



CURATORIAL RESEARCH – STUDIO VISIT WITH DIANA THORNEYCROFT

CVAG 2022 | FLOWING INTO 2023

The AGM is an epic process of reflection, as our team knows from their careful choreography of this slide deck. We spin and weave the threads of this year's story together. The convergences are interwoven in ways that we could not have imagined, and yet it is this very imagination that sparks our desire to do this work together. Today, Denise and I experienced the joyful beginnings of next summer's program with Diane Landry, an incredibly prolific artist from Quebec. Our interns joined the Zoom meeting and witnessed this unfolding full of curiosity and possibilities.



**STUDIO VISIT WITH DIANA THORNEYCROFT,
AGANETHA DYCK + REVA STONE**





On the horizon at CVAG is *Together Apart | Under One Roof* — a convergent program that celebrates the multi-decade autonomous work, long time studio share, and friendships of Aganetha Dyck, Diana Thorneycroft and Reva Stone.

A year ago, we sat in Aganetha's living room with these artists in Winnipeg, witnessing the connections between them.

But before we get ahead of ourselves or sidetracked with our request for anyone with a wringer washer needed for this summer's show, let's scroll back through our camera roll to where we were at the beginning of 2022.

This year, we have found our way forward in relation to new realities. As our world began to thrum with activity after the hiatus of the pandemic, we began the year committed to activating relevance in our community through cross-cultural sharing and by supporting emergent artistic practice and professional development, creative residencies, inquiry-based research and innovative experimentation and creation, and robust presentations.

Courage in the face of many realities has been our teacher this year.

Where do we intersect, and what happens in these moments?

How do we experience shared resonances and possibilities?

When do we know to stand together in solidarity?

What is next? – We heard our presenting artist Michael Fernandes* ask a 14-year-old student who stepped forward during a hybrid visit, holding up a hand spun yarn that was made during the visit at CVAG.

*** WE DON'T KNOW | DON'T KNOW**

Michael Fernandes – Exhibition | Public Open Studio | Installations – Videos | Audio | Implied Drawing | Text

ENTER CVAG
VISION • ART • CULTURE



DON'T
KNOW

WE DON'T KNOW | DON'T KNOW
Michael Fernandes



NEW REALITIES IN CONVERGENT PROGRAMMING

2022 JANUARY – 2023 MAY | A MULTI-YEAR SPAN

THEMATIC PROGRAMMING | Exhibitions, Residencies, Productions, Events, Research + Collaboration

Curatorial Research + Productions | Ongoing + Multi-year Relationships + Reciprocity

Where You Are – CVAG Incubator Labs | 2022

RETURN TO WATER | Multi-year Program + Festival | 2022

Marlene Creates: An Interest In Place | 2022

Access: Independent Studio Program + Renovation Project | 2022 – 2023

OPEN : REALITY | 2022 – 2023

in | at | on : RETURN TO WATER | 2023

MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS | Walk With Me | Youth Media Project | CVAG Film Series | Summer MakeArt Series

SITE-WORKS | Public Place : Sacred Space | Location: CVAG Plaza, North Island Hospital + Lake Trail School



CONVERGENT PROGRAM: WHERE YOU ARE – CVAG INCUBATOR LABS

January 11 – February 17, 2022



CREATIVE RESIDENCIES | EXHIBITION | COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS | INCUBATOR'S
CULTURAL SHARING | PERFORMANCES

CONVERGENT PROGRAM: WHERE YOU ARE – CVAG INCUBATOR LABS

January 11 – February 17, 2022

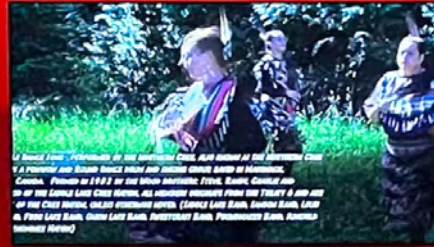
Convergent Program page

CREATIVE RESIDENCIES | EXHIBITION | COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS | INCUBATORS |
CULTURAL SHARING | PERFORMANCES

In the book *The Art of Relevance*, author Nina Simon poses the question “What is Relevance?” and then goes on the answer with these words: “Relevance is the key that unlocks meaning. It opens the doors to experiences that matter to us, surprise us, and bring value into our lives.”

Where You Are / CVAG Incubator Labs provided an opportunity to activate relevance in our community through cross-cultural sharing, emergent artistic practice and professional development, creative residency, inquiry-based research, and innovative experimentation and creation.

Through this convergent program, Comox Valley Art Gallery weaved cultural practices, generational and gender divides, and interdisciplinary research and discovery.



NOOJIM OWIN

THE GIFT OF THE HEALING DANCE

THE HEALING DANCE

NOOJIM OWIN | THE GIFT OF THE HEALING DANCE – WHEN WE DANCE, WE DANCE FOR THE PEOPLE
January 19 – February 14, 2022

**NOOJIM OWIN | THE GIFT OF THE HEALING DANCE – WHEN WE DANCE,
WE DANCE FOR THE PEOPLE**

January 19 – February 14, 2022

EXHIBITION | CULTURAL SHARING | COMMUNITY COLLABORATION | PERFORMANCES

Cultural presenter JoAnne Restoule with IKWE NOOJIM OWIN NIIMI IDIWIN – Women’s Circle Dancers:
Kim McWilliam, Jaqueline Morgan, Gwen Monnet, Holly Douglas, Maybel McDonald, Brooke-Lin Jestic,
Danielle Chartand, Serena Rotter, Jeannie McDonald, Jeannine Walker

The Gift of the Healing Dance is a Community Cultural Revitalization Project. When we dance, we dance
for the people who have come before us, the people yet to come and for the people who need healing.
Shiibaashka ‘Igan: The Jingle Dress is a gift and a sacred responsibility. When we wear the dress and
dance, we are reminded to open our hearts and our minds to all of creation.

[Exhibition page](#)

[Opening Ceremony video](#)

[Opening Ceremony album](#)

[Indigenous Education SD 71 video](#)

[School Tours album](#)

[Women’s Memorial March +
Closing Ceremony video](#)

[Women’s Memorial March +
Closing Ceremony album](#)

[Acknowledgments: Healing Dance
Sacred Circle, SD 71 Indigenous
Education, Kristy Bell – Memorial
March organizer](#)











WOMEN'S MEMORIAL MARCH + CLOSING CEREMONY







BODY SPACE OBJECT – NIC STUDENT INCUBATOR

January 19 – February 18, 2022



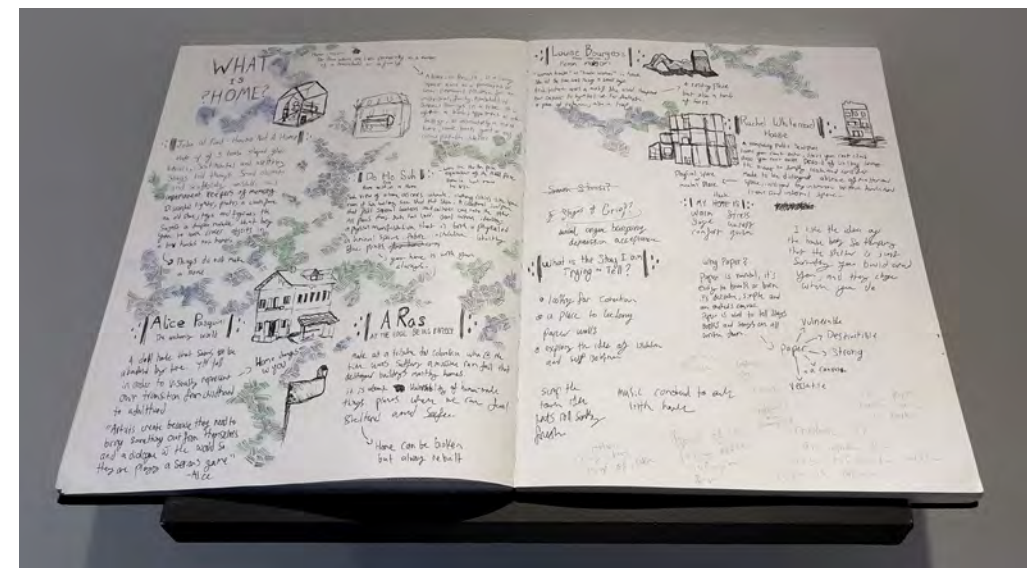
BODY SPACE OBJECT – NIC STUDENT INCUBATOR

January 19 – February 18, 2022

Incubator page

Student Presenters: Anne Cumming Kimberly Holmes, Marlee Munro, Freddie Milne, Renée Poisson, Demara Wilding, Rosemary Bockner

North Island College Fine Arts students returned for on-site experience at the Comox Valley Art Gallery. Students installed, presented, documented and wrote about the work that emerged out of their “body, space, object” thematic research from the FIN 231 Sculpture + Integrated Art Practices course during the winter semester. Working in Gather:Place and the George Sawchuk Gallery, the students had the opportunity to experiment, innovate, and grow their creative practice.



Images (left + middle right): courtesy of Anne Cumming







STREAM INCUBATOR I
January 5 – January 15, 2022

STREAM INCUBATOR I

January 5 – January 15, 2022

Incubator page

STREAM: Science, Technology, Robotics, Electronics, Arts + Mathematics

STREAM is an inquiry-based, hands-on learning program for youth, ages 10 – 15, facilitated at the Comox Valley Art Gallery by educator Stew Savard.

The Comox Valley Art Gallery is committed to supporting youth in navigating their learning pathways at the intersection of art and technology — areas that have been historically patriarchal. STREAM Incubators emphasize access, diverse perspectives and ways of learning, rooted in relationship building and reciprocity.

The initial series of STREAM incubators began in 2021, inspired by the work of Deb Dumka and Claire Sanford. Their exhibition, *Our Young Girls*, was an interactive installation exploring gender + digital empowerment + access + technology + safe spaces + art.

In 2022, the group's explorations included EV3 and VEX V5 robotics, LEGO, and stop-motion animation.



CREATIVE RESIDENCY

Fathom Sounds Artist Collective

November 26 – March 2, 2022





CONVERGENT PROGRAM: RETURN TO WATER
February 18 – May 14, 2022



GROUP EXHIBITION | INCUBATORS | COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS
EDUCATION OUTREACH | TRAINING | PERFORMANCES | CULTURAL SHARING

CONVERGENT PROGRAM: RETURN TO WATER

February 18 – May 14, 2022

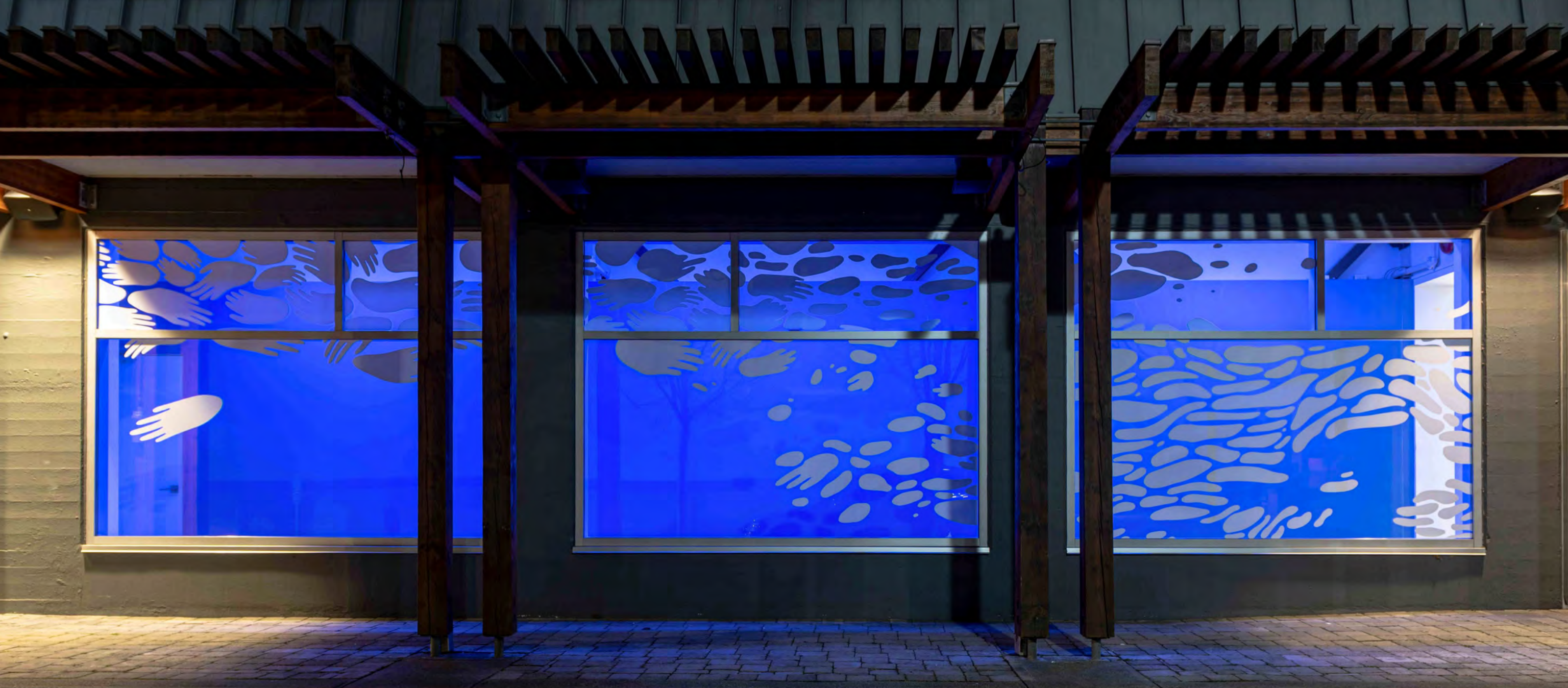
Convergent Program page

GROUP EXHIBITION | INCUBATORS

RETURN TO WATER FESTIVAL – A SERIES OF ARTS-BASED EVENTS | COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS | EDUCATION OUTREACH | TRAINING | PERFORMANCES | CULTURAL SHARING

In January 2020, Comox Valley Art Gallery initiated convergent programming that reflected memory, perceptions, experiences, and relationships with the water that surrounds and permeates everything in our world. The Covid-19 pandemic interrupted this programming. Two years later, we found ourselves living within an endemic and with a heightened awareness of the many difficult realities our world is faced with. Water seemed to be calling to us with an invitation to look deeply into what we might do in response.

In 2022, the Comox Valley Art Gallery 'returned to water'. The *RETURN TO WATER* convergent programs included creative residencies, a group exhibition, collaborations with community partners and education programs, incubator projects, cultural sharing, public space presentations, and performances that presented opportunities for engaging with the responses of artists and the community to these questions.



SALT-STAINED STREAKS OF A WORTHWHILE GRIEF

Fathom Sounds Artist Collective – Alana Bartol | Genevieve Robertson | Kat G Morris | Nancy Tam | Jay White
March 2 – May 14, 2022

SALT-STAINED STREAKS OF A WORTHWHILE GRIEF

March 2 – May 14, 2022

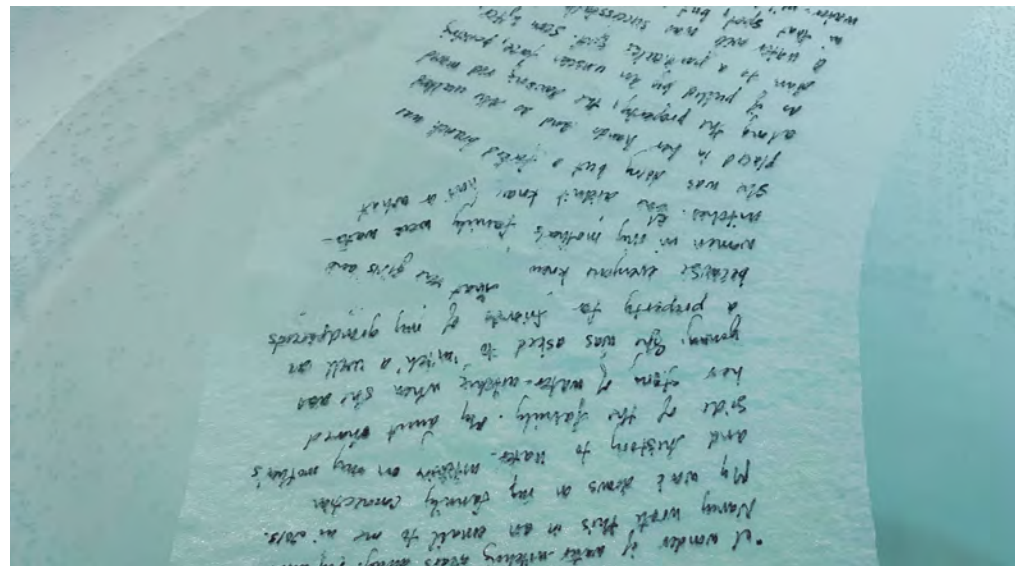
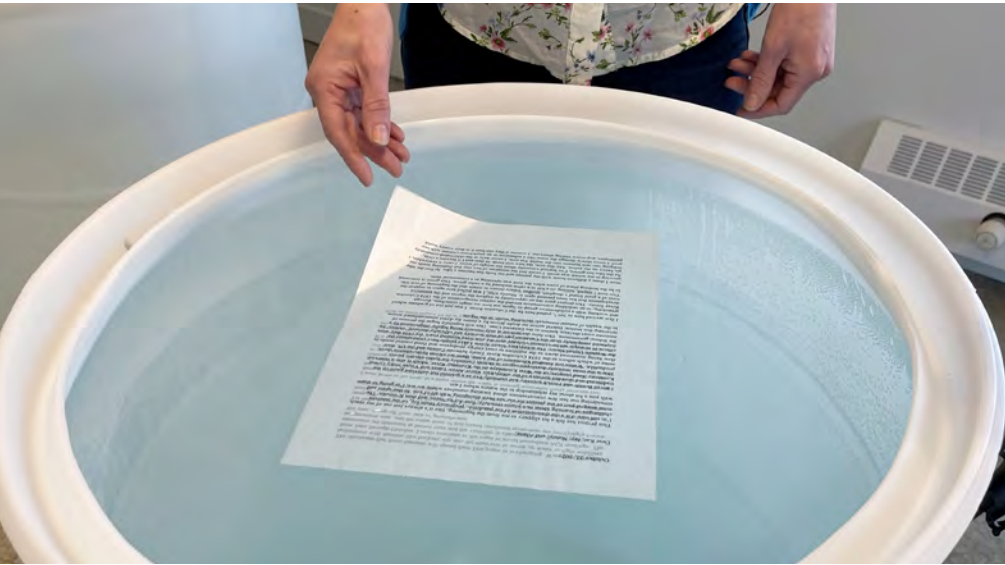
Fathom Sounds Collective: Alana Bartol, Genevieve Robertson, Kat Morris, Jay White, Nancy Tam

The interdisciplinary work in this exhibition emerged through a process of slowing down, listening, observing, and responding over time. The creative process of the artists was one of inquiry, site specific encounter, dialogue with place, letting go of expectations, giving materials their own agency, and allowing the unexpected to erupt. The gallery supported the collective's practice through curatorial collaboration, residencies, facilitating site-specific research and relationships with the Comox Valley community and K'ómoks Nation.

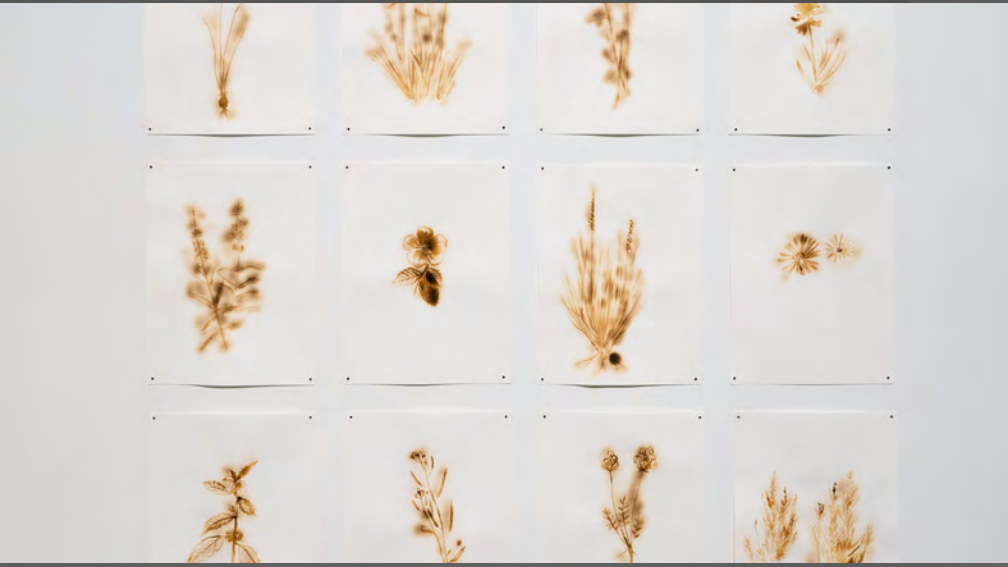
[Exhibition page](#)

[Install album](#)

[Early Learners Tour album](#)















EXIT





The background is an abstract, textured composition. It features a mix of warm, golden-brown and teal colors. The textures are layered and somewhat chaotic, with some areas appearing more saturated and others more muted. The overall effect is reminiscent of a watercolor wash or a textured surface like stone or wood with mineral deposits.

RETURN TO WATER FESTIVAL

Creative Activities | Community Collaborations | Education Outreach | Training | Cultural Sharing | Performances

May 10 – May 14, 2022

RETURN TO WATER FESTIVAL

May 10 – May 14, 2022

CONNECTED BY WATER | STORIES FOR IMPACT | SOUNDWAVES | SOURCE ENCOUNTERS | WATER IN(TER)VENTIONS | FLOATING CAMERA OBSCURA | BODIES OF WATER | CURATING CLEANER WATERS | BALANCING THE SOUND | BODY WAVES

RETURN TO WATER included collaboration with community partners + education programs, research + creation activities, and events that engaged the community in considering and celebrating water. Throughout this convergent program, events were presented alongside the current exhibition that shared community partners and schools' research + creation + community engagement activities.

The Return To Water Festival was a series of arts-based events and presentations that brought community together to explore issues related to perceptions of water, use of water, the human relationship to water, the climate's effect on water, and the concept of water as a "living entity". Daily events instigated interdisciplinary and cross-cultural considerations of water and its significance through visual art, photography, video, sound, interactive media, texts, performance, music, dance, and song.

The community was invited to participate in a wide variety of activities throughout the festival week.

List of Events

Opening Ceremony album

Activities album

Acknowledgments: Cumberland Community Forest Society, Lake Park Society, Connected by Water, SD 71 Indigenous Learning, Project Watershed, Kumugwe Cultural society, Ikwe Noojim Niimi Idiwin, Wachiay Studio, Imago Theatre, McLoughlin Gardens Society

FESTIVAL OPENING







SPOKEN WORD
By Sam Rose Philips + Megan Hockin-Bennet

BALANCING THE SOUND – INSTALLATION PERFORMANCE

With Renee Poisson







BODY WAVES – LIVE MUSIC
With DJ LadyK





CONNECTED BY WATER – WORKSHOP

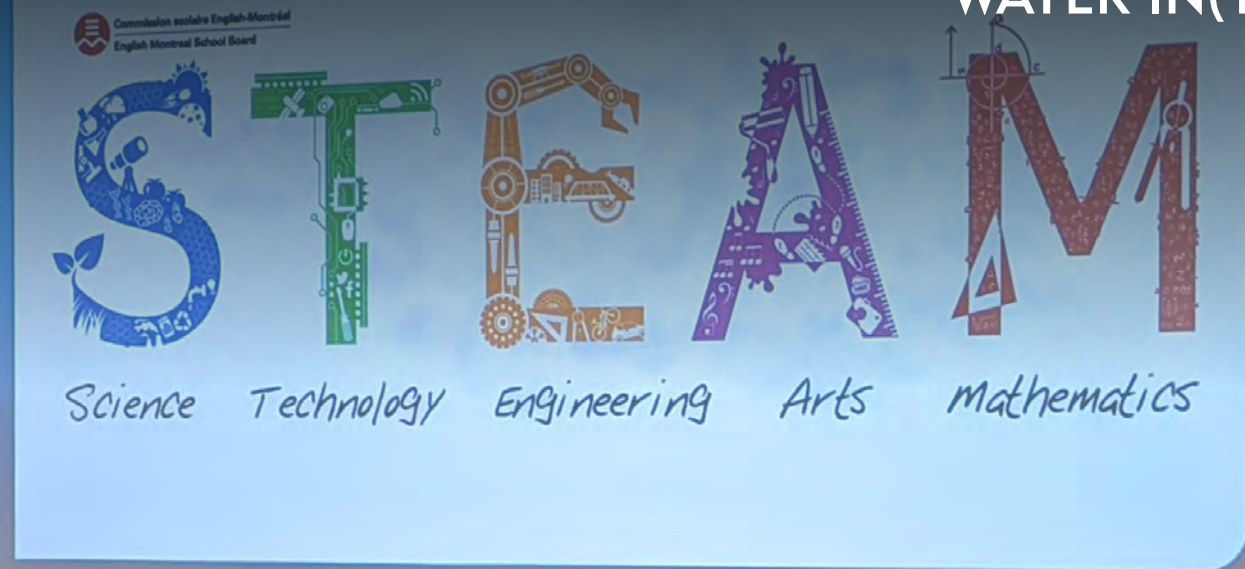
Led by Meaghan Cursons and Tina Willard-Stepan

This workshop explored climate change and climate resistance, sense of place (in an indigenous context, considering colonial history), ecosystem health, the roles of forests and creeks, forest fires, drinking water, and water conservation.



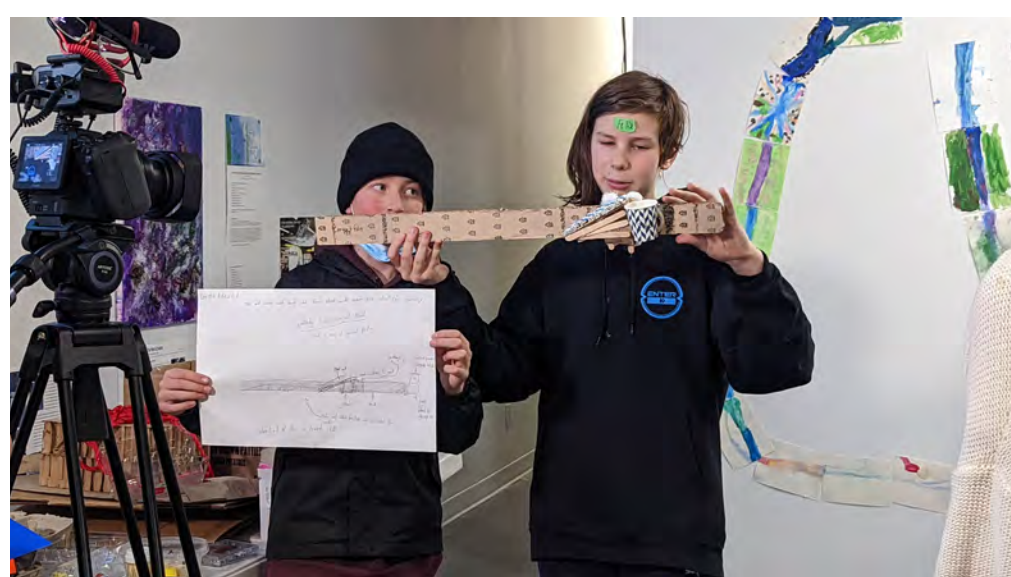
WATER IN(TER)VENTIONS – INVENTION WORKSHOP

Led by Sophia Vaillant



This workshop used creativity and STEAM to take participants through the invention process, using imagination to solve real-world problems related to protecting our waterways.







