artist:

Medium:

Artist Statement: 3-4 sentences about the subject, why they chose it and the techniques they used to create it and why they used them.

Example label and statement:

Title: *Queen of the Waves*

Artist: Melanie Devoy

Medium: Watercolour paint

Artist Statement: I chose to paint a sea turtle as I have always been impressed by these amazing animals. They seem to glide effortlessly through the coral reef, almost like royalty, so I called my painting *Queen of the Waves*. I used salt to create a rough, bumpy texture for the coral in the painting, and I used gradation to create the layers of depth in the water. I chose a bright green for the turtle so it would stand out against the dark blue of the background.

Glossary

Contemporary Art	Artwork that is produced in this current time, generally considered to be artworks made from 1970 to the present. Contemporary art is a very broad term, including artworks made in almost any medium and incorporating many different themes and ideas.
Curator	An art gallery professional who is responsible for the care and display of items in a gallery or museum. Curating an exhibition means to select the artworks that will
Gradation	A watercolour technique in which paint is applied and gradually diluted with water to become lighter and lighter, creating an effect of dark to light. Can also be done to transition from one colour to another, by adding paint instead of water.
Juried Exhibition	An exhibition made up of works selected by a jury from open-call submissions.
Jury	A group of persons chosen to judge prizes, awards, etc., as in a competition.
Lifting	A watercolour technique in which paint is removed from a painting by dabbing with a sponge, paper towel, or wet brush.
Medium	The material or technique used by the artist to make an artwork. For example, paint is the medium used in a painting.
Wash	A watercolour technique in which paint is applied in an even layer of a single colour.
Wet on Dry	A watercolour technique in which paint is applied onto a dry surface, allowing for sharp edges and details, or layering of colours.
Wet on Wet	A watercolour technique in which paint is applied onto a wet surface, allowing the paint to spread easily and mix with other colours.

Image Credits

Cover: Gao Chen, *Impression at Museum No. 8*, oil on Canvas, 2019.

School Program Supporters and Partners



The Richmond Art Gallery School Art Program is one of many gallery programs made possible by the Richmond Art Gallery Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to extending the reach of our gallery exhibitions through community programming.



www.isibus.com

International Stage Lines is making it possible for more schools to visit by donating free bus travel to and from the gallery. Enter to win a free bus trip at <http://www.richmondartgallery.org/learn-and-create/schools/elementary>



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An agency of the Province of British Columbia

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Richmond