SOUND WAVES – AUDIO WORKSHOP
Led by Robin Davies

Audio artist and Media Studies professor Robin Davies offered an artist talk and a day of knowledge sharing and training in auditory storytelling and sound design for visual art. Attendees learned to embrace technology for use in their creative endeavours.

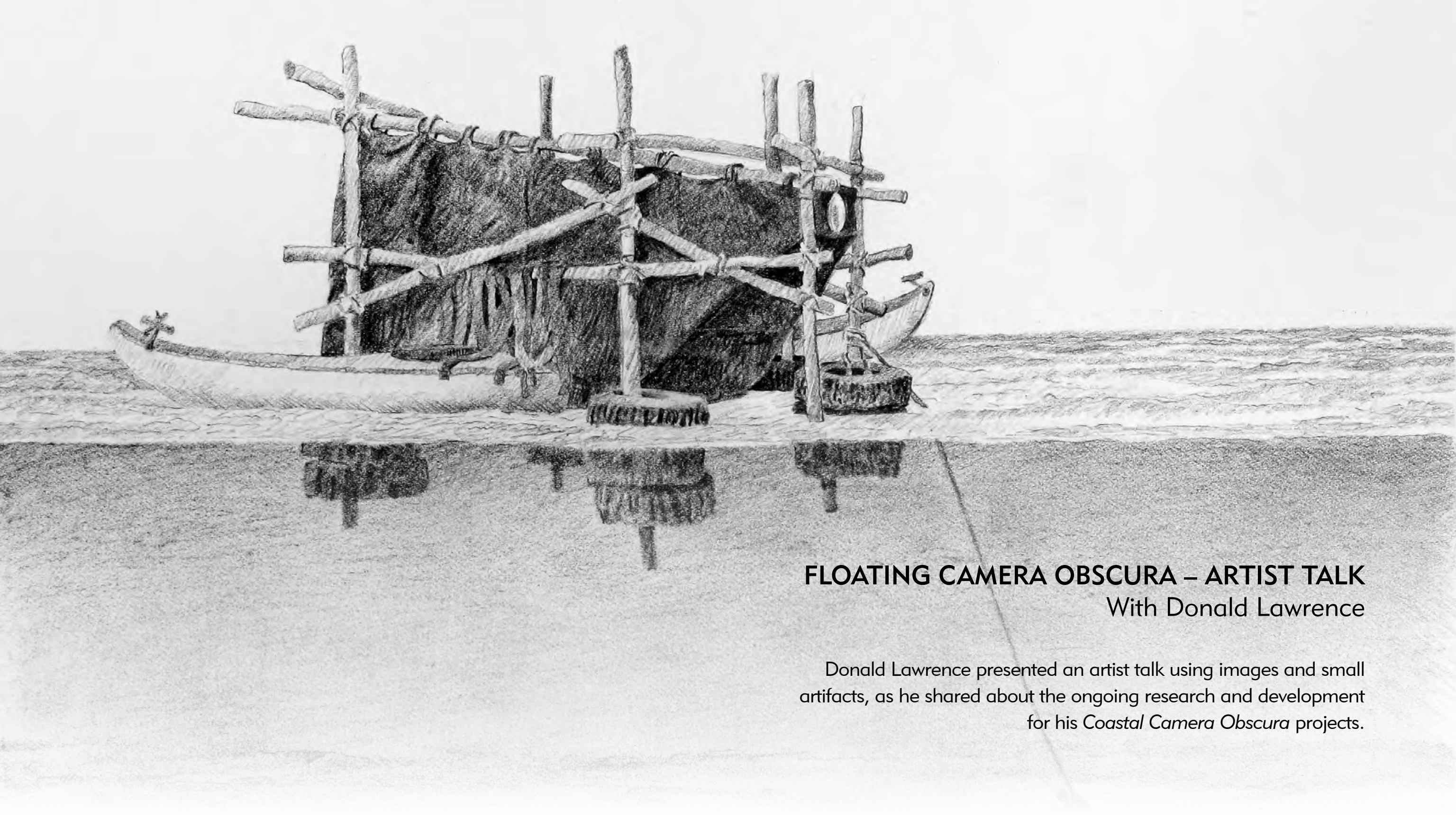


CURATING CLEANER WATERS – SHADOW JAM IMPROV

Led by Jamie Black

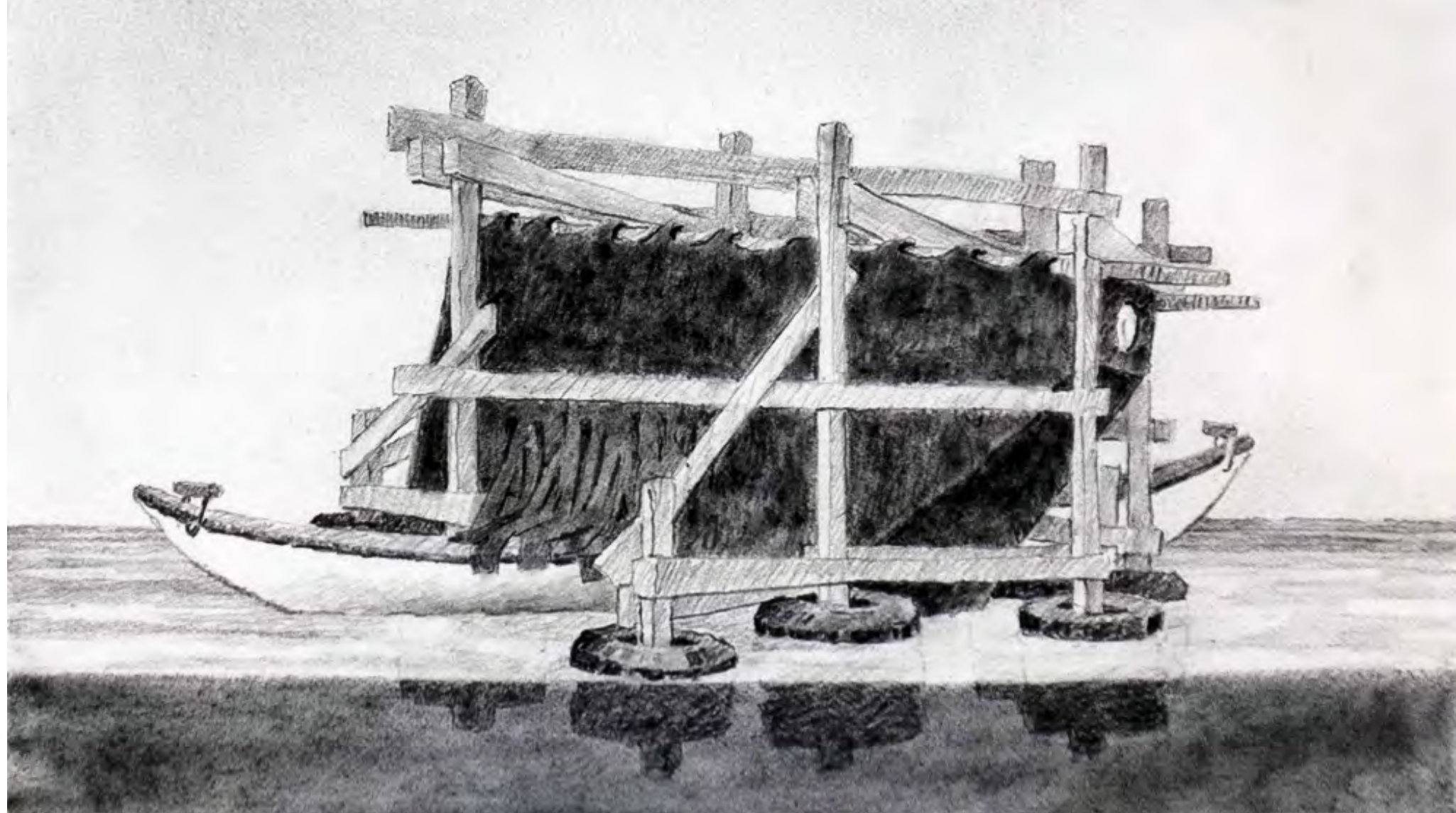
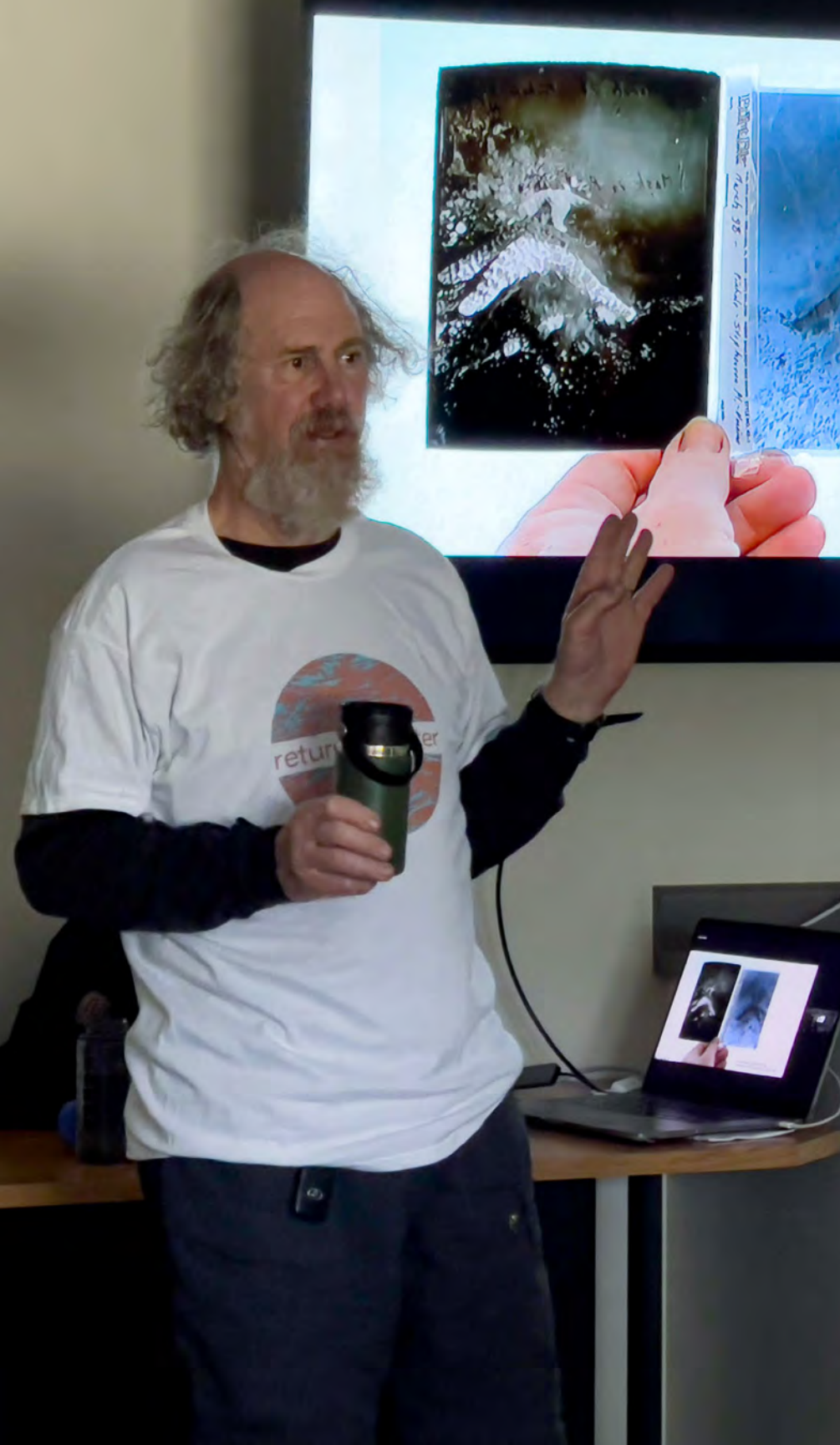
During this Shadow Jam Improv, there were instruments to play, visuals to craft, and a shadow screen to interact with. Participants stepped into the *Curating Cleaner Waters* production studio to crack open issues around plastics and garbage in our oceans.





FLOATING CAMERA OBSCURA – ARTIST TALK With Donald Lawrence

Donald Lawrence presented an artist talk using images and small artifacts, as he shared about the ongoing research and development for his *Coastal Camera Obscura* projects.



Images (bottom middle +right):
courtesy of Donald Lawrence



STORIES FOR IMPACT – MEDIA WORKSHOP

Led by Megan Hockin-Bennett, Andy Johnson, and Sam Rose Phillips

Through a curated selection of films and photography, workshop attendees learned how the stories we create with media can be instruments of change for the waters around us. This session concluded with some time to engage with the stories and waters just outside!





BODIES OF WATER – MOVEMENT AND WALKING MEDITATION WORKSHOP

Led by Jane Ellison

This two-part workshop included an indoor session, which guided participants into their body and its inherent fluid movement qualities, and an outdoor session of walking and movement alongside the Courtenay River.

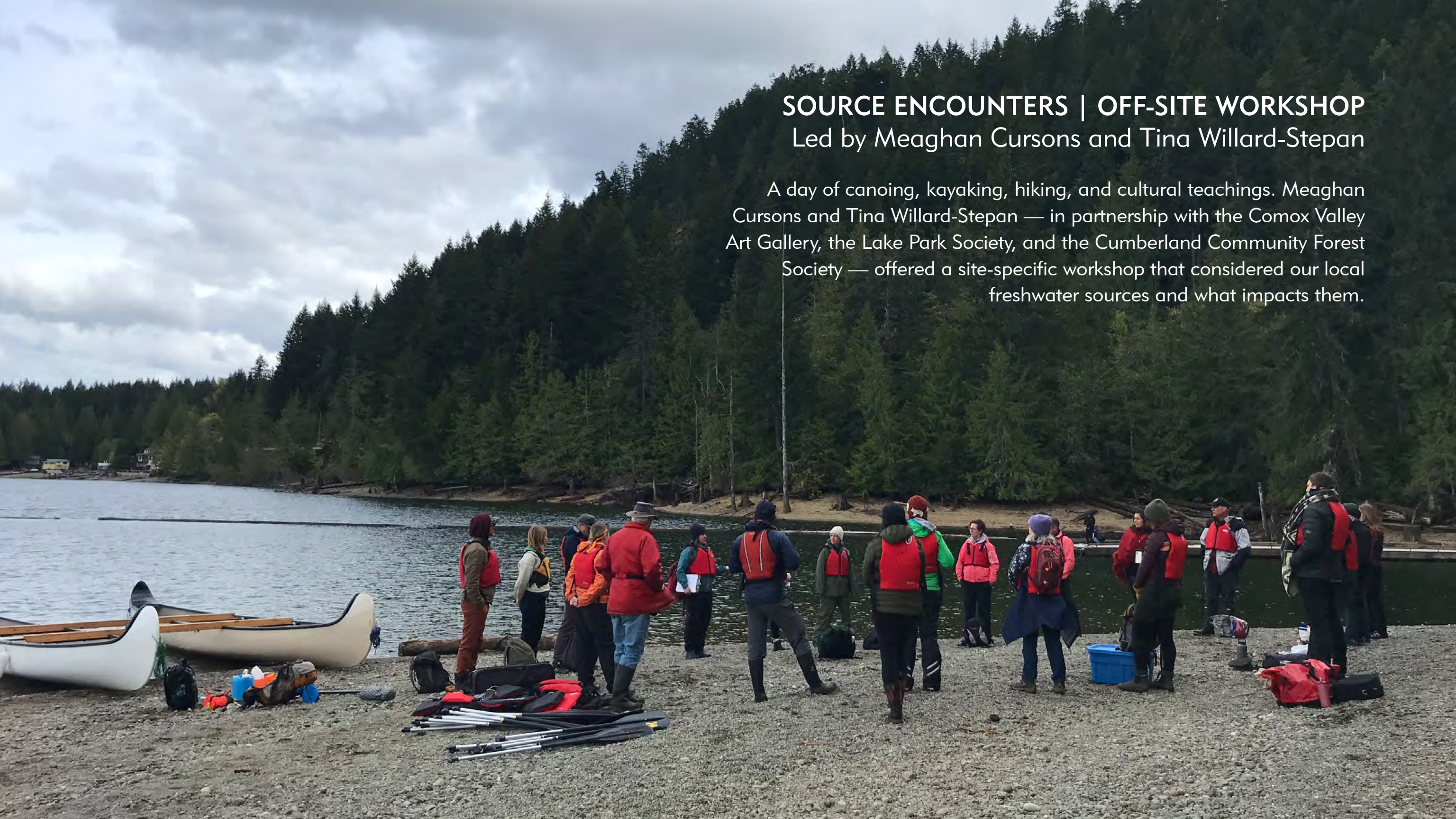




SOURCE ENCOUNTERS | OFF-SITE WORKSHOP

Led by Meaghan Cursons and Tina Willard-Stepan

A day of canoeing, kayaking, hiking, and cultural teachings. Meaghan Cursons and Tina Willard-Stepan — in partnership with the Comox Valley Art Gallery, the Lake Park Society, and the Cumberland Community Forest Society — offered a site-specific workshop that considered our local freshwater sources and what impacts them.








JUDY LEBLANC, TRACI SKUCE + CORNELIA HOOGLAND READING

April 29, 2022



Judy LeBlanc is one of the founders of the Fat Oyster Reading Series, and was a creative writing instructor at North Island College. Traci Skuce has been nominated for four Pushcart prizes and two Journey prizes. Cornelia Hoogl is a finalists for Canadian national awards.



JOSEPH DANDURAND READING

March 16, 2022

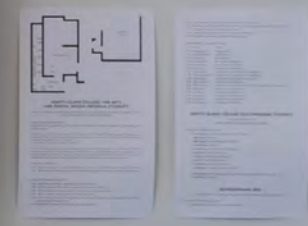
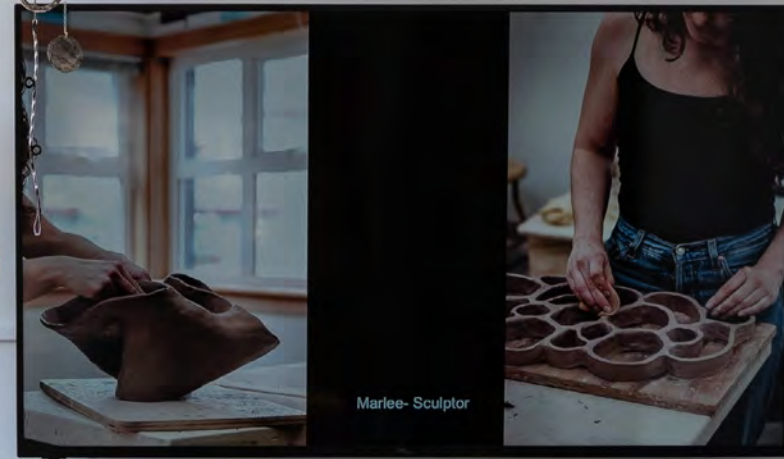
Joseph Dandurand Reading video

Joseph Dandurand is a member of Kwantlen First Nation located on the Fraser River. Dandurand is the director of the Kwantlen Cultural Centre, artistic director of the Vancouver Poetry House and is an award-winning poet and author.



RETURN TO WATER – NIC FINE ARTS + DIGITAL DESIGN STUDENT INCUBATOR

May 10 – September 10, 2022



RETURN TO WATER – NIC FINE ARTS + DIGITAL DESIGN STUDENT INCUBATOR

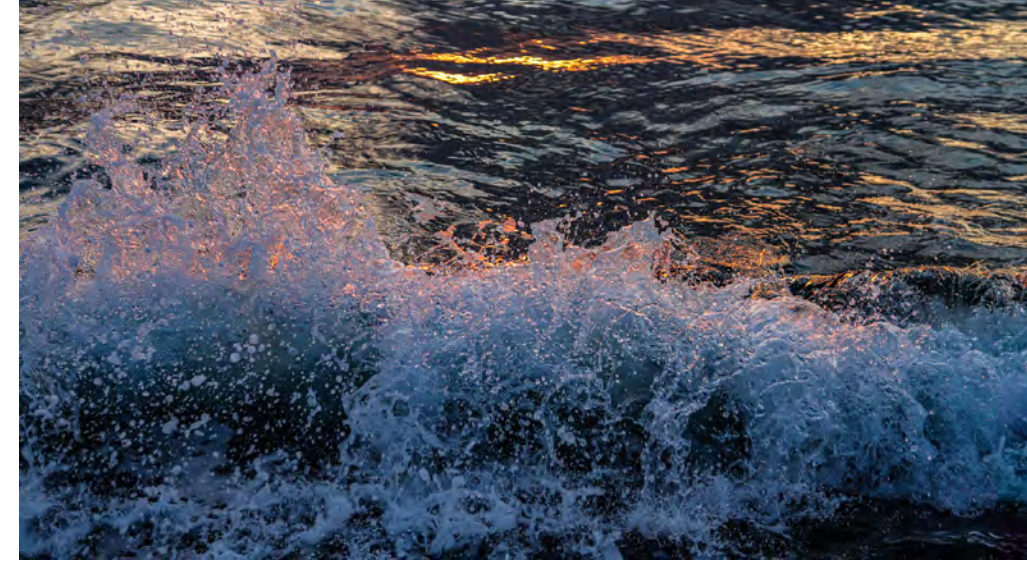
Incubator page

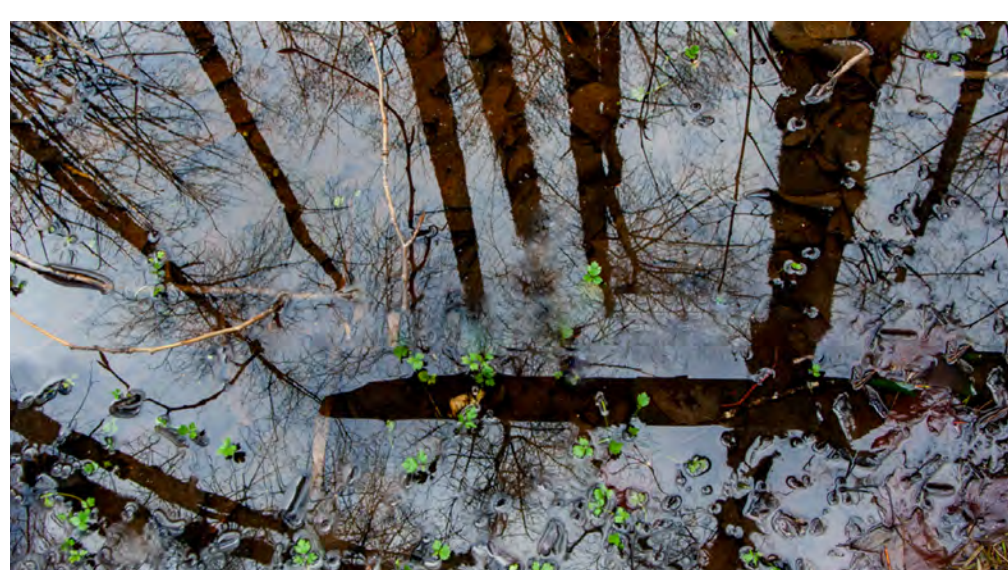
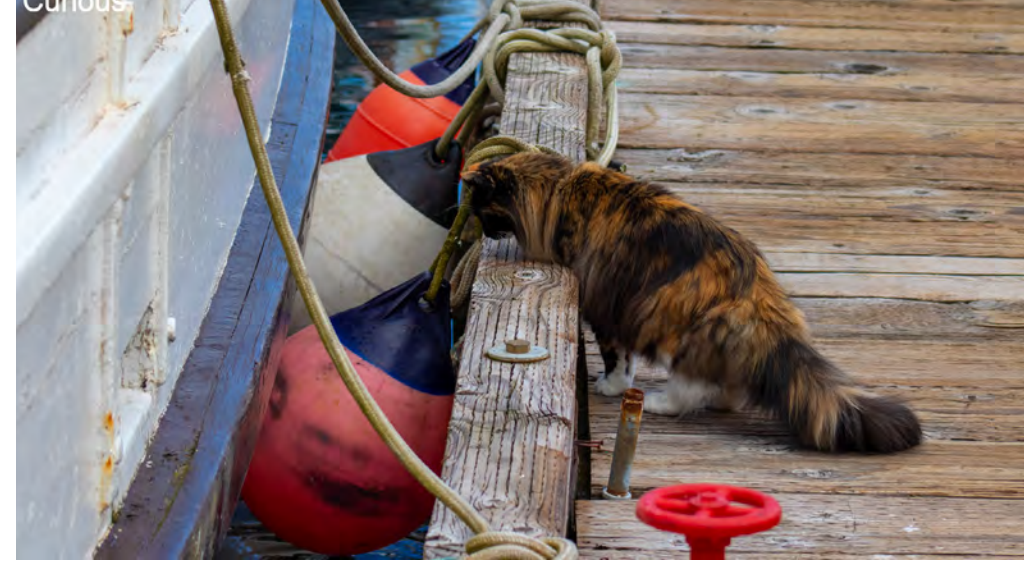
May 10 – September 10, 2022

Participating Students: Erica Livsey, Meg Firth, Naia Lisch, Kat Cearns, Anne Cumming, Kendra Dewar, Karen Day, Marlee Monroe, Laurena Fairbairn, Ram Sudama, David Page, Renee Poisson, Vienna May Sauvage, Cameron McKieve, Lisa Petruvia, Melinda Goetjen, Roberta Joehle, Safron Wells, Venessa O'Neill, Hoyoung (Patrick) Kim, Satya Bellerose, Celina Baulcomb, Gillian Gahagan, Talia Naidoo, Jules Benson, Binh (Leo) Le

Students were invited to respond to a choice of themes, including “Return To Water” and “Emergent Forms of Togetherness”, for a major class project.

This presentation celebrated student projects from North Island College courses in 3D Art + Design, Sculpture, Video, and Digital Photography. The themes served as an open-ended provocation to inspire relevant and convergent research and creation. The research, materials and processes represent new areas of exploration for most students, including metal shop fabrication, digital image series, time-based storytelling, and place-based interactive work.

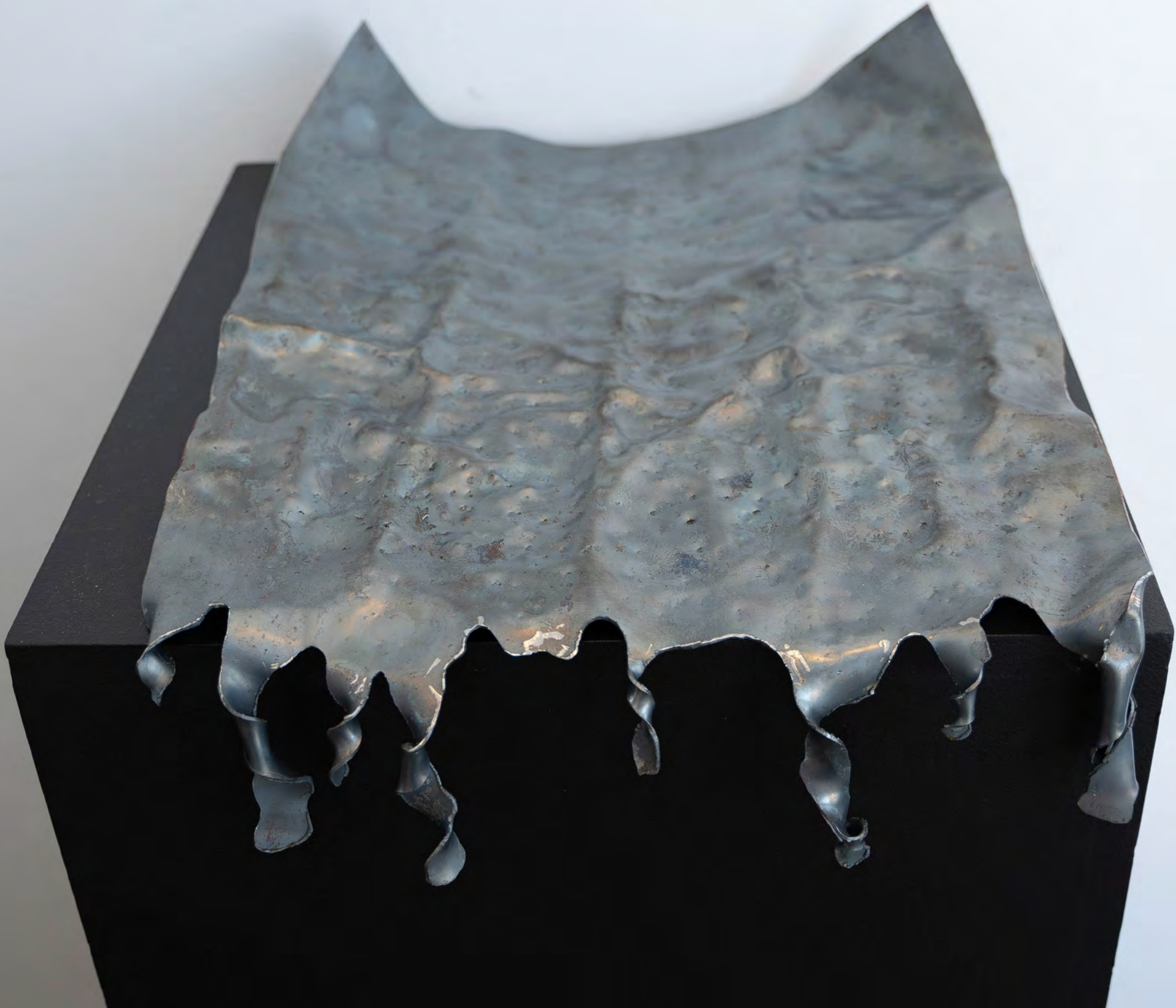






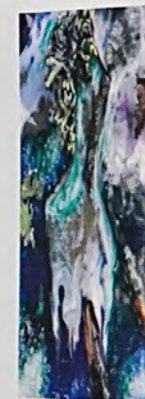
knocked and broken
pieces on the floor
make it clay again
place them in the river
cotton batting support
see what happens
pushing clay through a sieve

through the way
glue them together
tender voices:
their own shell in the kiln
(a barely breathing child in an incubator)
it's too fast that breaks



RETURN TO WATER – STUDENT INCUBATOR PROJECTS + PLACE BASED RESEARCH

May 10 – September 10, 2022



The Mark of Water

Date Observed: May 10th, 2022

Making connections

We deepen our understanding as educators by connecting this moment to the BC Early Learning Framework, choosing the living inquiry "Identities, social responsibility and diversity." We looked at and further connected this moment to the pathway "Inter-relationships of humans and natural environments" where we have begun to teach the children how interconnected we are with the natural world - mutually depending on one another. I myself began to question "What practices do I cultivate that enrich and deepen children's relationship with place, land, and the creatures and forms within it?" (P. 30) as we have demonstrated through this mixed-media process-based activity. As we continue to go through our day we will take moments like these as they come, remaining connected and emergent in the opportunities to create relationships with the living and breathing world around us.



"I'm making an ocean"

RETURN TO WATER – STUDENT INCUBATOR PROJECTS + PLACE BASED RESEARCH

May 10 – September 10, 2022

North Island College Early Childhood Care + Education program students in collaboration with Early Learning Childhood Education Centers (SD 71 + 72):

Destiny Speck – Qualicum First Nations Childcare / Headstart

Sophie Smith – Three Tree Early Learning Centre

Kelsi Martens – Queneesh Elementary / Strong Start

Sophie LaPlante – Tigger Too Pre-School

Maddy King – Campbell River Community Pre-School

Barb Lanyon – Beaufort Children’s Centre / Orca Room

Zoe David – Beaufort Children’s Centre / Ladybug Room

Lyss Brush – Hand in Hand Nature Education / Comox Red Cedar

Tianna Belanger – Forest Circle Childcare

Cara Beckman – Courtenay Elementary / Strong Start

[Incubator page](#)

[ECCE Gallery Visit album](#)

[Beachcombers Tour album](#)

[ECCE Mentorship Celebration album](#)

We are born from the watery womb of our mothers into the earth’s embrace.

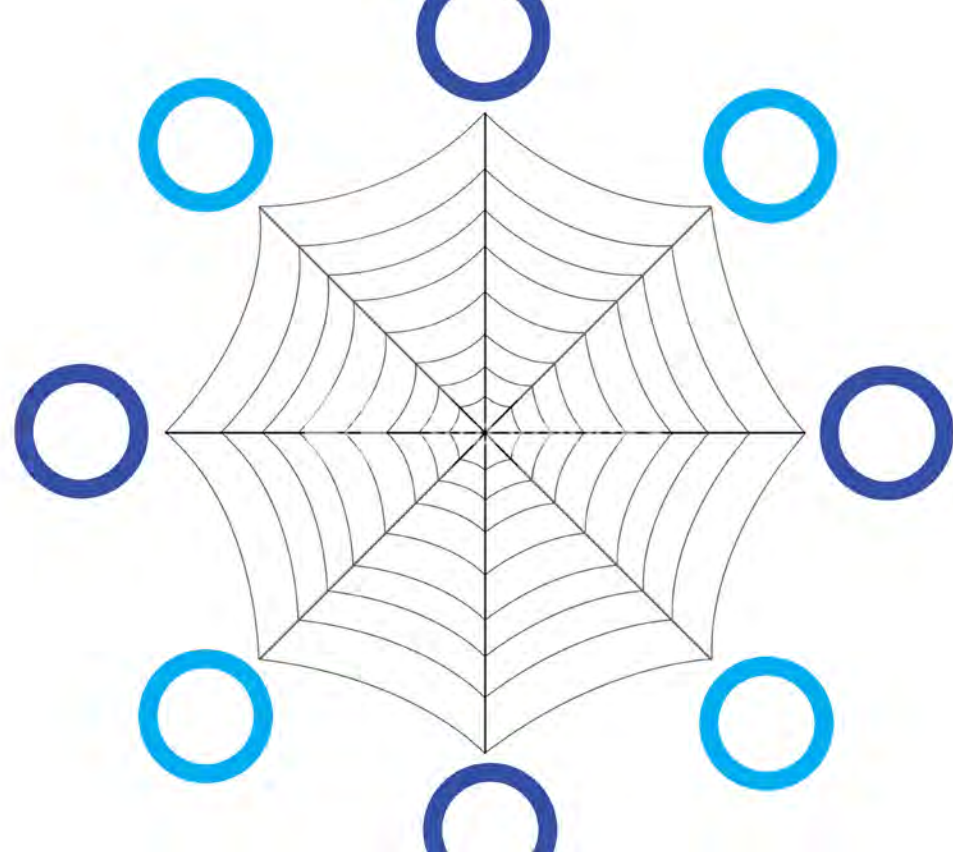
What are our youngest citizens asking of us? What is the other-than-human world asking of us?

How might we respond to water’s invitation, to her life-giving call in these times of great urgency, as if all life, human and other- than-human, depended on it?

Community Outreach: Beachcombers Academy, Queneesh Elementary, Arden Elementary, L’Arche Comox Valley



CURATORIAL TALK WITH NIC ECCE CLASS
April 22, 2022



Question of the day



Why is water important? - play in it, move it around

Bath - Swim

garden

water soil

make

drink it

Cara Beckman
Courtenay Elementary StrongStart

What is fun about water?

What does water taste like?

What does water smell like?

Where does water come from? where is it going?

Why is the water in streams and rivers moving? where is it going?

What can you find living in or near water?

What makes bubbles?

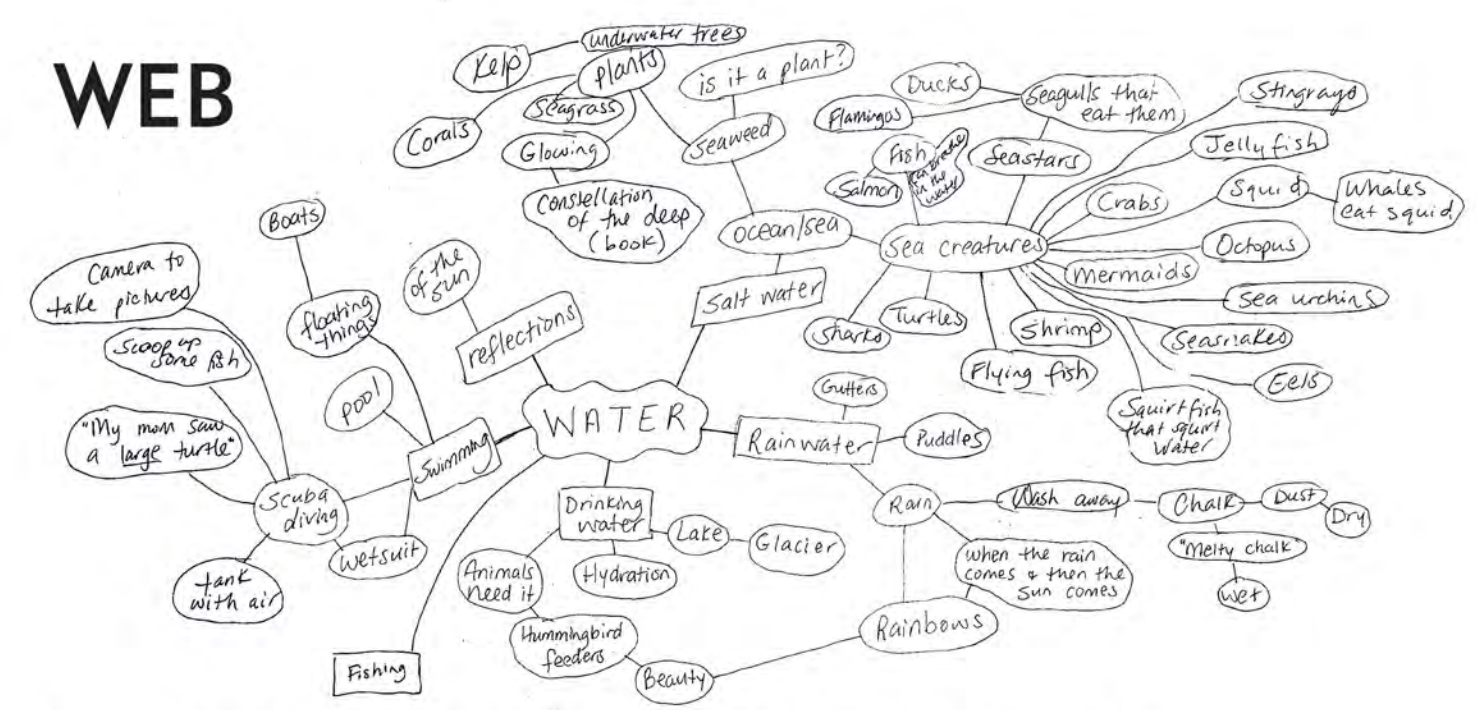
Why do some things float on water and some don't?

What happens when water freezes?

Kelsi Martens

Queneesh StrongStart

WEB



Lyss Brush + Hand in Hand Nature Education
Comox Red Cedar



CVAG CURATORIAL STAFF VISIT + COLLABORATE WITH

NIC PRACTICUM STUDENTS

IN THE CLASSROOM

WATER PROVOCATIONS

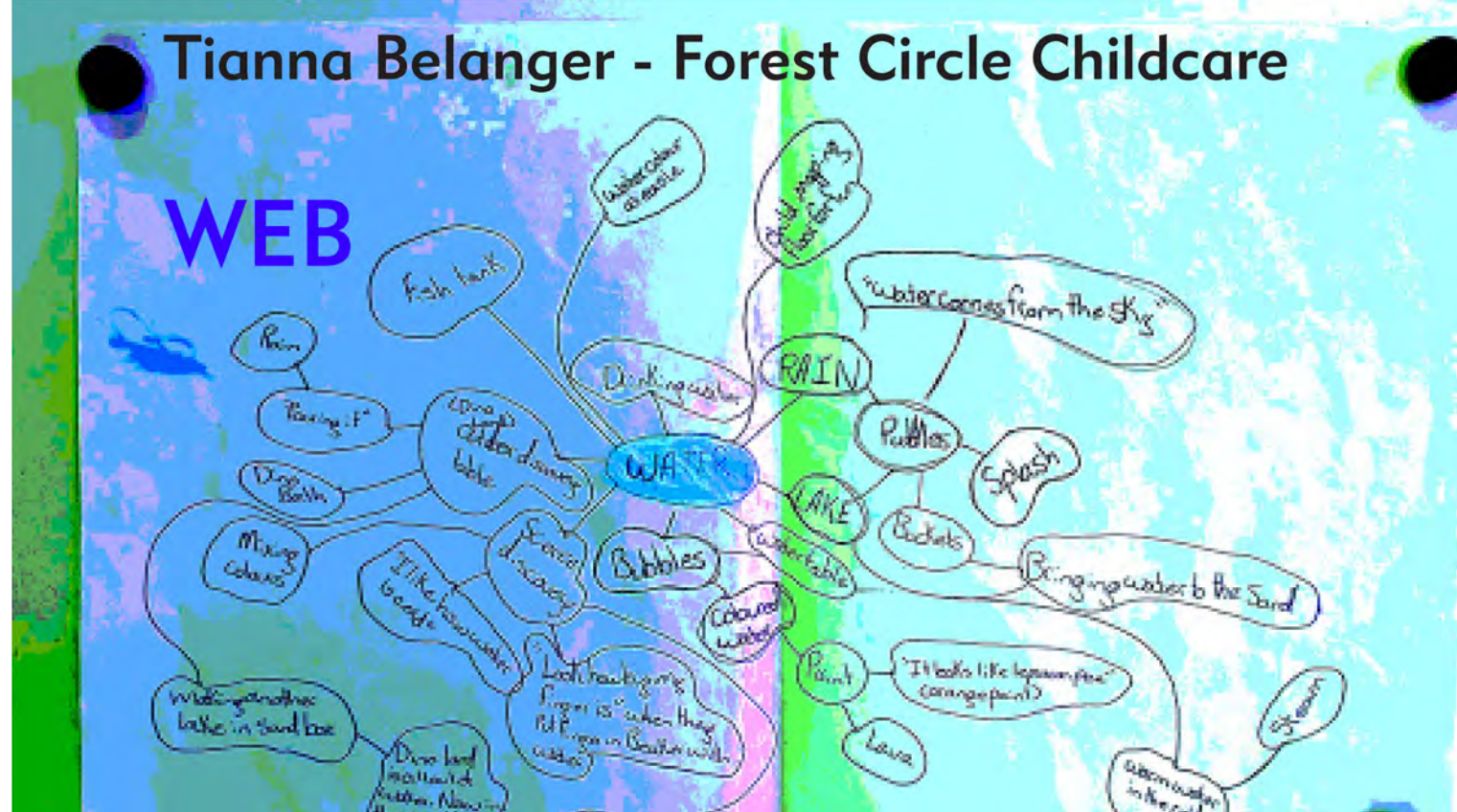
Destiny Speck @ Qualicum First Nations Child Care

- obstacle course for water
- beach cleaning
- septic tank
- sink or float
- watering plants
- water comes from rain
- water goes to the septic tank

Return to Water - Notes by Lyss Brush at Hand-in-Hand Nature Education

- PAINTING WITH WATER / images 1-3** The children use paint brushes and buckets of seawater to "paint" large rocks on the beach. "The water makes it darker and shiny... then it dries".
- BUCKETS JOURNEY / images 1-3** Letting buckets travel down the stream to be retrieved from a tide pool. The children began to see how far they might go, if they got stuck, and wondering why. Everyone got involved and it was very exciting and wet!
 "It sinks when it fills with water!"
 "It's a boat!"
 "It's going far!"
 "They are floating away!"
 "It won't float when it's full of stuff."
- WET CHALK / images 1-3** Children use sidewalk chalk on wet pavement in the Filberg Park. They observe how it isn't dusty like usual.
 "It's different than on dry. On wet the chalk is melty. It melts in."
 "It's melting down into a darker colour."
 One child began smudging and blending the chalk on the wet surface. Some of it was thick and turned pasty.
 "It is like face paint! Look at it on my hands."
 Other children join in blending their colours together.
 Later, when the pavement was dry: "We can make dust! It isn't melty anymore."
- CHOCOLATE MILK PUDDLE / images 1-3** Water play in mucky puddles using various containers, bottles, funnels, and sponges. Splashing ground and transferring water out of and between puddles.
 "This is a nice big puddle of chocolate milk."

Tianna Belanger - Forest Circle Childcare

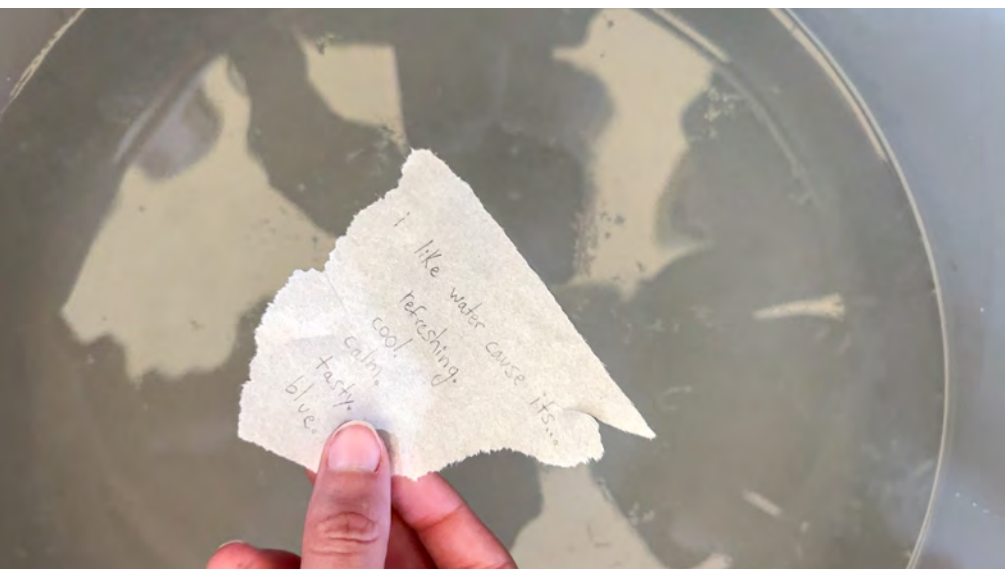






COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Beachcombers Academy | Queneesh Elementary | Arden Elementary | L'Arche Comox Valley







Dear Water,
you have been here for decades,
although I have been here for
one. Water has practically kept
the human alive, and as
young as I face, I know I can't
change as much. But I will try
to raise your awareness about
how your being treated. Sometimes
I wonder why you help us
when we've never returned the
favour. I guess what I
really want to say is
thank you
Since





CONVERGENT PROGRAM: MARLENE CREATES: AN INTEREST IN PLACE

June 4 – September 10, 2022



CREATIVE RESIDENCY | EXHIBITION | WORKSHOPS | READINGS

CONVERGENT PROGRAM: MARLENE CREATES: AN INTEREST IN PLACE

June 4 – September 10, 2022

CREATIVE RESIDENCY | EXHIBITION | WORKSHOPS | READINGS

The Comox Valley Art Gallery continued its place-based programming, moving its focus on water to the presentation of the land/lens/text-based practice of artist Marlene Creates. When writing about her four decades of creative interest in place, Creates talks about her work as intentionally “simple gesture[s] that left no permanent mark” and are “non-monumental interventions in deliberate opposition to large-scale earthworks.” (1) The artist’s evolving process over her years of practice has been one of going outside to be on the land and to encounter a place through physical experience – lying down, sleeping, interacting, listening to the land and those who live there. Drawing on these phenomenological encounters, Creates has structured images and words to communicate her experiences through photographs, hand drawn maps, tracings, text, and performative acts. In these ways, the artist offers an opportunity for “seeing” places with a new perspective. (2)

During her time in the Comox Valley, Marlene Creates undertook an artist residency, engaged with local schools and the wider community through artist talks + artist led activities, and was present for the opening of a solo exhibition of her work.

1. Creates, Marlene, *Marlene Creates: Places, Paths, and Pauses*, (Goose Lane Editions, 2017), ed. by Garvey, Susan Gibson and Andrea Kunard, p. 13.
2. Creates, pp. 142-143.

[Convergent Program page](#)

[Workshop with Lake Trail album](#)

[Artist Walk at McLoughlin Gardens album](#)

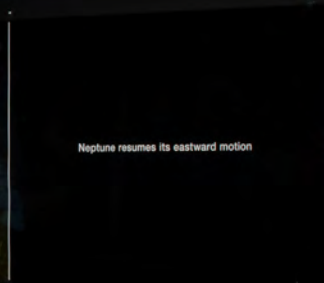
[The Boreal Poetry Garden with Marlene Creates + Don McKay video](#)

[The Boreal Poetry Garden with Marlene Creates + Don McKay album](#)

[Don McKay Reading video](#)

[Don McKay Reading album](#)

Acknowledgments: McLoughlin Gardens Society, Newfoundland + Labrador Arts Council



MARLENE CREATES: WORKS FROM BLAST HOLE POND ROAD, NEWFOUNDLAND 2002–2021
ŒUVRES RÉALISÉES AU CHEMIN BLAST HOLE POND, TERRE-NEUVE 2002–2021
June 15 – September 10, 2022

MARLENE CREATES: WORKS FROM BLAST HOLE POND ROAD, NEWFOUNDLAND 2002–2021
ŒUVRES RÉALISÉES AU CHEMIN BLAST HOLE POND, TERRE-NEUVE 2002–2021

June 15 – September 10, 2022

CREATIVE RESIDENCY | EXHIBITION | WORKSHOPS | READINGS

In 2002, artist Marlene Creates moved to Blast Hole Pond Road, Portugal Cove, Newfoundland and Labrador. There, in her new home, the hours in a day, the weeks, and the months flowed into 20 years during which Creates's "principle artistic venture has been to pay close attention to one particular place — "six acres of boreal forest where I live." Creates's research — curiosity, observation, kinaesthetic experience, and collaborative + experimental processes with the workings of nature — are part of a multi- disciplinary creative process that has been described as active and formal inquiry, as well as receptive and meditative. She has been present to one place, walking its paths, pausing, and "stepping away" to deepen her relational dialogue with the land she lives within.

Through photo-based work, mapping, and text, the exhibition shared the phenomenological experiences that span the years that Marlene Creates has lived in one place.

[Exhibition page](#)

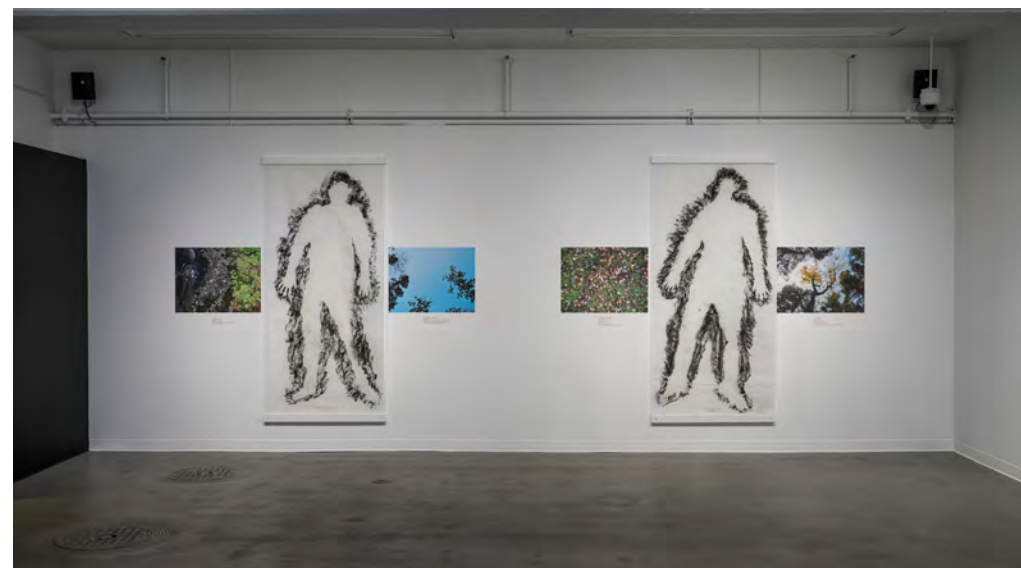
[Marlene Creates: Works from Blast Hole Pond Road, Newfoundland 2002-2021 publication](#)

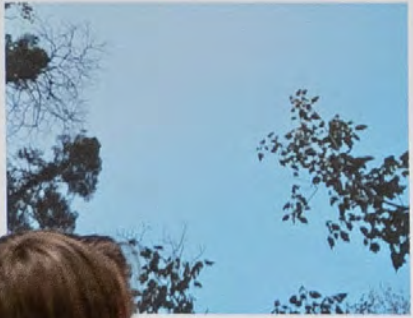
[Install album](#)

[Exhibition Opening video](#)

[Exhibition Opening album](#)







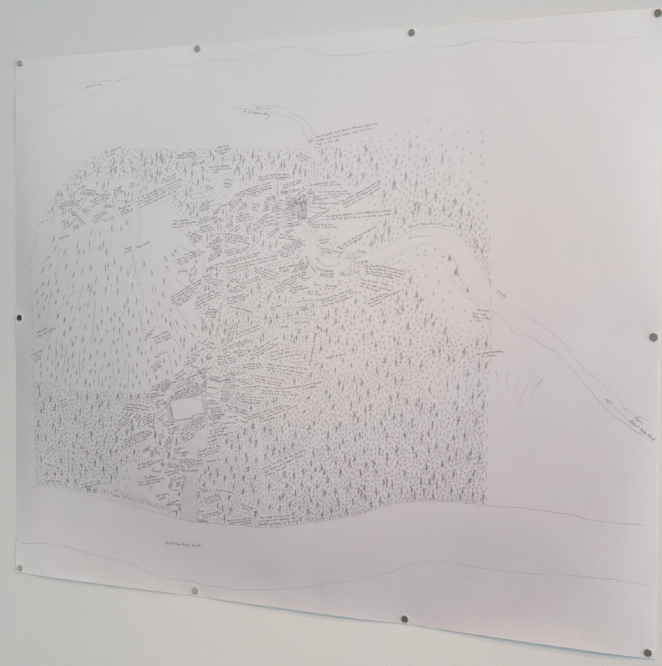
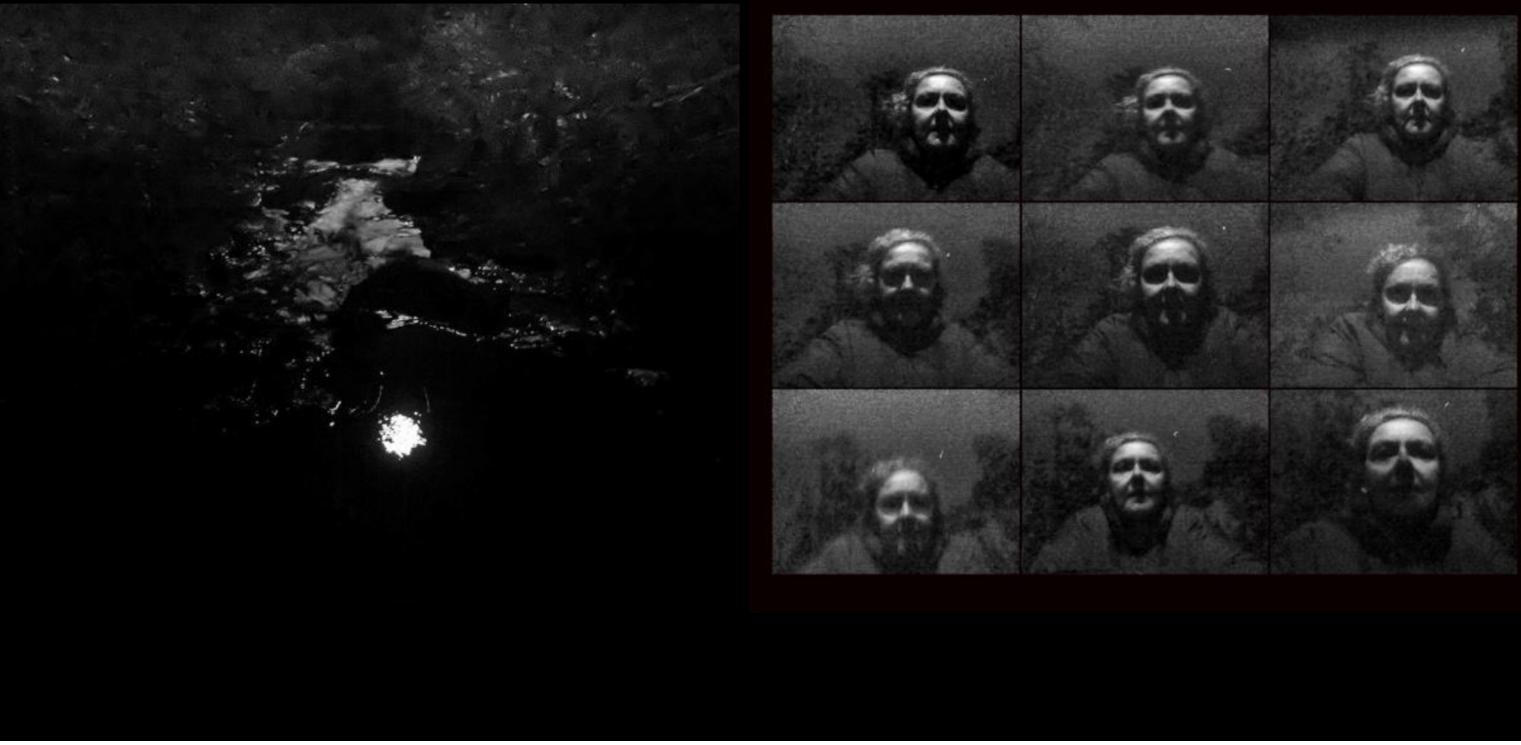
Small text caption below the photograph of the blue sky and trees.



LEADER IN TRAINING

STAFF













EXHIBITION OPENING





MARLENE CREATES – WORKSHOP WITH LAKE TRAIL
June 15, 2022

I have lived here for 8 years.

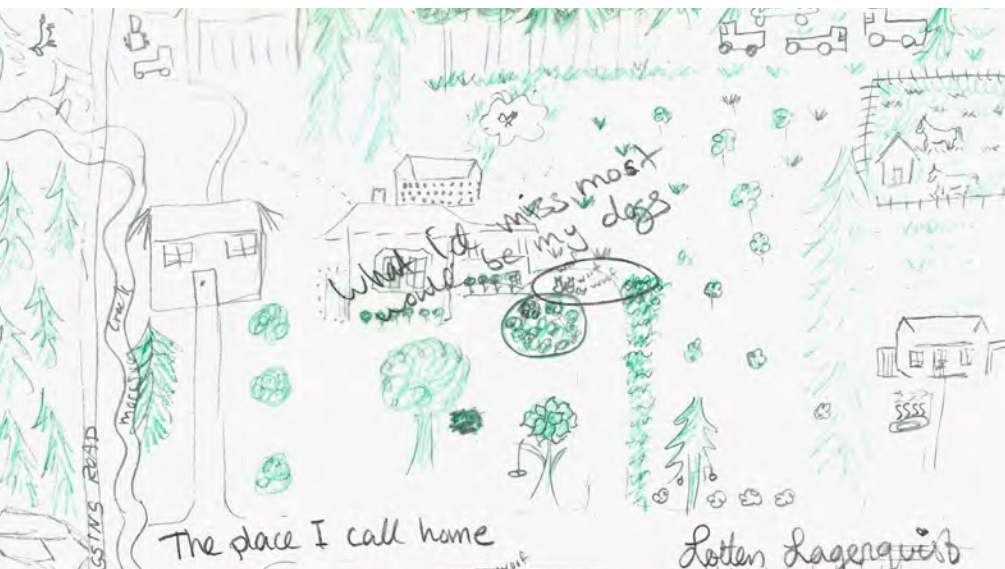
What I like most about this place is the sea.
It is relaxing and has a savage beauty to it.

What I like least about this place is the tourists and how it is less connected to nature

If I could change anything about it, I would have it surrounded by forest and wildlife as well as make the water warmer.



I have lived here about four years, what I like most about this place is that the people are nice here. What I like least about this place is there are a lot of bears, if I could change anything it would be less bears so I can go on all the trails.



I have lived in this place for 1 year
The thing I like most about this place is the trees
The thing I dislike about this place is our ownership agreement
I'd like to own the property outright :)



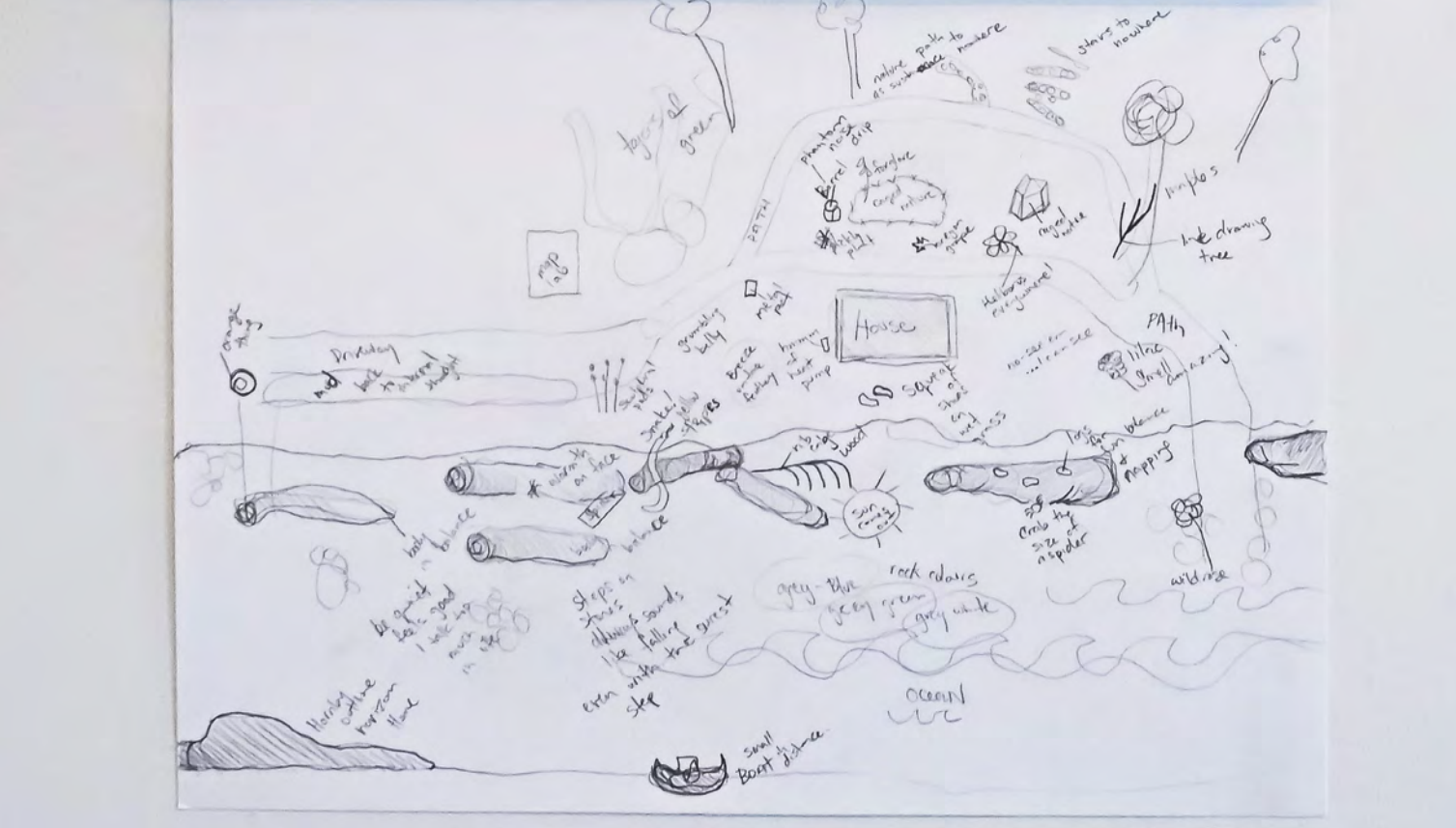
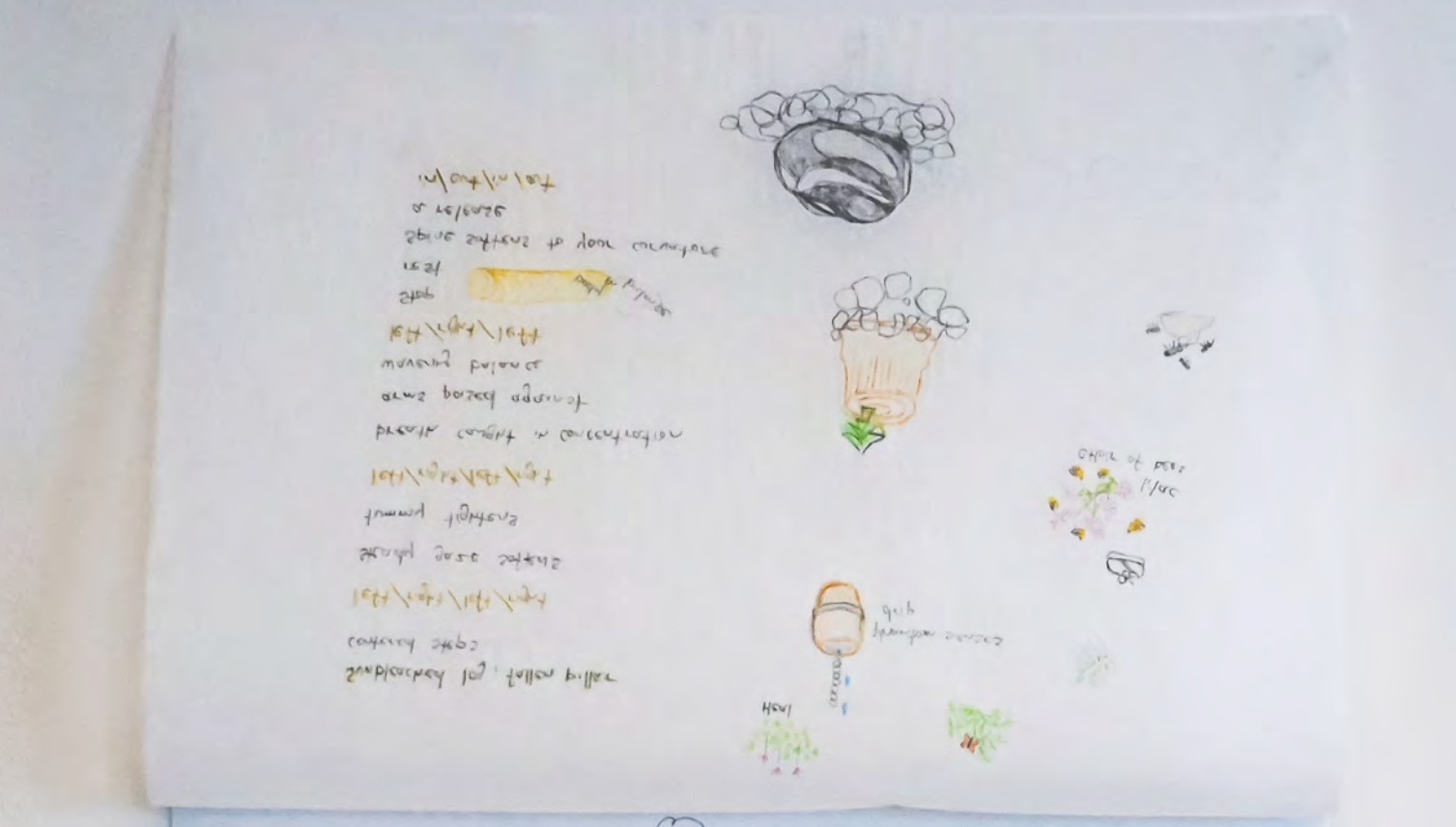
1. I have never actually lived here this is my Best friends house but I would be over there a lot
2. what I like most about this place is that whenever I'm there I always feel so welcome.
3. what I like least about this place is that her brother would annoy us all the time and wouldn't leave us alone
4. I would like to change the way these family treats each other.

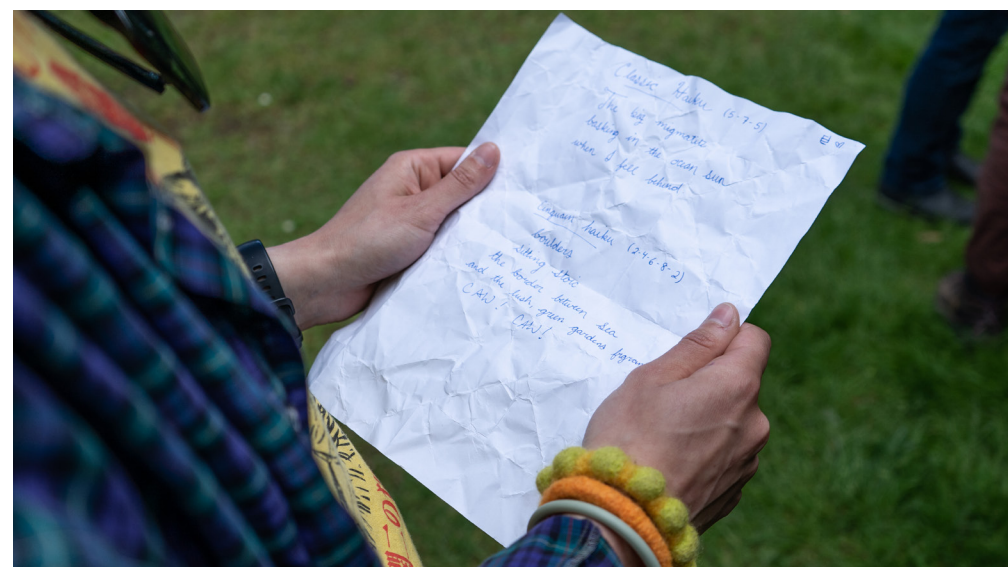
An elderly woman with grey hair, wearing a grey turtleneck and a tan jacket, is smiling as she uses orange-handled scissors to cut a large sheet of white paper. The paper has a blue pencil sketch of a landscape or map on it. She is standing in a workshop with wooden walls and a corrugated metal roof. In the background, a ladder is leaning against the wall. To the left, a woman with glasses and a black shirt is sitting at a table, looking towards the camera. Another person is partially visible behind her. The overall atmosphere is collaborative and creative.

MARLENE CREATES – ARTIST WALK
AT MCLOUGHLIN GARDENS
June 18, 2022

Marlene Creates, CVAG's Summer 2022 Artist-in-Residence led a site-specific walk in the forest surrounding the artist residence at McLoughlin Gardens. This will be followed by memory mapping and story sharing session.







THE BOREAL POETRY GARDEN WITH MARLENE CREATES + DON MCKAY

June 22, 2022



Marlene Creates and writer Don McKay have collaborated for many years. During this event, they shared 15 years of their history at the The Boreal Poetry Garden in Portugal Cove, Newfoundland.



Marlene Creates
"The Boreal Poetry Garden"
June 22, 2022



DON MCKAY READING
June 30, 2022



The
fallen leaves
are, here,
empty, waiting
and still.
They are, in fact,
waiting, waiting for
the first of winter's snow.



Canadian poet and author Don McKay was writer-in-residence at the McLoughlin Gardens from June – July, 2022. McKay has released twelve books of poetry and four books of essays. He has won numerous awards, including two Governor General's Awards. He currently resides in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. This reading was organized by our community partner The McLoughlin Gardens Society.





MARLENE CREATES - WORKSHOP WITH NIC
September 6, 2022



SQUEEGEERAMA – EXHIBITION
August 13 – September 10, 2022



SQUEEGEERAMA – EXHIBITION

August 13 – September 10, 2022

Featured Artists: Gary Houston, David Cran, Jay Ryan, Diana Sudyka, Tuffy Tuffington, Bobby Martin, Emily Luce, Rodney Sayers, Dan Stiles

Ian Adams, Ben LaFond, Kelsey Gallo, Paul Tosh, Tara Langois, Max, Emily Theissen, Stuart Heuws, Linda Perron, Gabe Moore

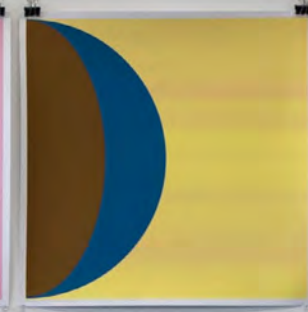
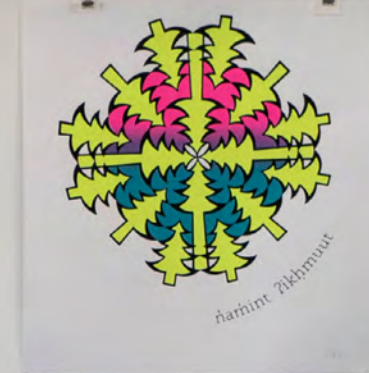
Squeegeerama is an annual screen printing event organized by Wachiay Studio. Each year the guest artists, participants, and staff have produced some amazing artworks. An installation at the Comox Valley Art Gallery presented a selection of the prints completed by the guest artists, as well as the attendees.

[Exhibition page](#)

[Wachiay Studio website](#)

[Dan Stiles Artist Talk video](#)

Acknowledgements: Andy MacDougall, squeegeeville.com, RH Solutions/Atma, Sefar USA, Creative Materials, Screen Printing Magazine, MakeltZone, Wachiay Studio, screentheworld.org





DAN STILES – ARTIST TALK + PRESENTATION

July 28, 2022


The Comox Valley Art Gallery partnered with Wachiay Studio to host the innovative screen printer Dan Stiles, the feature artist for Squeegeearama 2022. Dan has pushed the boundaries of conventional print making, experimenting with conductive materials, lights, and controllers to produce internationally known printed electronic posters.







ACCESS: INDEPENDENT STUDIO PROGRAM + RENOVATION PROJECT 2022 – 2023

A group of five construction workers are working on a large window installation. They are positioned around a large, rectangular window pane that is being lowered into a wooden frame. The workers are wearing various work clothes, including jackets, hoodies, and hats. One worker is visible on a ledge above the window, while the others are on the ground. The scene is set in a building under renovation, with wooden studs and beams visible. A red caution tape is tied to a wooden post on the left. A blue trash bin is visible on the right. The background shows a view of trees and a building through the window.

While undergoing some interior renovation work to widen doorways and to facilitate moving throughout main floor public spaces, the Comox Valley Art Gallery continued to actively engage the public through events, performances, community collaborations, all-ages MakeArt Projects, youth training + mentorship programs, residencies, and a gift shop that features the work of local artisans.



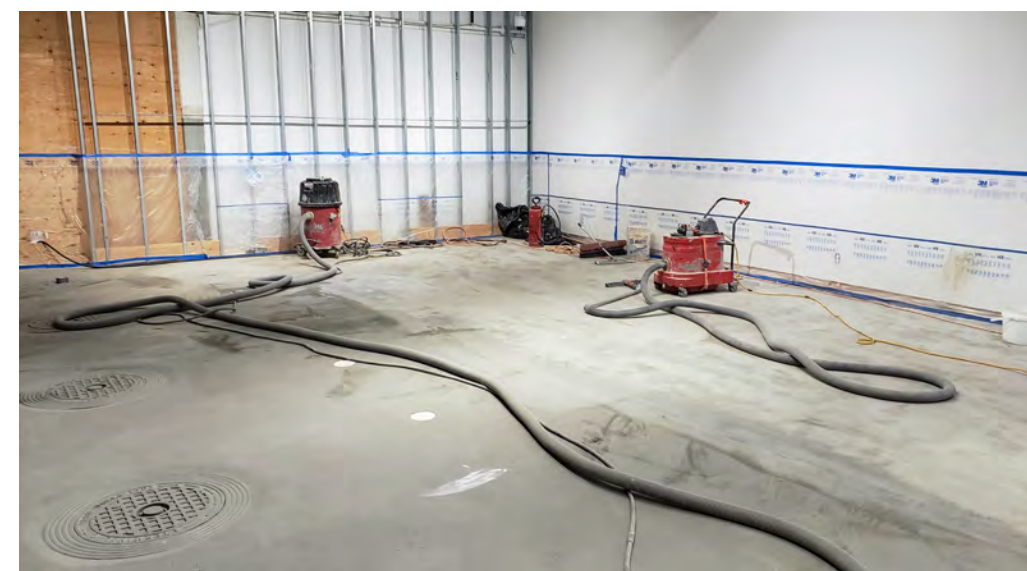


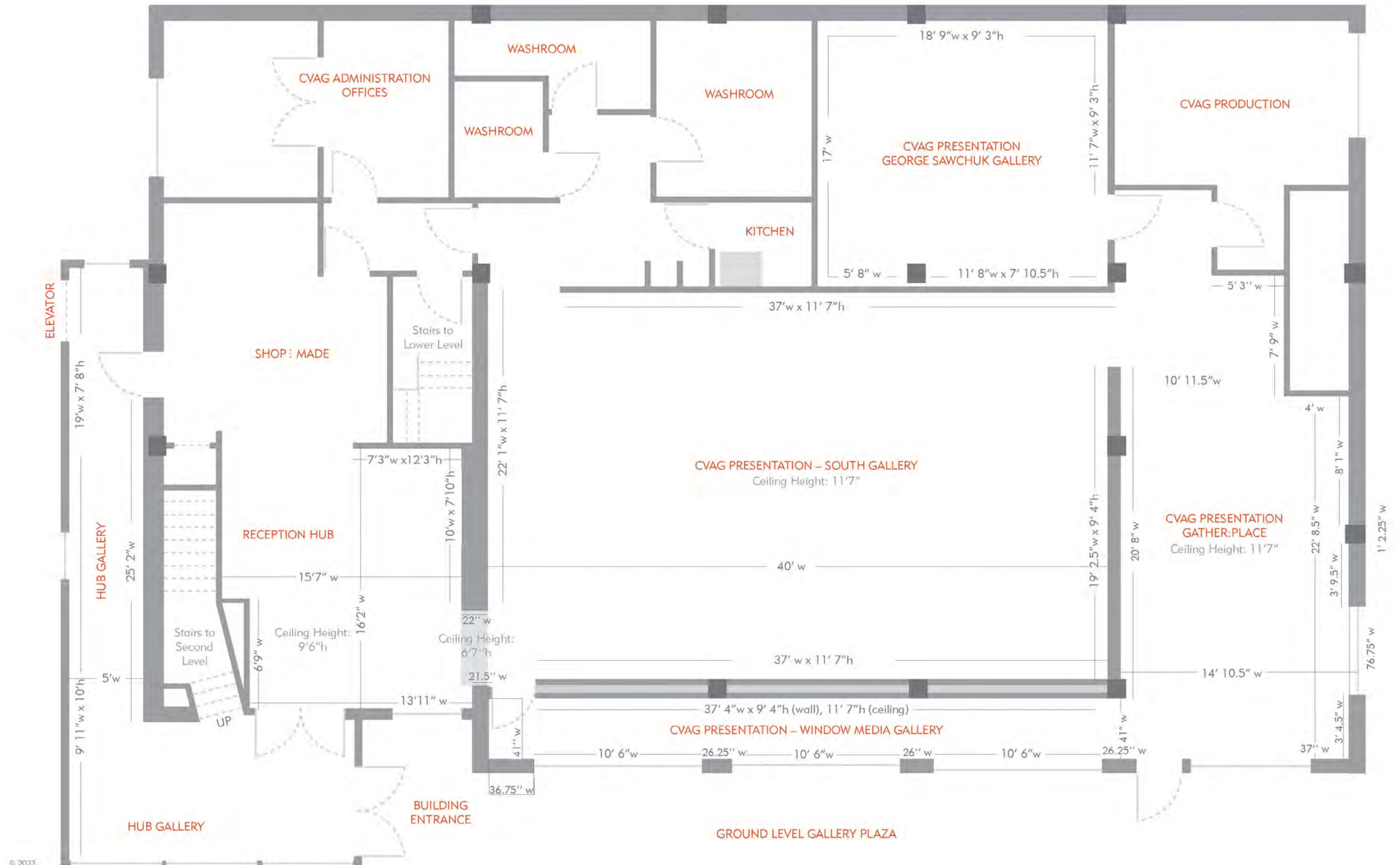
GALLERY IS CLOSED
FOR RENOVATIONS

REOPENING IN NOVEMBER
ASK A STAFF MEMBER ABOUT JOINING OUR NEWSLETTER
FOR NEW UPDATES AND FUTURE EVENTS











STREAM INCUBATOR II
June 1 – August 31, 2022

STREAM INCUBATOR II

June 1 - August 31, 2023

[Incubator page](#)

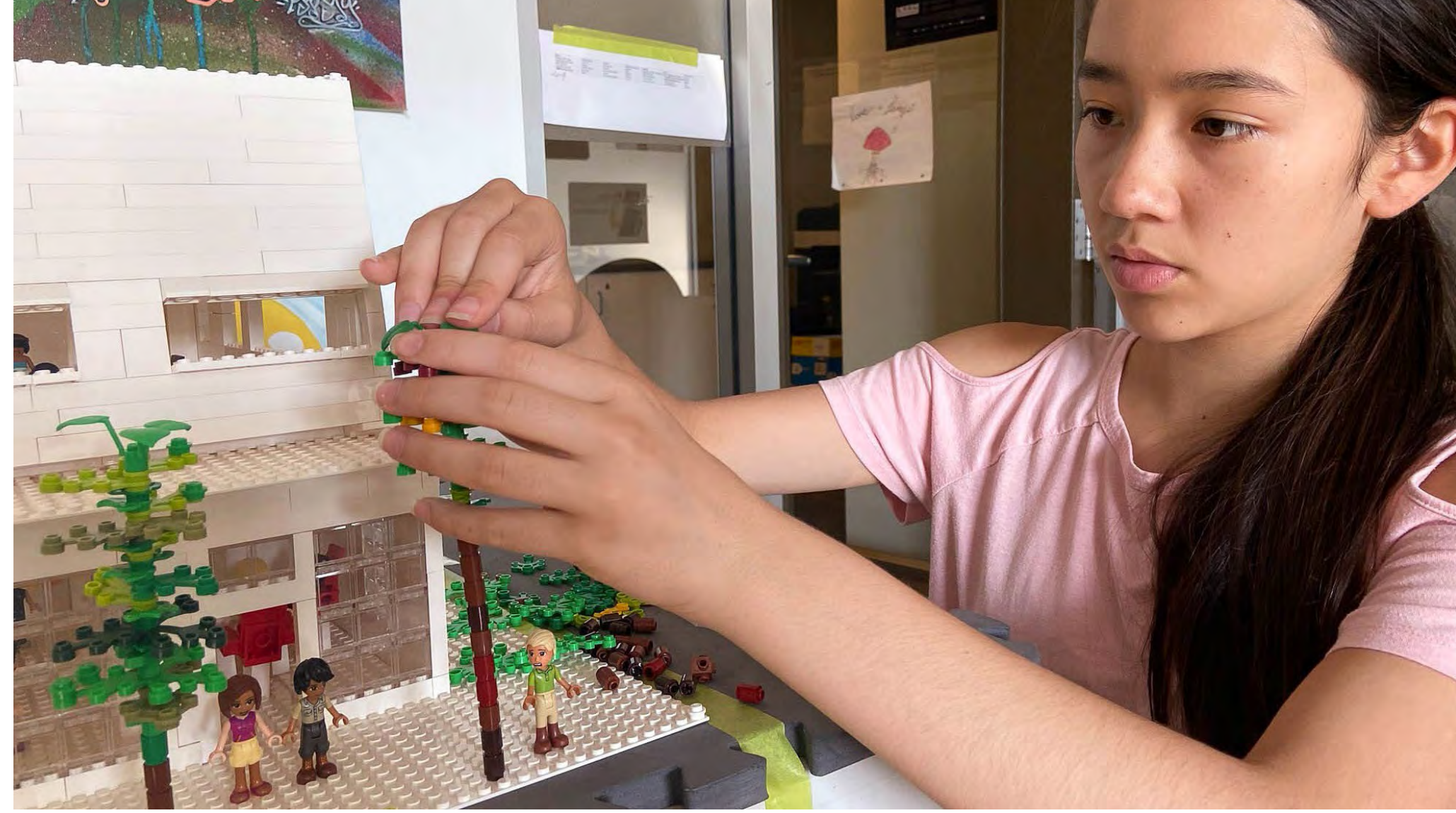
[Incubator album](#)

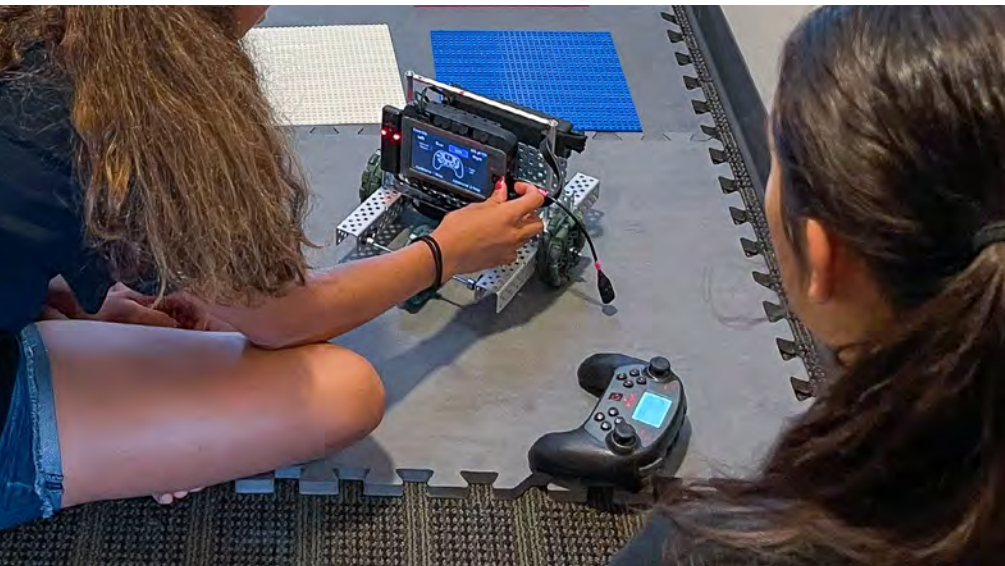
STREAM: Science, Technology, Robotics, Electronics, Arts + Mathematics

STREAM is an inquiry-based, hands-on learning program for youth, ages 10 – 15, facilitated at the Comox Valley Art Gallery by educator Stew Savard.

In the summer of 2022, the STREAM group expanded their scope of inquiry to include the design and construction of a LEGO model of the art gallery architecture, plaza and the 2022 renovations.

The community youth group explored how it is to be thinking, making and imagining, within an immersive space of art and design, and in relation with cultural workers circulating and presenting at the Comox Valley Art Gallery. Diverse identities came together to express something about place, identity and belonging. Together, we created a safe space for learning. In this space, the group has also explored stop-motion animation and the collaborative learning of EV3 and VEX V5 robotics.









INDEPENDENT STUDIO PROGRAM

The Comox Valley Art Gallery is committed to supporting research, creation, presentation, collaboration, dissemination of contemporary art and cultural practise. The CVAG Next Door residence allows for deep and sustained artistic practice during residency periods that are two – six weeks in length. Project Room Studio opportunities occur throughout the gallery spaces.

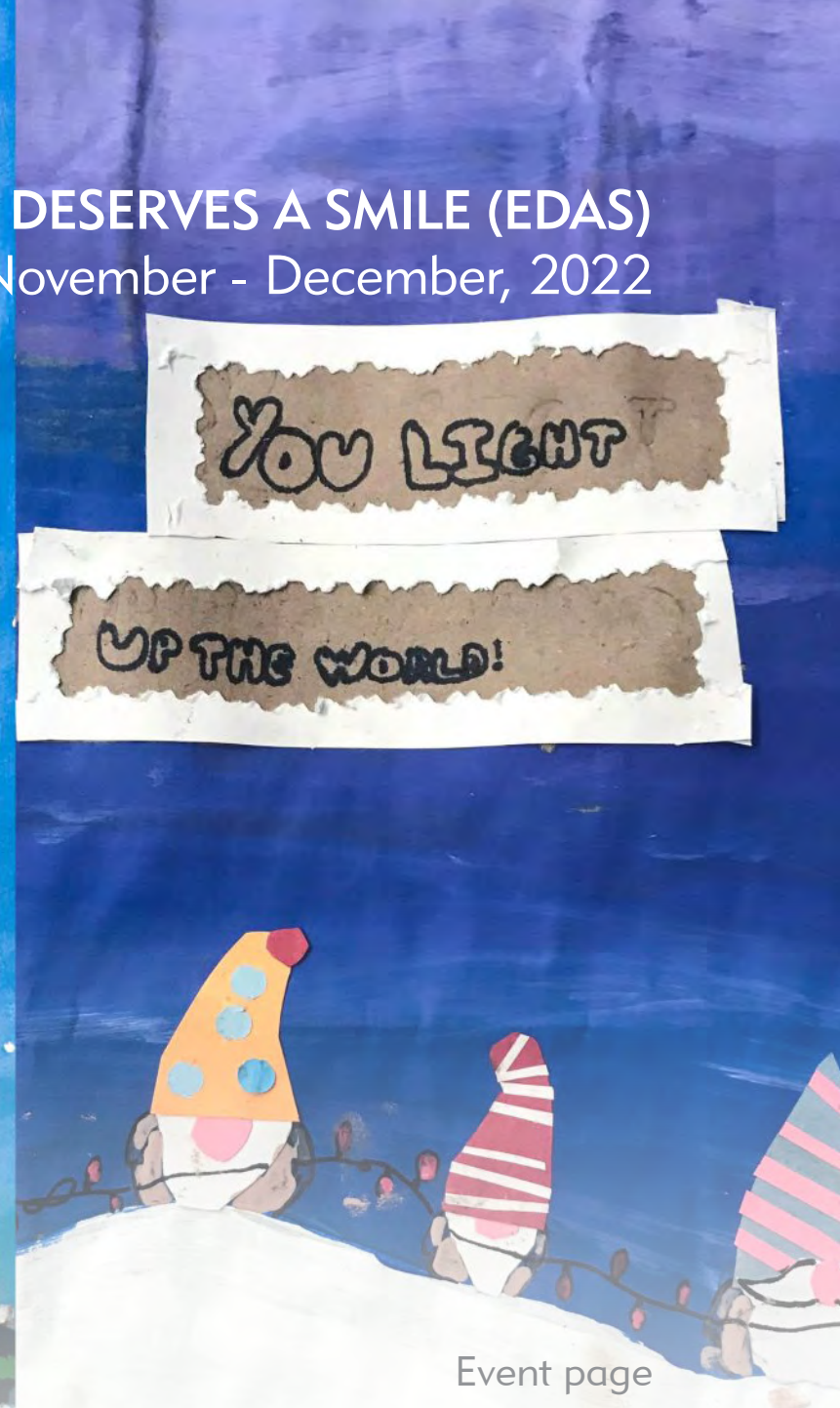




The Community Gallery at the Comox Valley Art Gallery presented the creations that Ecole Puntledge Park Elementary students from Ms. Julie + Ms. Makinson's grade 2/3 class and Mr. Swaney's late immersion grade 7 class made for Everybody Deserves A Smile 2022.



EVERYBODY DESERVES A SMILE (EDAS)
November - December, 2022



Everybody Deserves A Smile website

Event page

MOONLIGHT + MAGIC
November 18, 2022



During Downtown Courtenay's Moonlight + Magic 2022, we teamed up with Comox Valley Arts (the Community Arts Council) for an all-ages event of art-making, projections, audio stories, and refreshments on CVAG Plaza.



CONVERGENT PROGRAM: OPEN : REALITY

January 11 – February 17, 2022

CREATIVE RESIDENCIES | EXHIBITIONS | INCUBATORS | MAKEART EVENTS | PERFORMANCES

OPEN : REALITY

CONVERGENT PROGRAM: OPEN : REALITY

December 7, 2022 – April 1, 2023

Convergent Program page

CREATIVE RESIDENCIES | EXHIBITIONS | INCUBATORS | MAKEART EVENTS |
PERFORMANCES

The gallery as a hybrid space of reciprocity and a bridging of potentials. OFFERINGS take shape as virtual and face-to-face participation, making, skill-sharing and conversations. ACTIVATIONS intersect and intermingle between art, identity, culture, technology, and society. PROPOSING different ways of knowing is possible through collaborations between artists, technologists, communities and students of diverse ages and abilities – giving time and space to multiple processes. CURIOSITY about art and technology pushes boundaries and makes space for playing with how we imagine and express creatively across disciplines and in the space between. LIVED EXPERIENCES ARE BEAUTIFUL INSTIGATORS. TRANSFORMATION IS ART.

REAL REALITY (RR)

Geneviève Johnson | Bran Mackie | Sarah Emery Clark

December 7, 2022 – January 28, 2023



REAL REALITY (RR)

December 7, 2022 – January 28, 2023

CREATIVE RESIDENCIES | GROUP EXHIBITION | MAKEART EVENTS | PERFORMANCES

Exhibiting Artists: Geneviève Johnson, Bran Mackie, Sarah Emery Clark

Material, data, movement, making, and interactive collaboration expanded perceptions of reality.

Through the sensing body, the artists explored and expressed perspectives that connect us to the world.

[Exhibition page](#)

[Exhibition + Events slideshow](#)

[Exhibition Opening album](#)

[Workshops with Highland ENTER](#)

[Class album](#)

[Exhibition Closing video](#)

[Exhibition Closing album](#)







EXHIBITION OPENING



THREADING SIDE BY SIDE
Geneviève Johnson

THREADING SIDE BY SIDE | GENEVIÈVE JOHNSON

December 7, 2022 – January 28, 2023

This embodied visual art practice connected audience-participants to themselves, their environment, and others in the present moment, while exploring parts of unknown within. It revealed their unique ways of being and interacting through witnessing the construction of their own “Landscape Under Skin Theatre”.

Threading In-Between Film Projection:

Participants — Cleo Butcher, Valery Arthur, Angela Somerset, Renée Poisson Cathy Coates, Lydia Karpenko, Zoe Klassen-Somerset, Bran Mackie, Erica Livsey, Keila Neufeld, SD 71 Highland Secondary School – ENTER2 Program Cohort

Music — Guillaume Nagy

Quilted Path Creation — Marcelle Moisan, Nanaimo Community, Comox Valley Community
Facilitation, Camera, Edit, Voice, Soundscape — Geneviève Johnson

[Exhibition page](#)

[Exhibition + Events slideshow](#)

[Exhibition Opening album](#)

[Workshops with Highland ENTER
Class album](#)

[Exhibition Closing video](#)

[Exhibition Closing album](#)

[Threading In-Between video](#)













THREADING IN-BETWEEN



FOR THE FUTURE
Bran Mackie

FOR THE FUTURE | BRAN MACKIE

December 7, 2022 – January 28, 2023

For The Future was a slow and dedicated investment in possibilities that threads between materials and subjects form like neural pathways, both deliberately and accidentally, weaving a network of perception and experience. Grounded in the present but ever looking forward, *For The Future* was part of an ongoing exploration in sustainability, hope and perseverance.

[Exhibition page](#)

[Exhibition + Events slideshow](#)

[Exhibition Opening album](#)

[Workshops with Highland ENTER
Class album](#)

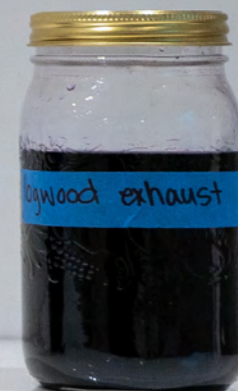
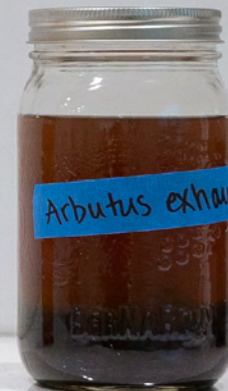
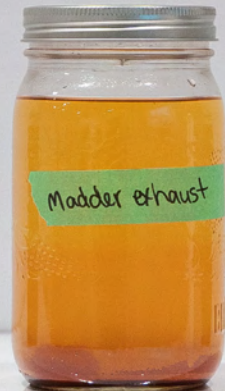
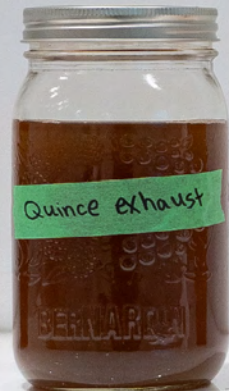
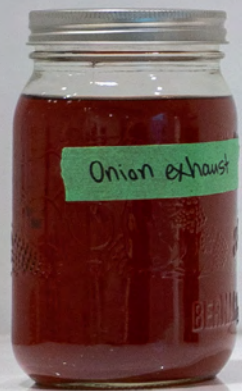
[Exhibition Closing video](#)

[Exhibition Closing album](#)











**BRAN MACKIE – FELTING WORKSHOP
WITH HIGHLAND ENTER CLASS**
December 15, 2022

GATHER:PLACE



BRAN MACKIE – WHIRL WORKSHOP
December 17, 2022



LET'S BE ISLANDS TOGETHER
Sarah Emery Clark



LET'S BE ISLANDS TOGETHER | SARAH EMERY CLARK

December 7, 2022 – January 28, 2023

A new exploratory work, *Let's be Islands Together*, engaged community in examining how we shape our stories, how we connect with each other, transforming this connection into a creative material. This arts-based research project examined our varied experiences of loneliness and explored how we might build connection and compassion as an antidote to isolation.

[Exhibition page](#)

[Exhibition + Events slideshow](#)

[Exhibition Opening album](#)

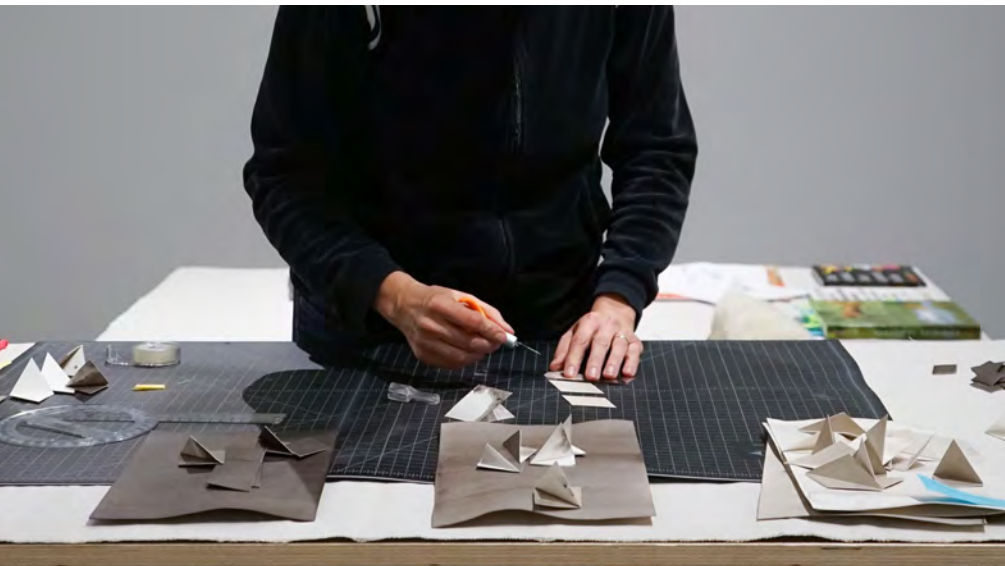
[Workshops with Highland ENTER
Class album](#)

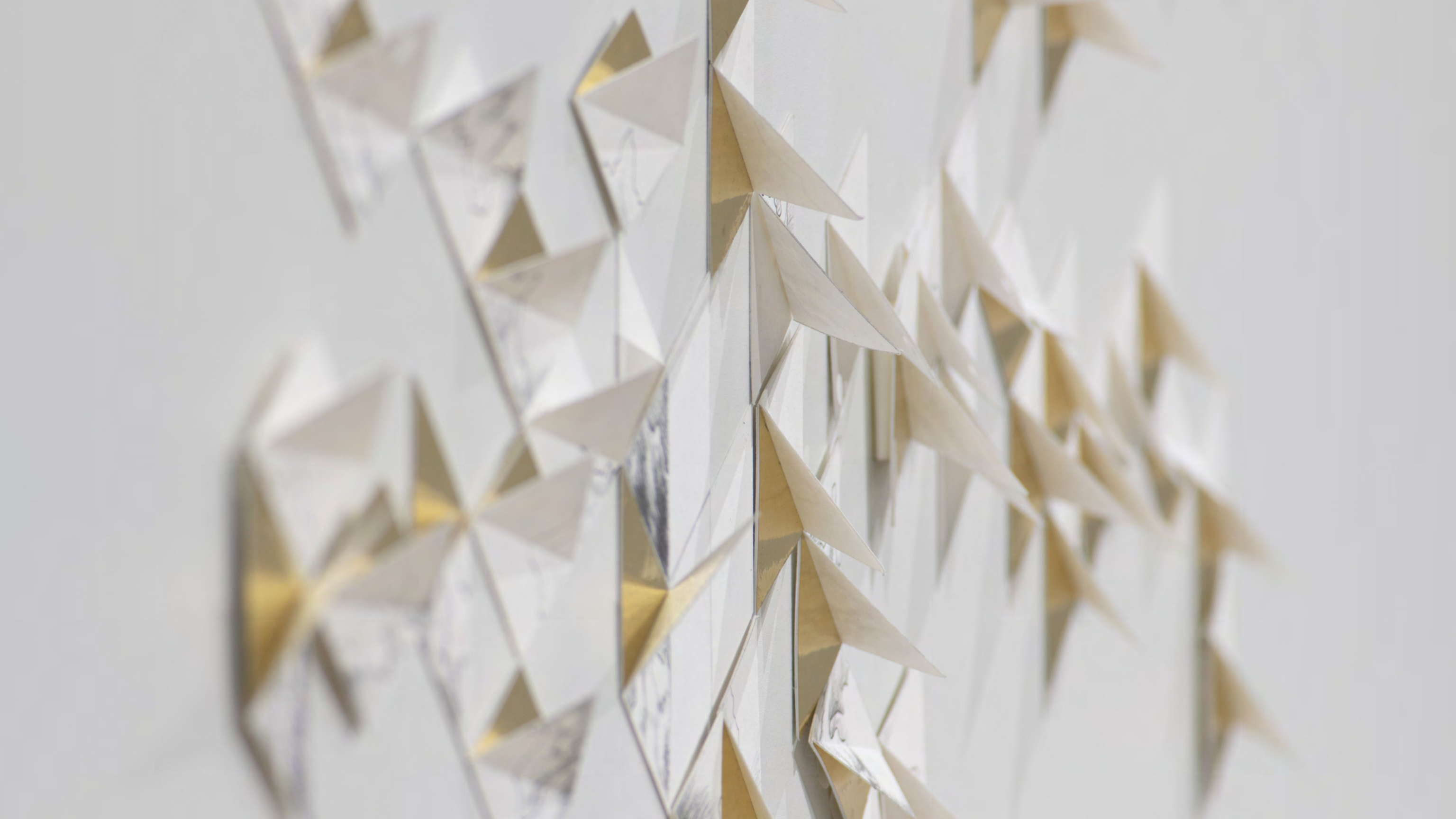
[Exhibition Closing video](#)

[Exhibition Closing album](#)

[Let's Be Islands Together website](#)









SARAH EMERY CLARK – MEET ME ON THE DANCE FLOOR WORKSHOP
December 17, 2022





INTEGRATING REALITY: BUILDING FROM INSIDE OUT – STREAM INCUBATOR III

December 7, 2022 – April 1, 2023



INTEGRATING REALITY: BUILDING FROM INSIDE OUT – STREAM INCUBATOR III

December 7, 2022 – April 1, 2023

COLLABORATIVE SKILL BUILDING | January – December, 2022

INSTALLATION | December 7, 2022 – April 1, 2023

STREAM: Science, Technology, Robotics, Electronics, Arts + Mathematics

STREAM is an inquiry-based, hands-on learning program for youth, ages 10 – 15, facilitated at the Comox Valley Art Gallery by educator Stew Savard.

A presentation in the Hub Gallery demonstrated projects that the youth group collaboratively worked on in 2022, including the construction of a LEGO scale model of the Comox Valley Art Gallery, robotics, and stop-motion animation.

[Exhibition page](#)

[Real Reality \(RR\) + Integrating Reality slideshow](#)

[Exhibition Opening album](#)

[Workshops with Highland ENTER Class album](#)

[Exhibition Closing album](#)



STREAM



SHOP:MADE SHOP:MADE SHOP:MADE SHOP:MADE SHOP:MADE



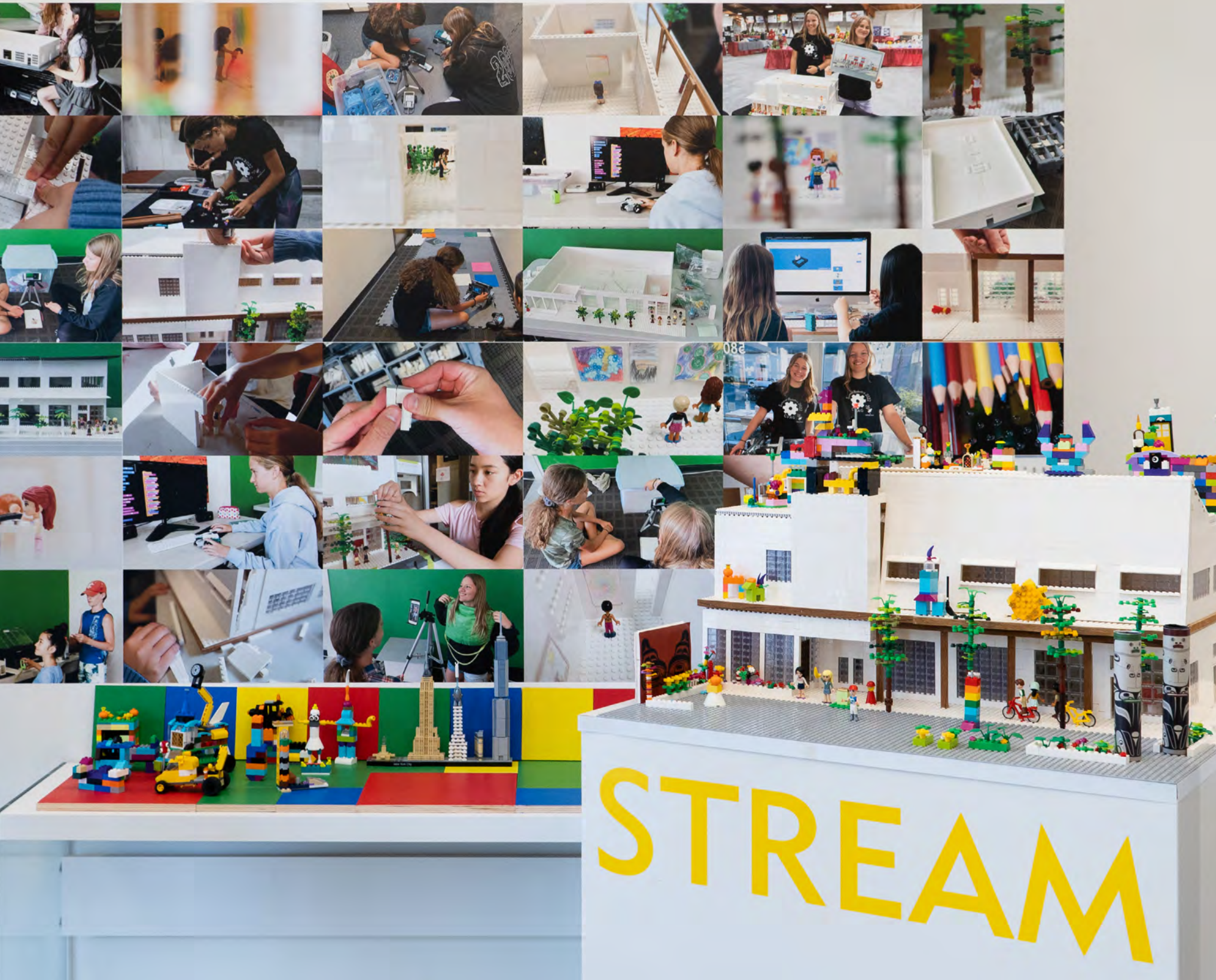
OPEN:REALITY



STRI

KWAKIMA







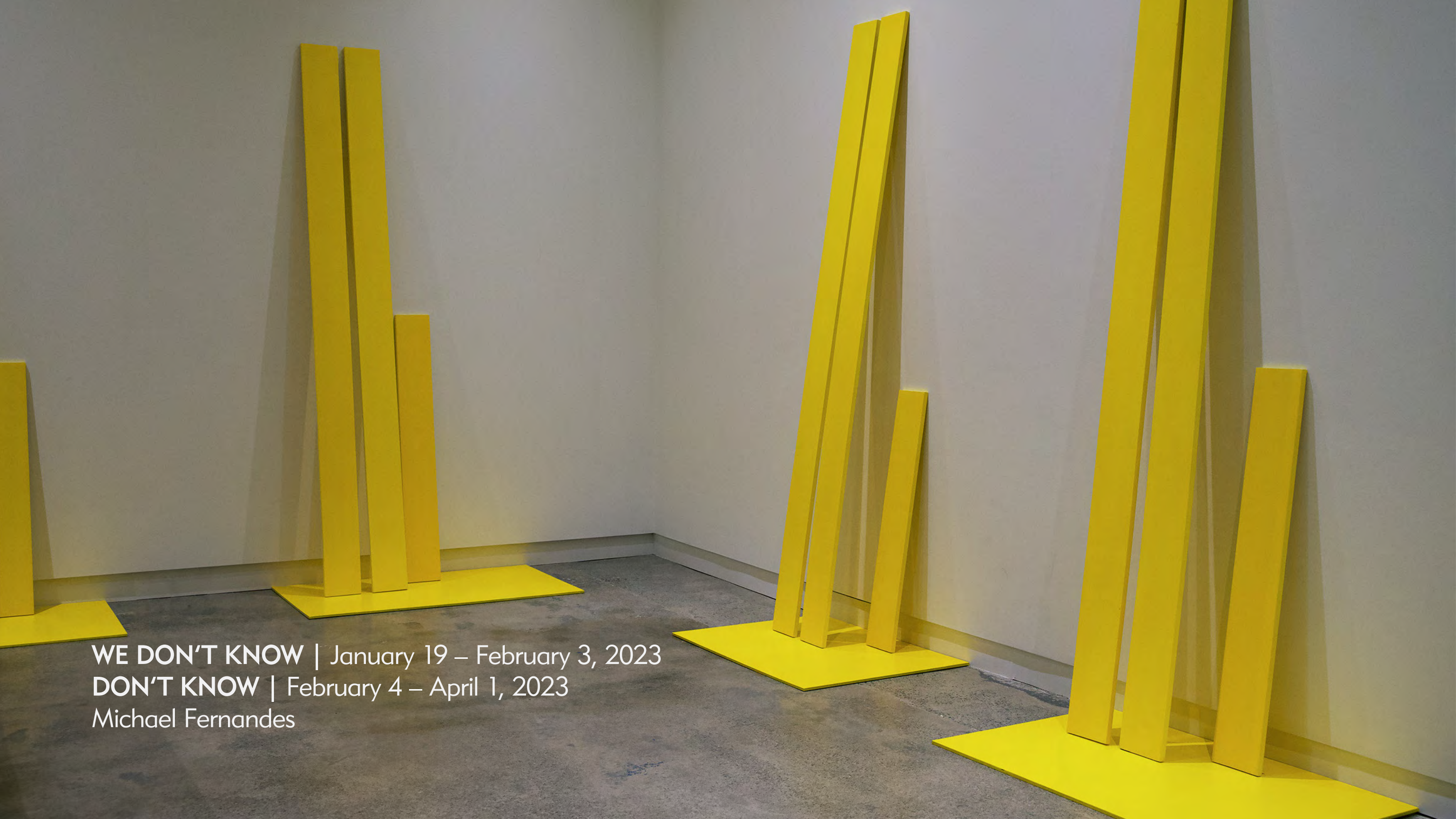
CARESSE NADEAU – STOP MOTION
WORKSHOP WITH HIGHLAND ENTER CLASS
December 17, 2022



EXHIBITION CLOSING







WE DON'T KNOW | January 19 – February 3, 2023
DON'T KNOW | February 4 – April 1, 2023
Michael Fernandes

MICHAEL FERNANDES: WE DON'T KNOW | DON'T KNOW

WE DON'T KNOW | January 19, 2022 – February 3, 2023

This public space installation was the first installment of a multi-part project by artist Michael Fernandes.
CVAG Window + Plaza Media Gallery | 24/7 video + audio + implied drawing installation

DON'T KNOW | February 4 – April 1, 2023

Exhibition | Public Open Studio | Installations
CVAG Window + Plaza Media Gallery | 24/7 video + audio + implied drawing installation
HUB Gallery – video | *Adrian's Tower*
CVAG Main Gallery – Installation | Public Open Studio

The artist invites you to bring something of yourself.
Bring something to work on.
Start something new.
Store something in progress.
Take your project home, bring it back.
Leave something behind.
Visit again.

[We Don't Know exhibition page](#)

[Don't Know exhibition page](#)

[Public Open Studio album](#)

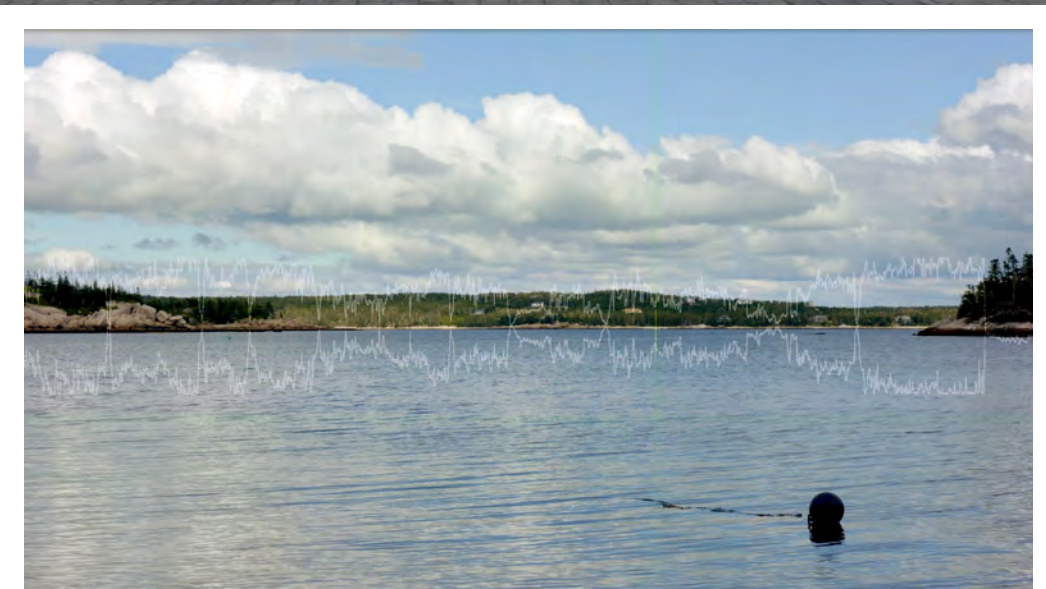
[Alex Poruchnyk Artist Talk video](#)

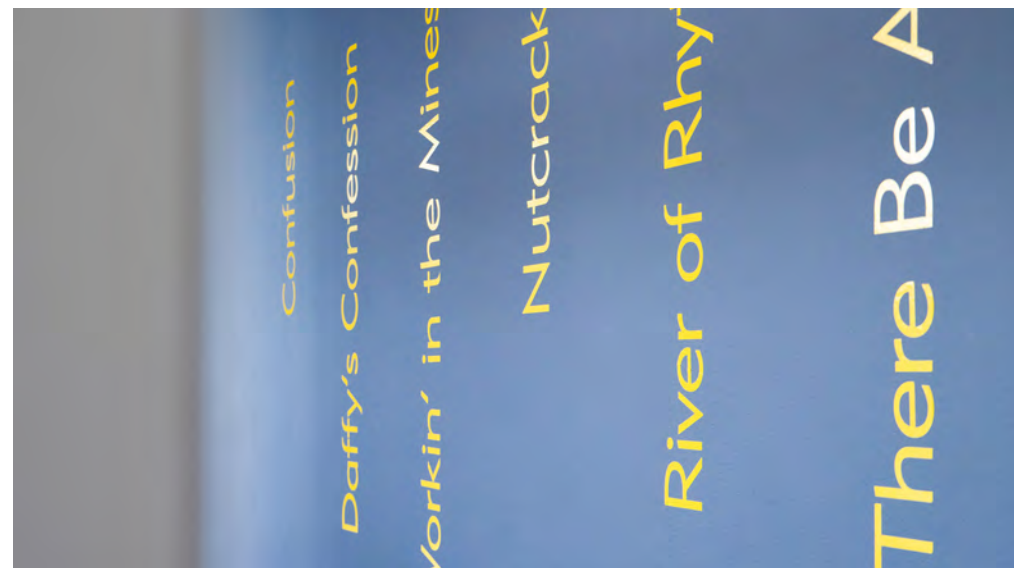
COMOX VALLEY ART GALLERY

580

CV
SHOP

DON'T
KNOW







DON'T
KNOW



ADRIAN'S TOWER
2022
0:54 MIN.



DON'T KNOW | PUBLIC OPEN STUDIO

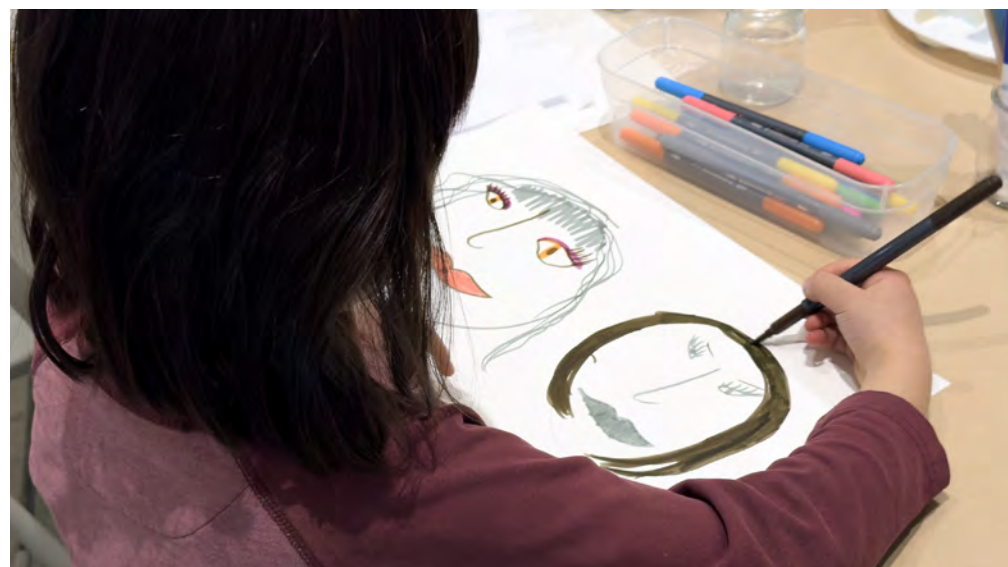
Michael Fernandes



Public Open Studio provided materials and a safe, supportive, and creative environment of the arts. Visitors were invited to drop in and immerse themselves, independently or collaboratively, with friends or other visitors. A work space to experiment, take chances, and have fun while developing your project.







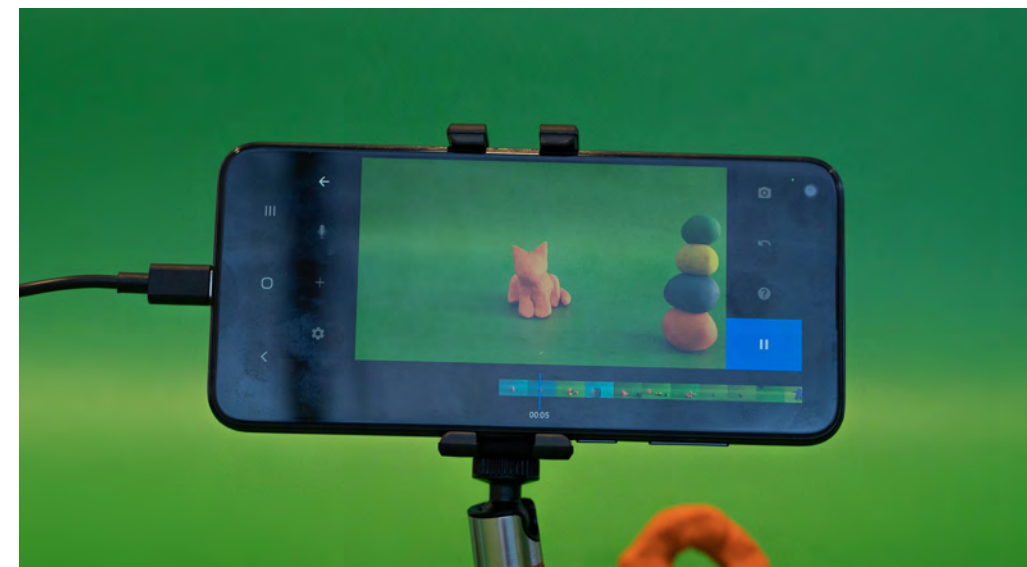












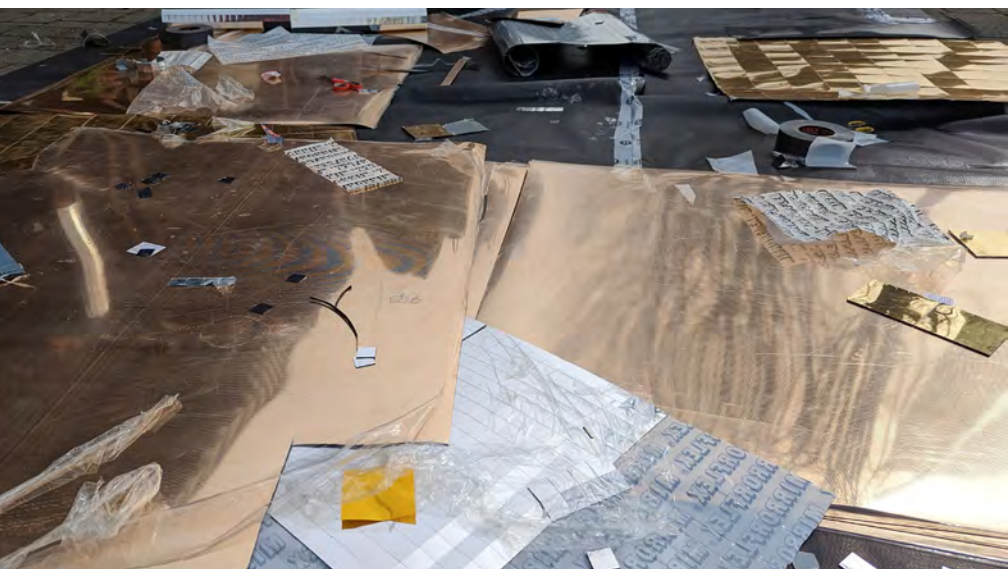


WORKSHOPS WITH HIGHLAND ENTER CLASS









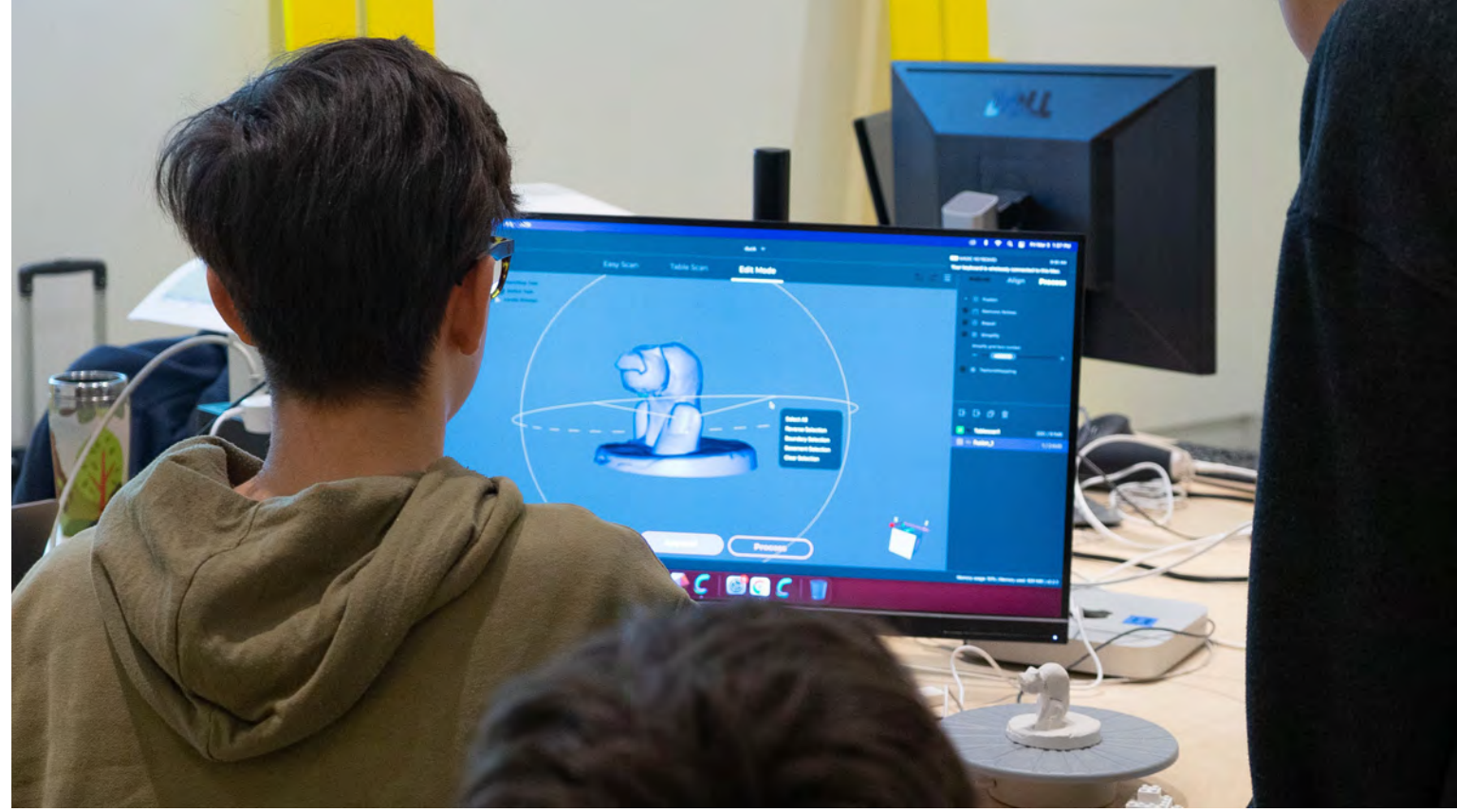


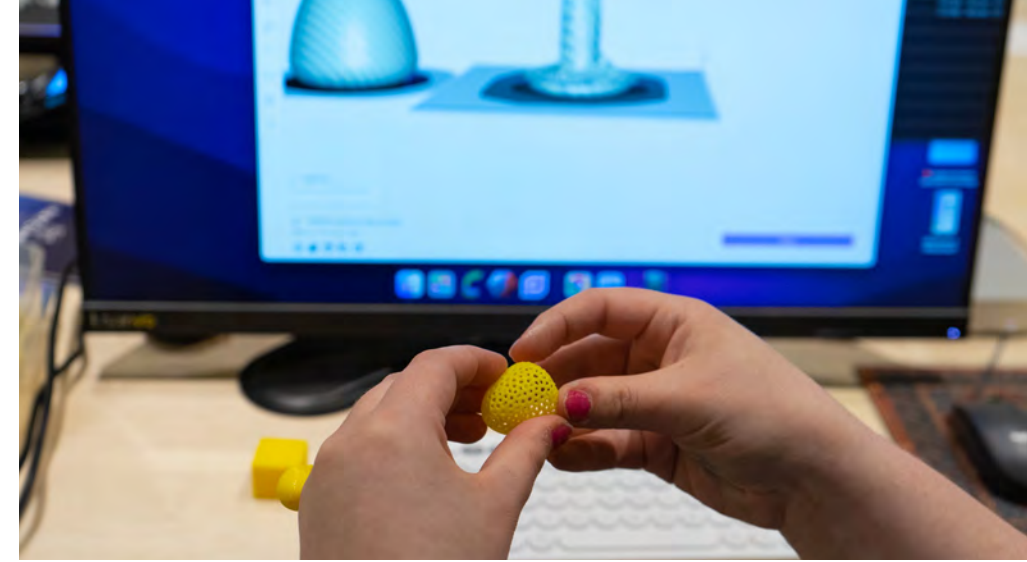
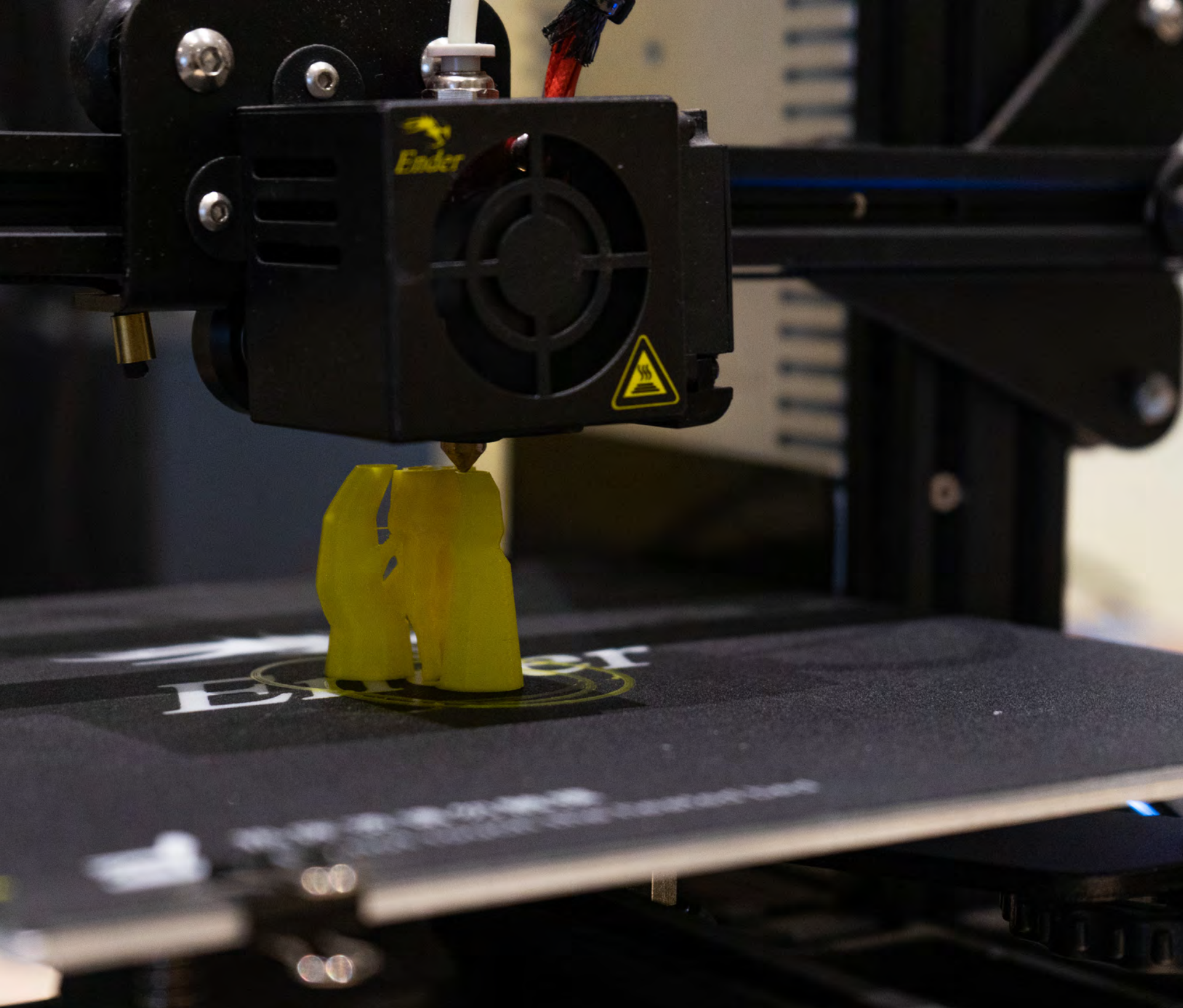
JULIAN RENDELL – FACILITATED MAKEART PROJECT
March 10 – 11, 2022

Julian Rendell from the MakeltZone was onsite facilitating demonstrations and teaching about the art scanning and the software used to prepare scans for 3D printing, laser cutting, or CNC creation. Materials were available for visitors to try their hand at these processes.

MakeltZone website







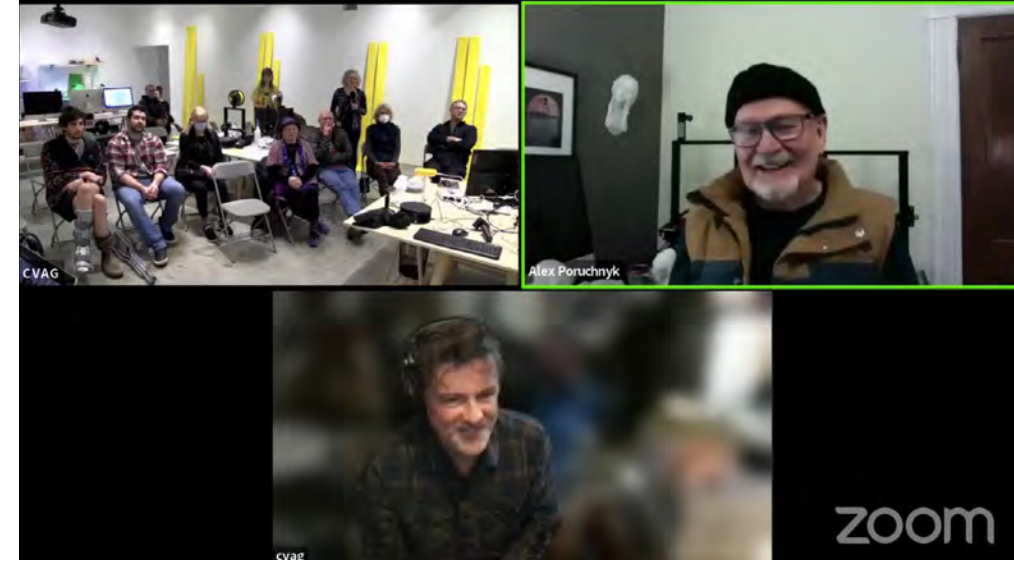


**ALEX PORUCHNYK – A TALK ABOUT BUILDING, RECONSTRUCTING,
AND MENDING NARRATIVES TO FIND A HOLE IN THE EARTH, A MARK IN THE SKY**

March 11, 2023

Alex Poruchnyk is an internationally renowned artist who often works with video and installation. Alex joined us virtually to speak about his work using scanning to create “3D portraits”.







NINA WEDBURG THULIN: THE SOURCE
January 17 – April 1, 2023

NINA WEDBURG THULIN: THE SOURCE

January 17 – April 1, 2023

CREATIVE RESIDENCY | COLLABORATIONS: January 17 – February 24, 2023

During her residency for *The Source* project installation, artist Nina Wedberg Thulin carried all her “questions from former works” while becoming “a beginner starting from zero”. Nina was housed at the gallery’s residence, CVAG Next Door, while she engaged with the community and developed new place-responsive work. Nina visited North Island College to collaborate with Sculpture + Integrated Practices students in production for an installation at the Comox Valley Art Gallery.

INSTALLATION PRESENTATION: February 24 – April 1

The Source incorporated new work developed in response to her encounters of the outdoor spaces around the gallery, as well as work that travelled with the artist from Stockholm, Sweden. In her artist talk, Nina spoke about the night time vacant and winter-dark streets, those who are unhoused taking shelter in alcove spaces, and of the wild rabbits foraging for food in the urban terrain.

[Exhibition page](#)

[Creative Residency album](#)

[Workshop at NIC album](#)

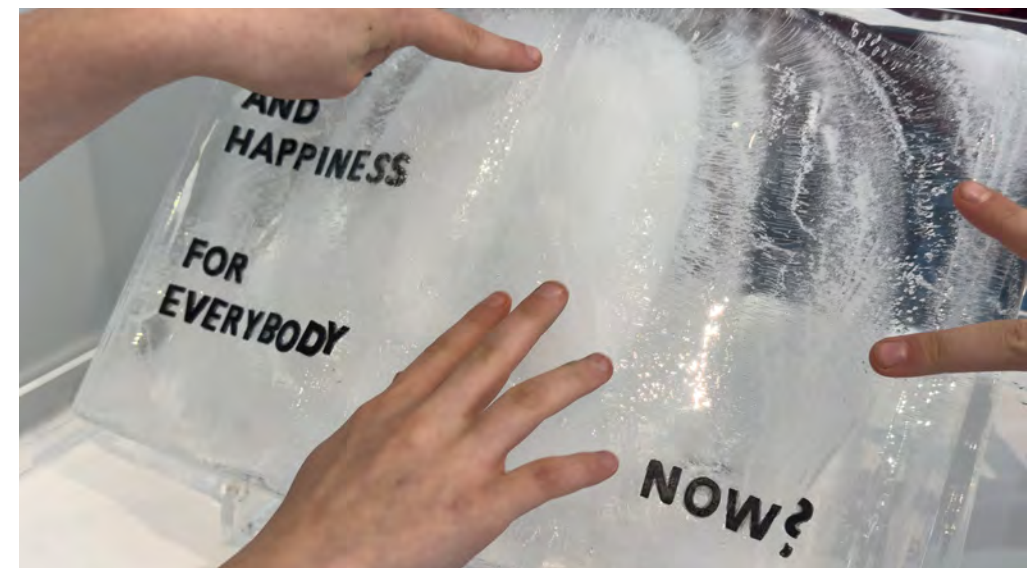
[Exhibition Opening video](#)

[Exhibition Opening album](#)

Acknowledgments: Abir Boukhari,
AllArtNow Lab – artist’s
introduction to CVAG curators,
Swedish Arts Council – artist’s travel















NINA WEDBERG THULIN – WORKSHOP AT NIC
January 24, 2023





INDISTINGUISHABLE | A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION MAKEART PROJECT

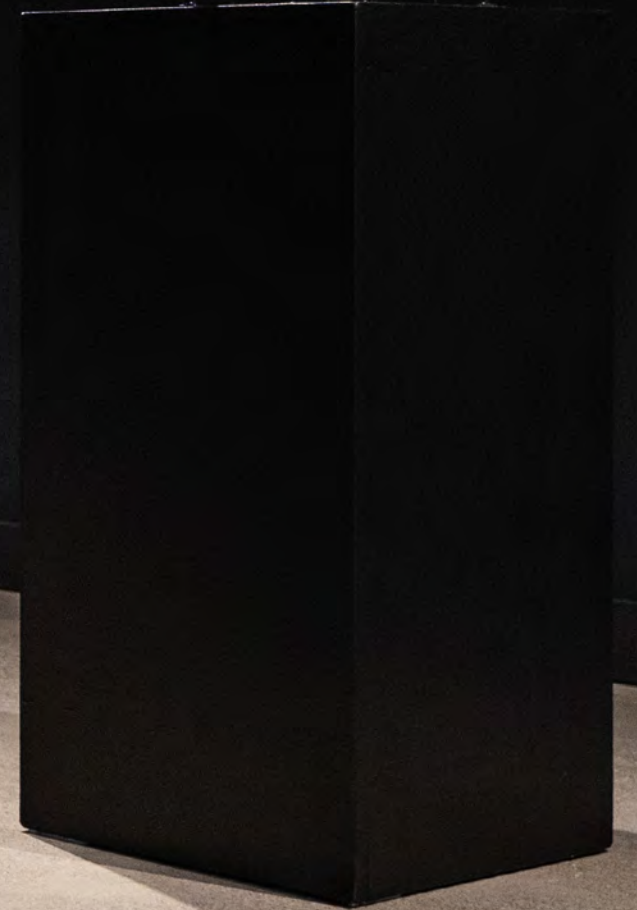
January 13 – April 1, 2023







TWO HALVES MAKE A WHOLE | STORIES WITHOUT WORDS / UNDER COVER
NIC STUDENT INCUBATOR | January 13 – April 1, 2023



**TWO HALVES MAKE A WHOLE | STORIES WITHOUT WORDS / UNDER COVER
NIC STUDENT INCUBATOR**

January 13 – April 1, 2023

Exhibition page

Student Presenters: Valerie Arthur, Anne Cumming, Hynsel Curaje, Karen Day, Naia Lisch, Erica Livsey, David Page, Kaleeka Pather, Renee Poisson, Oskar Roughsedge

North Island College students from FIN 230 and 231 Sculpture + Integrated Art Practice participated in a community incubator project with the Comox Valley Art Gallery. Work by the students was presented in our George Sawchuk Gallery. This incubator and presentation project offered participants an opportunity to have practical experience in a gallery environment — installing artwork, preparing art statements, documenting, sharing, and engaging with public audiences.

THEME 1: Two Halves Make a Whole (Series of Multiples)

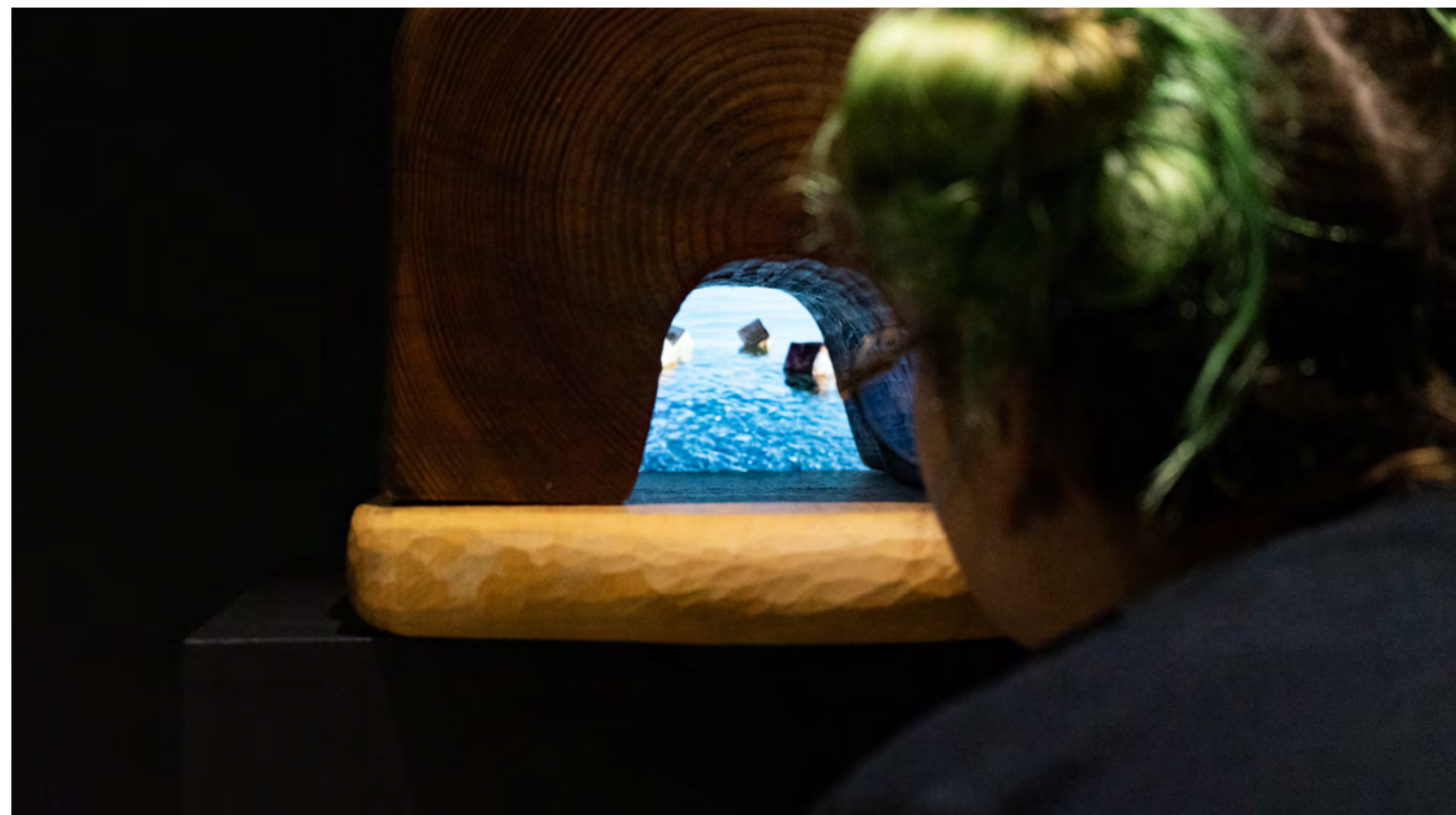
Material exploration: plaster (molds), clay (forms), ceramic firing (bisque + raku)

Methodology: plaster mold for slip casting / clay press — repeat, vary, hybridize, exchange

THEME 2: Stories Without Words / Under Cover

Material exploration: open 3D + integrated media combination

Methodology: juxtaposition of content + form









CONVERGENT PROGRAM: in | at | on : RETURN TO WATER

April 12 – May 27, 2023

GROUP EXHIBITION | INCUBATORS | WORLD PREMIERE SCREENING | OFF-SITE INSTALLATION

CONVERGENT PROGRAM: IN | AT | ON : RETURN TO WATER

April 12 – May 27, 2023

GROUP EXHIBITION | INCUBATORS | WORLD PREMIERE SCREENING | OFF-SITE
INSTALLATION

The convergent program *in | at | on : RETURN TO WATER 2023* broadened perspectives through the sustained lens-based practices of three projects that brought into focus different relationships with water:

GO FISH — Scott Smith + Nettie Wild

as the wind blew: the ground beneath me | at the water's edge | in its path — Sarah Crawley

Coastal Camera Obscura III — Donald Lawrence

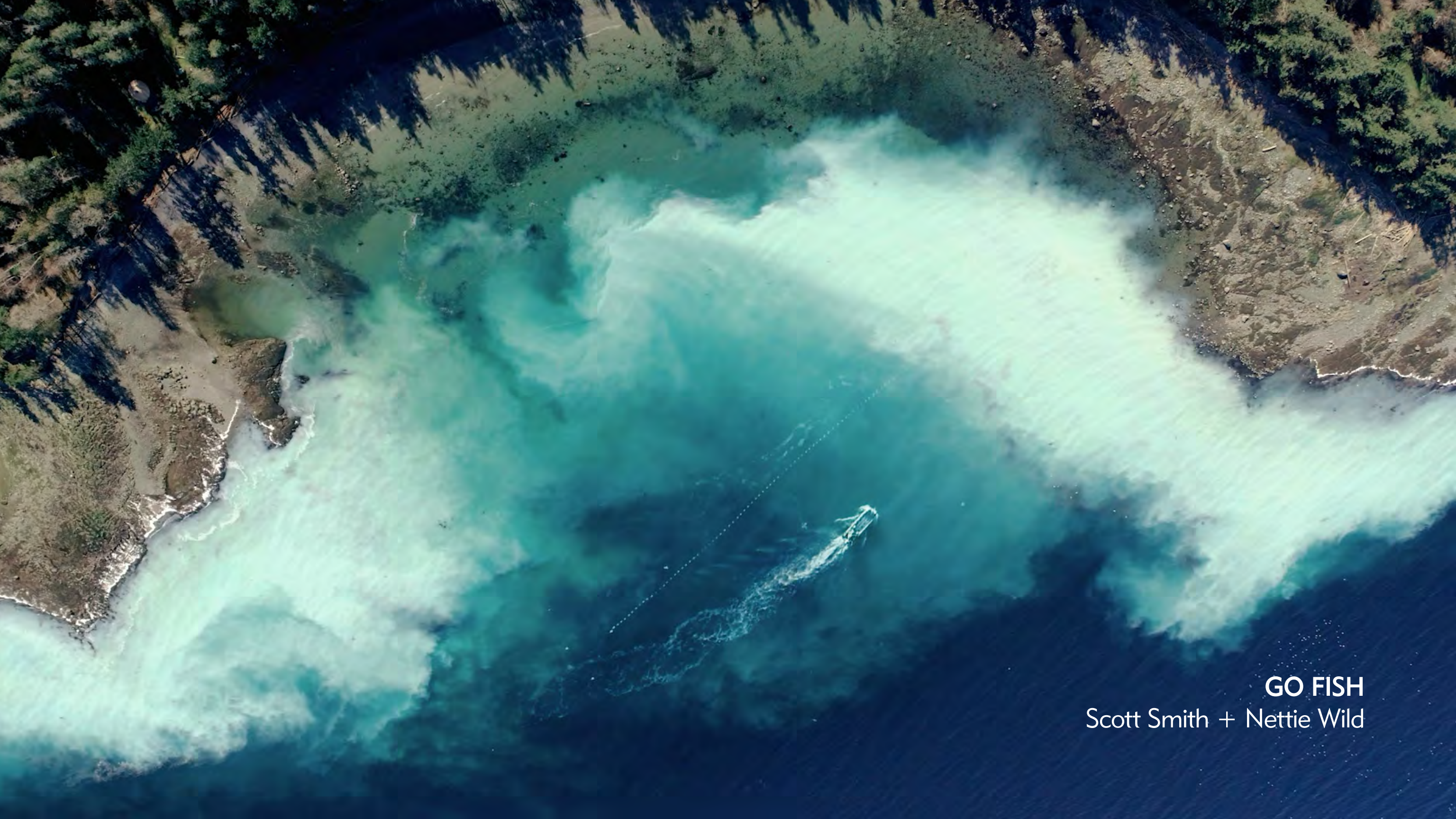
[Convergent Program page](#)

[Install album](#)

[Exhibition album](#)

[Exhibition Opening video](#)

[Exhibition Opening album](#)



GO FISH
Scott Smith + Nettie Wild

GO FISH | Scott Smith + Nettie Wild

April 12 – May 27, 2023

A three-channel video + audio experience that immersed viewers.

Each year, hundreds of millions of herring return to the Salish Sea, their spawn painting a milky turquoise collar along its shores. For a few chaotic days, the sea is transformed. GO FISH asks the question, if the herring set the table, who comes for dinner?

14 minutes | 3 channel output

Editor and Sound Designer – Michael Brockington

Cinematographer – Scott Smith

Composer – Owen Belton

[Exhibition page](#)

[GO FISH trailer](#)

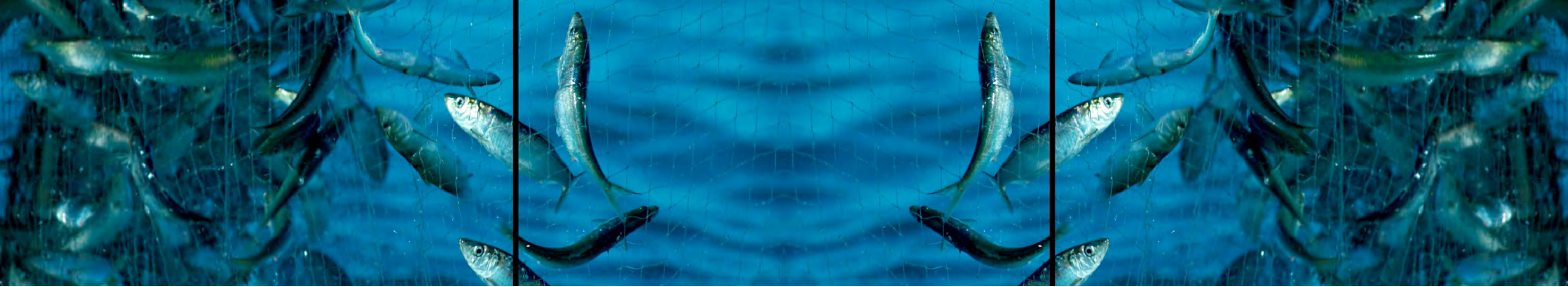
[Exhibition Opening video](#)

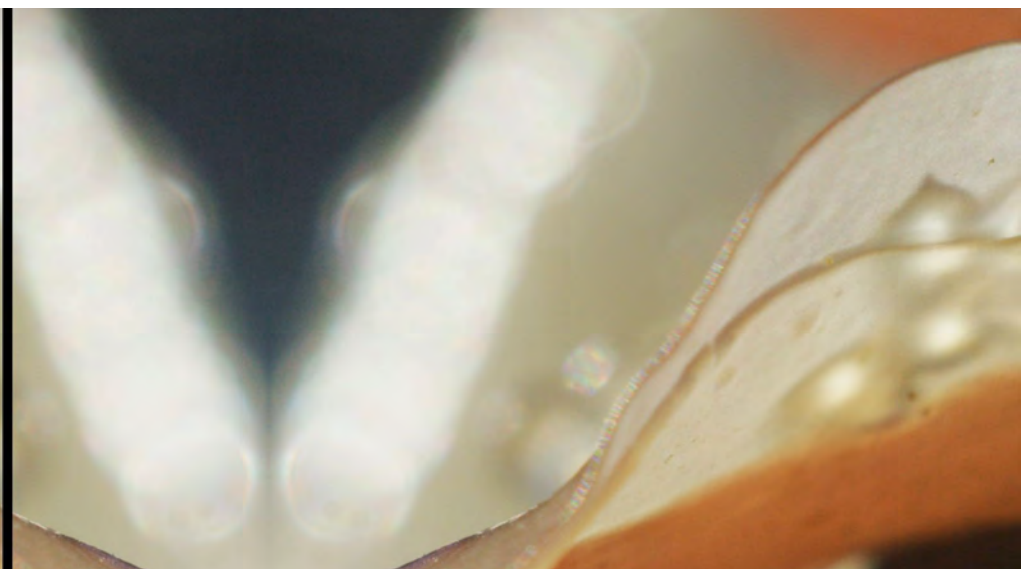
[Exhibition Opening album](#)

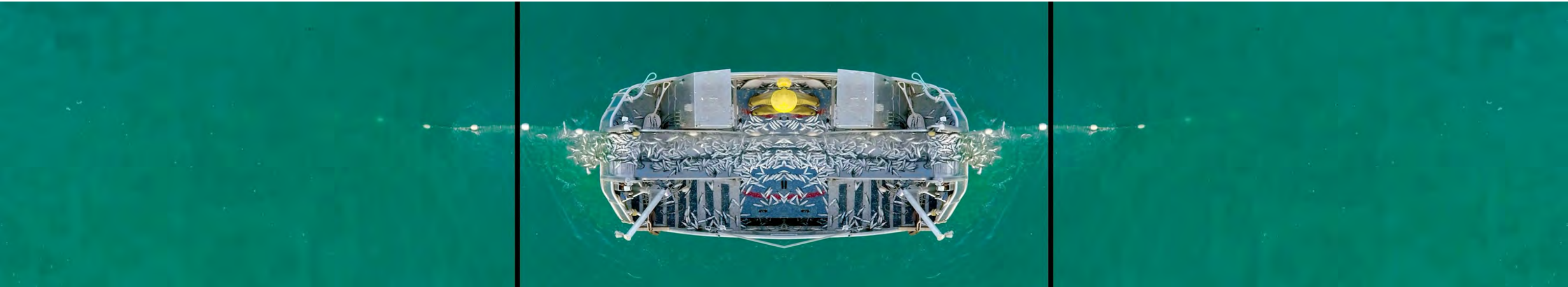
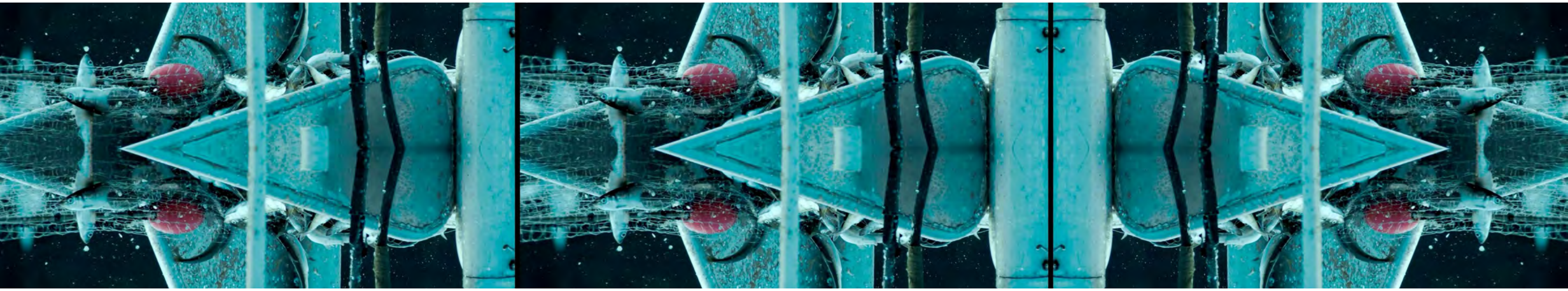
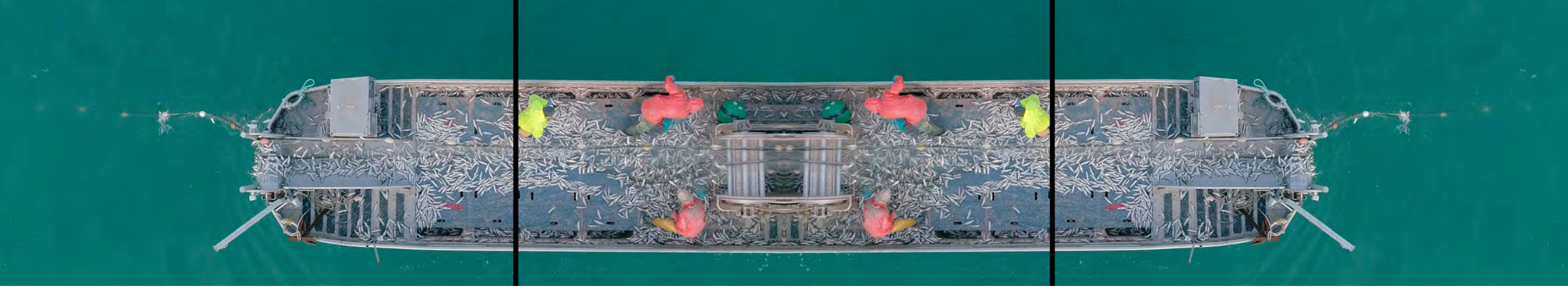
Acknowledgments: Canada Council
for the Arts, BC Arts Council, GO
FISH Capital Campaign
– presentation equipment

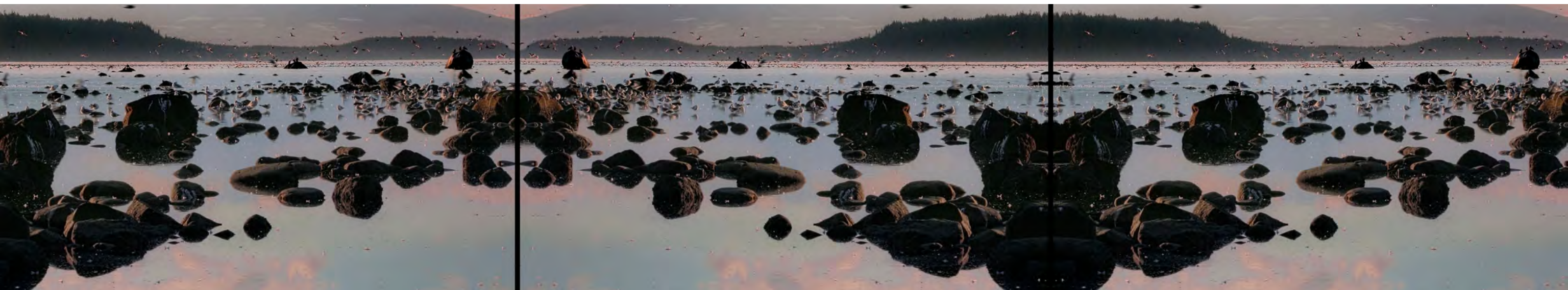














Images: courtesy of Scott Smith + Nettie Wild



as the wind blew: the ground beneath me | at the water's edge | in its path

Sarah Crawley

AS THE WIND BLEW: THE GROUND BENEATH ME | AT THE WATER'S EDGE | IN ITS PATH

Sarah Crawley

April 12 – May 27, 2023

Presented in the Main Gallery, *as the wind blew: the ground beneath me | at the water's edge | in its path* comprised three bodies of work exploring grief, loss, and healing.

Ethereal lens-based images portray investigations at the place where land meets the water's edge. Utilizing pinhole photography, lumen printing, and video, artist Sarah Crawley has explored embodied experiences of loss and vulnerability.

[Exhibition page](#)

[Exhibition Opening video](#)

[Exhibition Opening album](#)

Acknowledgments: Manitoba Arts Council, Winnipeg Arts Council, City of Winnipeg, John Ervin



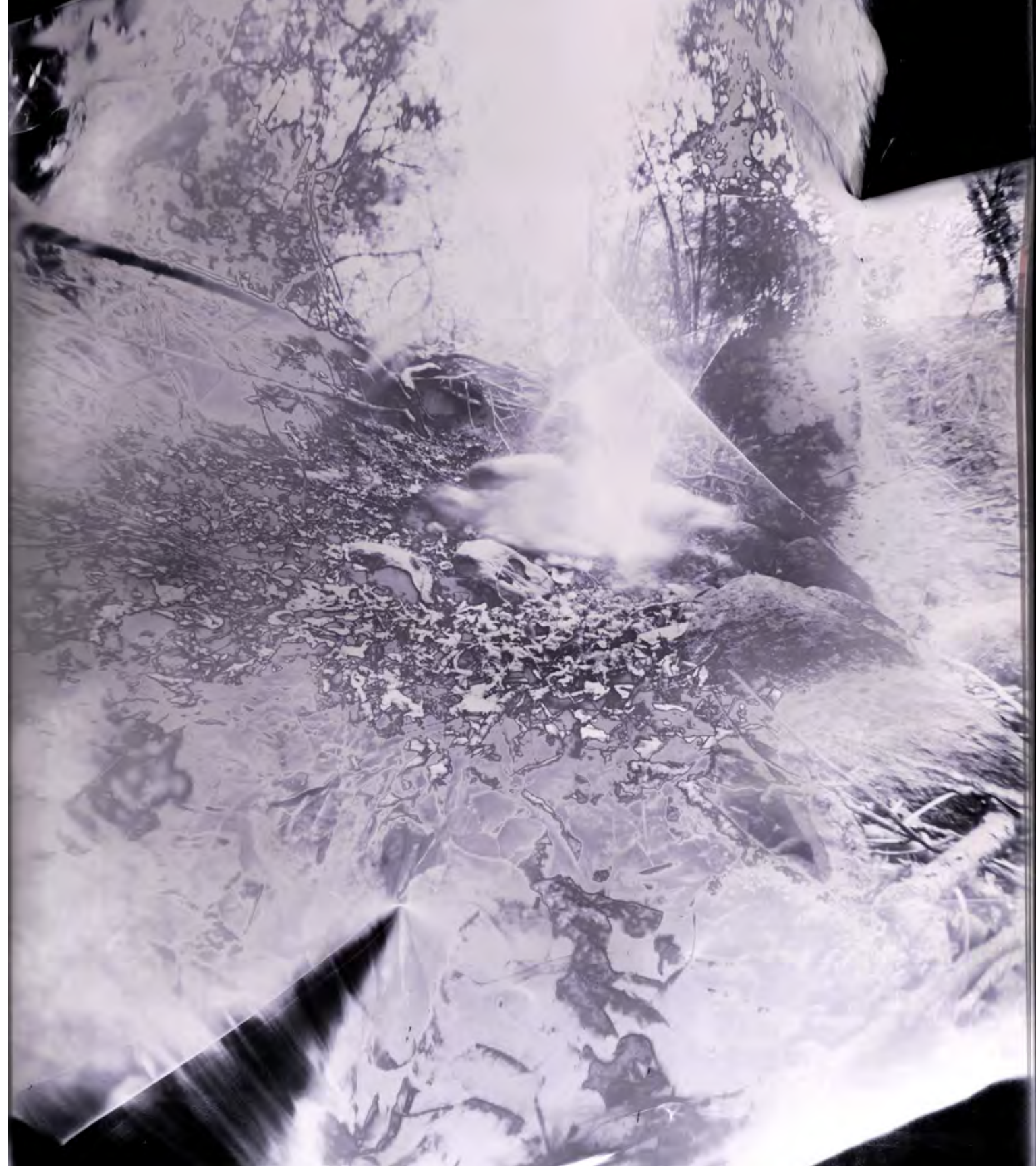
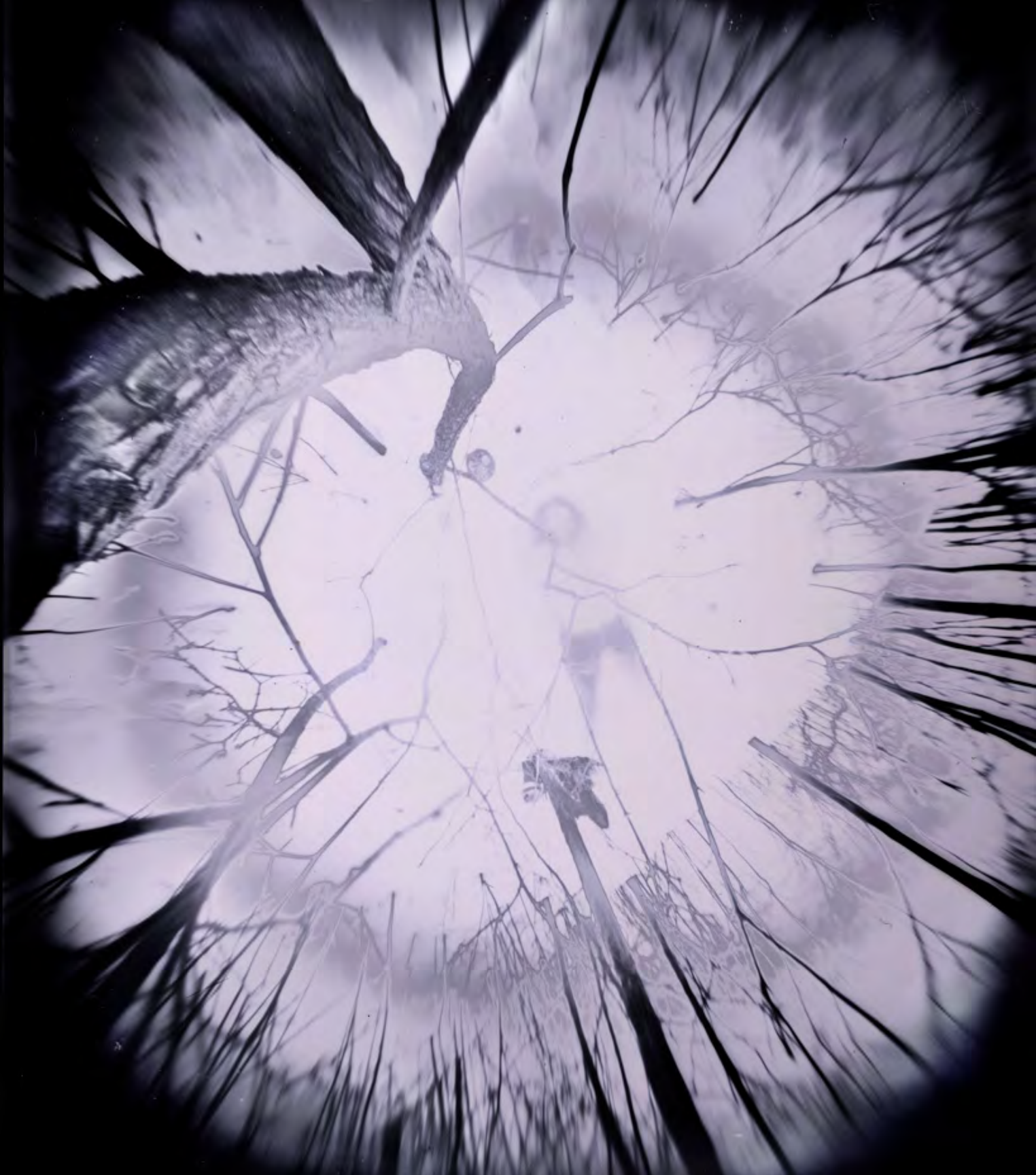




Sarah Crawley

as the wind blew:
the ground beneath me,
at the water's edge,
in its path







Sarah Crawley

as the wind blew:
the ground beneath me,
at the water's edge,
in its path



COASTAL CAMERA OBSCURA III
Donald Lawrence



COASTAL CAMERA OBSCURA III | Donald Lawrence

April 12 – May 27, 2023

A floating camera obscura in the waters surrounding K'ómoks (Goose Spit) and ephemera in *Gather:Place* at the Comox Valley Art Gallery were a locus for encouraging broad-ranging audiences to consider histories of the surrounding lands and of the interplay between art/science and learning/play while engaging in a micro-adventure.

OFF-SITE INSTALLATION:

Participants had the opportunity to enter this floating, tent-like structure by kayak or other small watercraft.

GATHER:PLACE AT CVAG:

Images, drawings, concept models + plans, and publications that described the development and site-specific presentations of the three iterations of the *Coastal Camera Obscura* developed so far.

[Exhibition page](#)

[Exhibition Opening video](#)

[Exhibition Opening album](#)

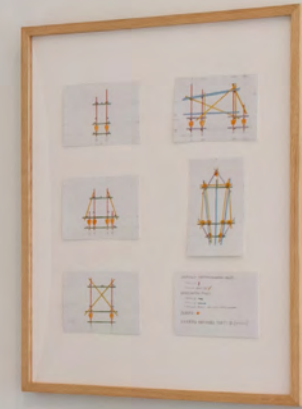
[On-the-Water Experience album](#)

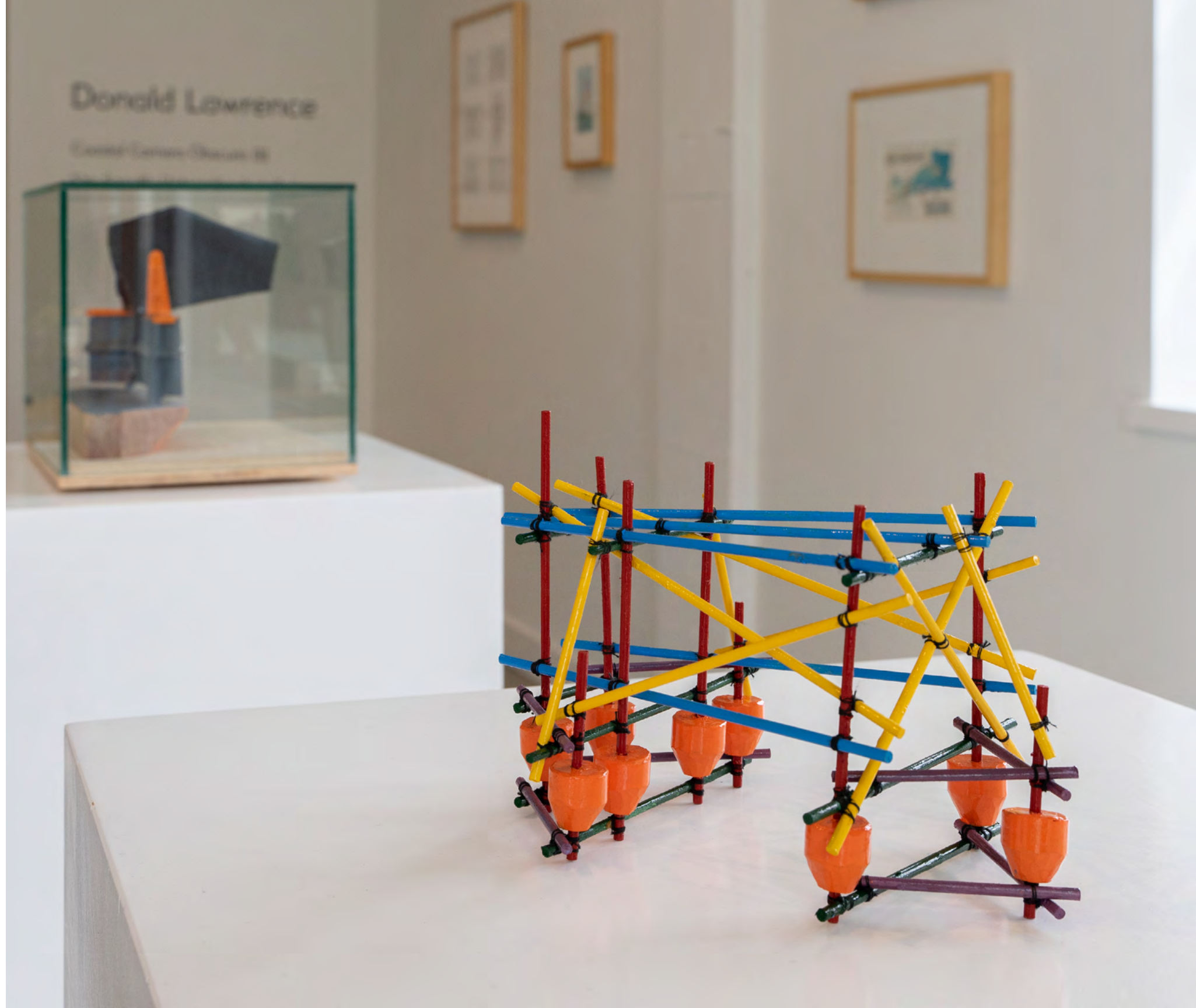
Acknowledgments: Thompson Rivers University, Comox Valley Kayaks + Canoes, Dulux Paints Nanaimo

Donald Lawrence

Coastal Camera Obscura III

Site-Specific | Interactive Installation







A hand-drawn map of a coastline. The land is colored in shades of green and blue, and the water is blue. A white area represents a bay or inlet. A small circle is marked on the land. Two callout boxes with yellow borders and black outlines contain text. One box points to the circle, and the other points to the white area. In the top left corner, there is a small sketch of a building or structure.

COASTAL CAMERA OBSCURA III

ON-THE-WATER EXPERIENCE

May 12 – 14, 2023

PELXQIKW - GOOSE SPIT
KAYAK LAUNCH SITE







LOOKING AT THE WORLD OUTSIDE FROM INSIDE THE COASTAL CAMERA OBSCURA III



EXHIBITION OPENING





WALK WITH ME
2020 – ongoing



Image: courtesy of Caresse Nadeau

WALK WITH ME

2020 – ongoing

STORY WALKS | COMMUNITY ACTION + RESEARCH

Walk With Me is an arts-based community action project that seeks to uncover the human dimensions of the toxic drug poisoning crisis as it has unfolded locally. Within and through it, a group of artist-researchers, front-line workers, and people with lived and living experience have banded together in a spirit of solidarity, attempting to come to terms with the impact of the crisis on individuals and community groups through a practice of story sharing.

Story Walks are guided audio journeys that bring participants through various outdoor “reflective spaces”. Communities and groups are invited to walk and listen, and to sit together — responding to the stories in a sharing circle. Through this process, communities are encouraged to find connectedness with the people and places at the heart of the toxic drug poisoning crisis.

[Project page](#)

[Walk With Me website](#)

[Policy Report](#)

Acknowledgments: AVI Health +
Community Services, Vancouver
Foundation, BC Arts Council, Island
Health, Thompson University







Images: courtesy of Caresse Nadeau



YOUTH MEDIA PROJECT
2012 – ongoing

YOUTH MEDIA PROJECT

2012 – ongoing

The Comox Valley Art Gallery's Youth Media Project uses digital media, creative facilitation, and artistic collaboration as a framework for youth to create media for community action. Those who come through the program end up creating long-lasting connections not just with each other, but with other community members and organizations in the Comox Valley.

The Youth Media Project provides intensive hands-on training in video production, sound design, and other media skills. This program is open to anyone from the ages of 16 to 30 who is interested in learning how to create videos that tell stories and inspire community discourse. We recruit five participants per 13 week session.

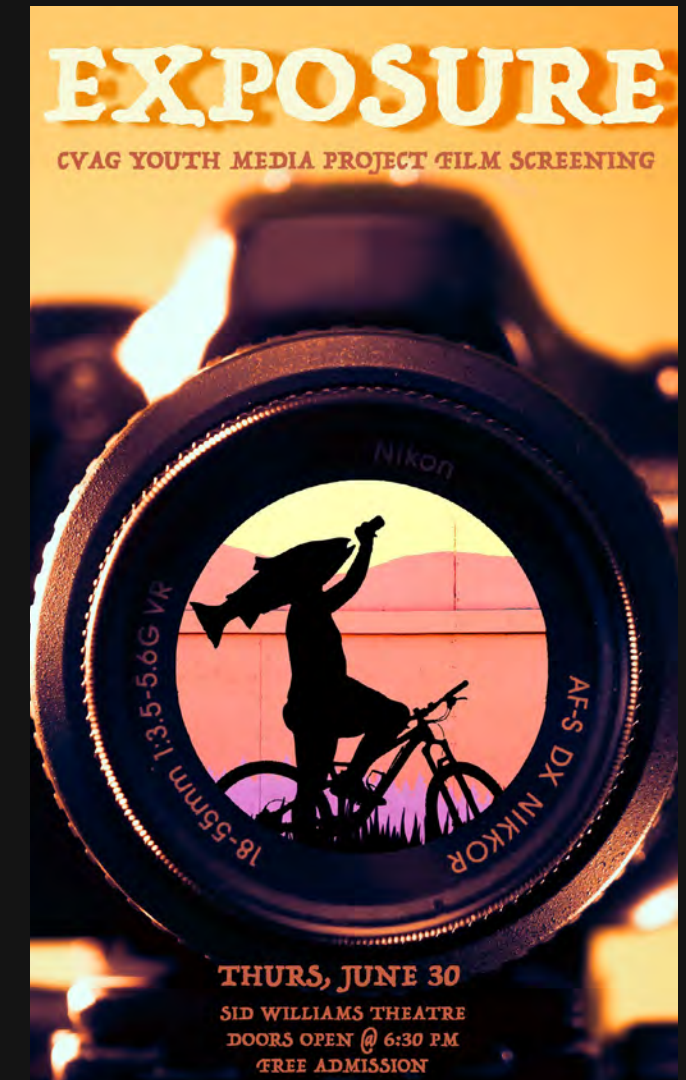
Participants create two films: one independent film that speaks to what they would like to see done better in our community, and one film in collaboration with a small business or community organization that celebrates the sustainable work that is being done in the Valley.

Acknowledgements: Service Canada, Imagine Comox Valley, Wachiy Studio, Creative Employment Access Society

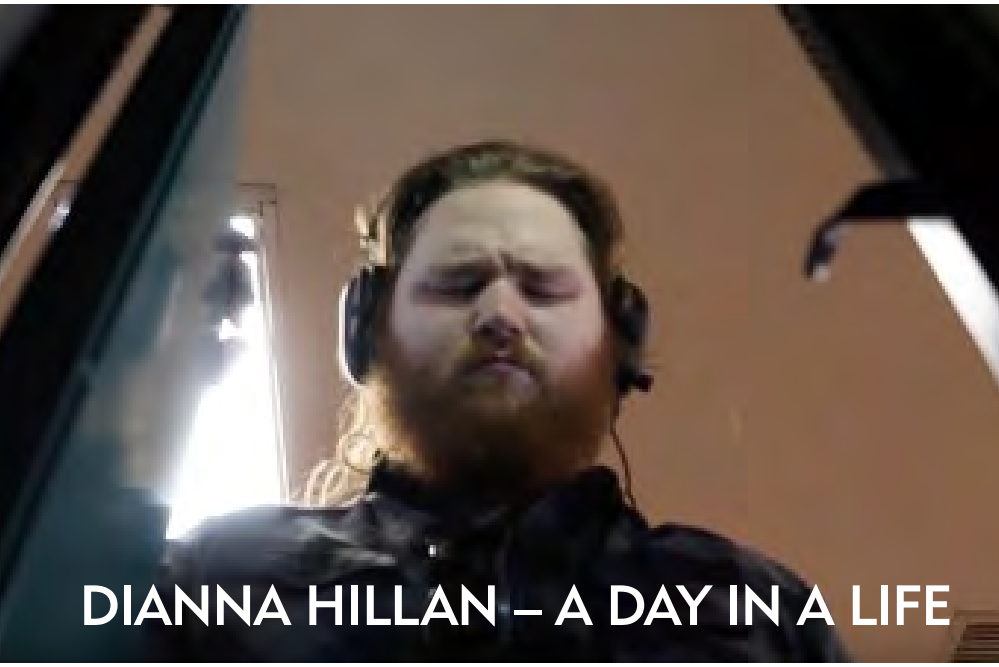
[Project page](#)

[YMP 2022 - Part A](#)

[YMP 2022 - Part B](#)



A Day In A Life won Best Drama at the Qathet International Film Festival.



DIANNA HILLAN – A DAY IN A LIFE



DAN BEAULE – CITYSAFE

With skills gained from the program, Dan went on to create *Citysafe*.



ZOE BUTTON – ASHES TO ASHES

CVAG FILM SERIES

[Project page](#)

The Comox Valley Art Gallery Film Series is a selection of titles from the Toronto International Film Festival Film Circuit. We normally present two Film Series each year — one in the winter/spring and one in the fall. CVAG staff and volunteers organize the film series, and proceeds go towards our ongoing programming.



CVAG
VISION · ART · CULTURE
FILM SERIES



OFFICIAL COMPETITION



RUN WOMAN RUN



PHANTOM OF THE OPEN

CVAG FILM SERIES | TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FILM CIRCUIT
Bi-annual series – ongoing



SCARBOROUGH



FIRE OF LOVE



PETITE MAMAN



SUMMER MAKEART SERIES
2014 – ongoing

CVAG
VISION · ART · CULTURE
TODAY

JOIN US TODAY!
2-6 PM. MAP FIELD NOTES
Community collaboration with Hudson-Carter's exhibition.
Work in a field notebook to record your observations and more!

All ages welcome
This is a FREE event!

Share your experience with us on Instagram and Facebook
@cvagartgallery
#CVAG #summermakeartseries #communityart

SUMMER MAKEART SERIES

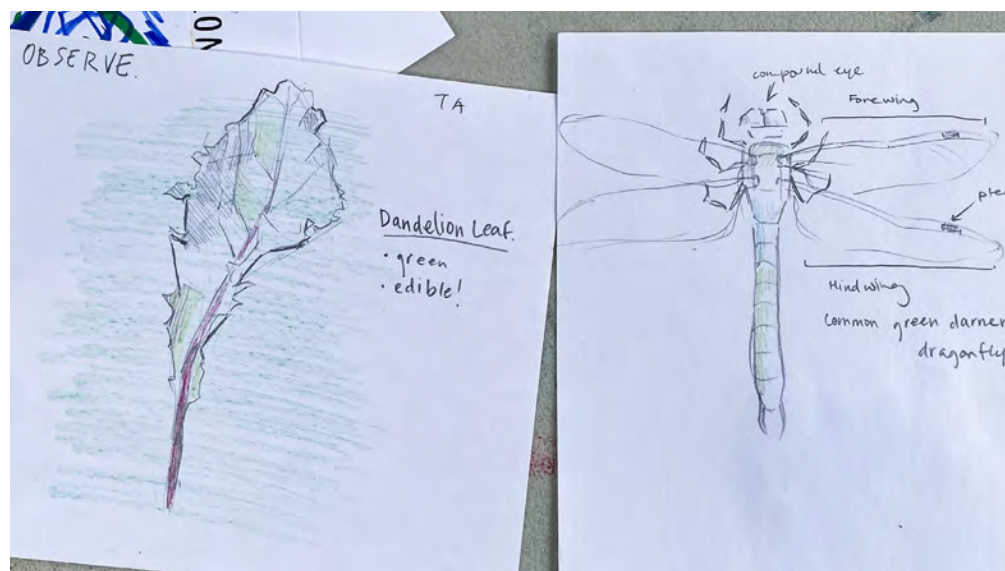
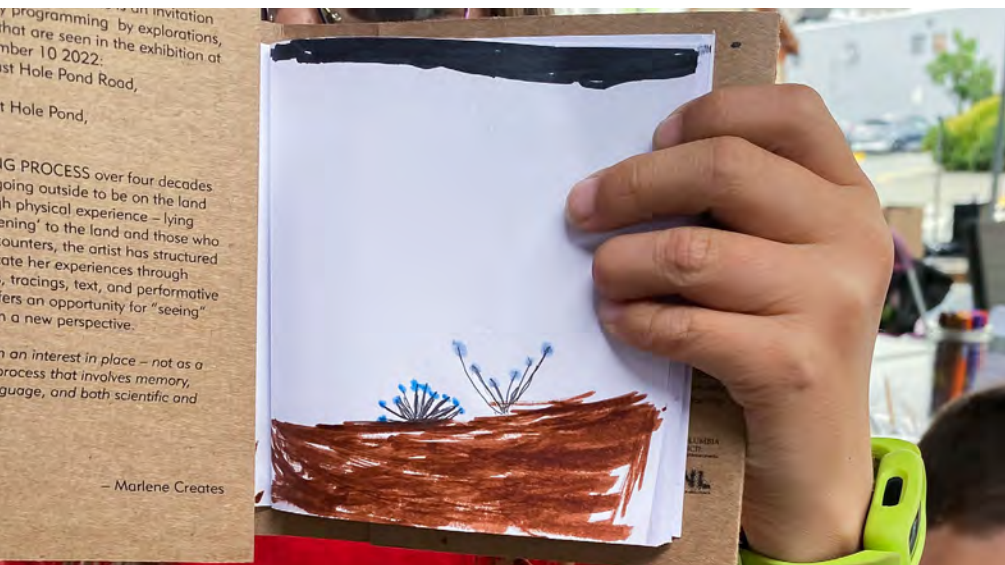
2014 – ongoing

[List of Events](#)

[Activities album](#)

SUMMER 2022 MAKEART SERIES + EVENTS | June 15 – September 10, 2022

Community MakeArt Projects are an invitation to engage with the current gallery programming by explorations, observations, and conversations. Hosted by artists, gallery staff and volunteers, these maker events are open to all ages.













PUBLIC PLACE : SACRED SPACE
2017 – ongoing

PUBLIC PLACE : SACRED SPACE

2017 – ongoing

PLACE NAMING | WELCOME POLES | INDIGENOUS FULL CIRCLE TEA GARDEN |
CROSSROADS | TOUCHING EARTH BODIES | NUMP MA NOCHE GYAI YOO LAHSS / WE ALL
COME FROM ONE ROOT | HONOURING: SPEAKING TO MEMORY / PROJECT OF HEART |
NORTH ISLAND HOSPITAL ART PROJECT

This ongoing multi-year program integrates themes of welcoming, gathering and healing through the incorporation of Indigenous place-naming, installations, public art, a full circle tea garden, exhibitions, cross-cultural sharing, performance, video screenings, workshops, gatherings and residencies. The undertaking was a collaboration between the Comox Valley Art Gallery, participating artists, curators, Elders, the K'ómoks First Nation community and the City of Courtenay.

Together, the components in this program are seen as a step toward reconciliation and recognition of the historic relationships the K'ómoks peoples have had with this Valley for thousands of years.

Exhibitions page

Public Place : Sacred Space
publication

North Island Hospital Project
publication

Making of Welcome Poles album

Planting of Indigenous Full Circle
Tea Garden album

Unveiling Ceremony album

Install of Crossroads album

Acknowledgments: Canada Council
for the Arts New Chapter program,
First Peoples' Cultural Council,
U'mista Cultural Centre, Project of
Heart Canada, and many more



CVAG PLAZA







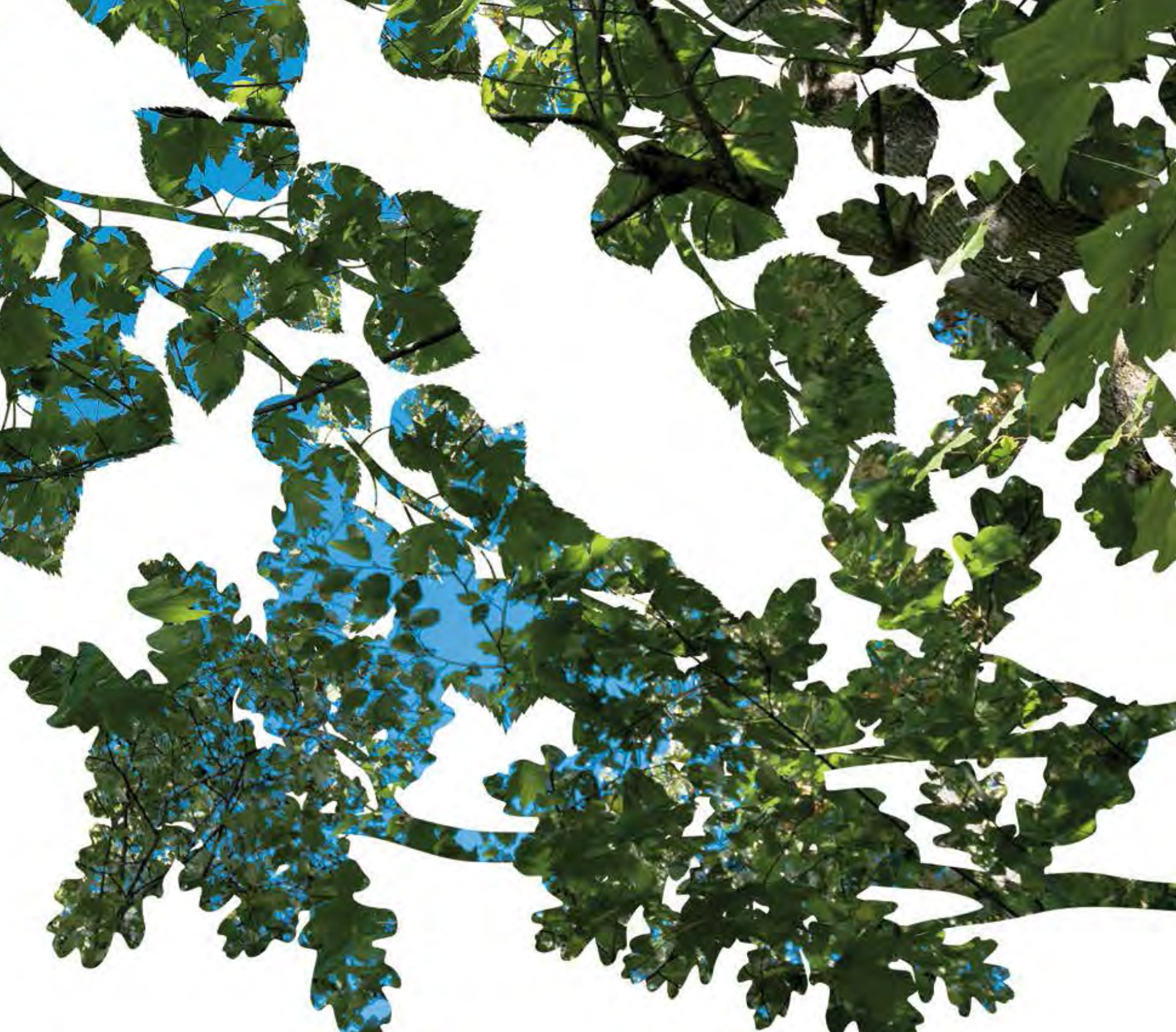


COMOX VALLEY ART GALLERY

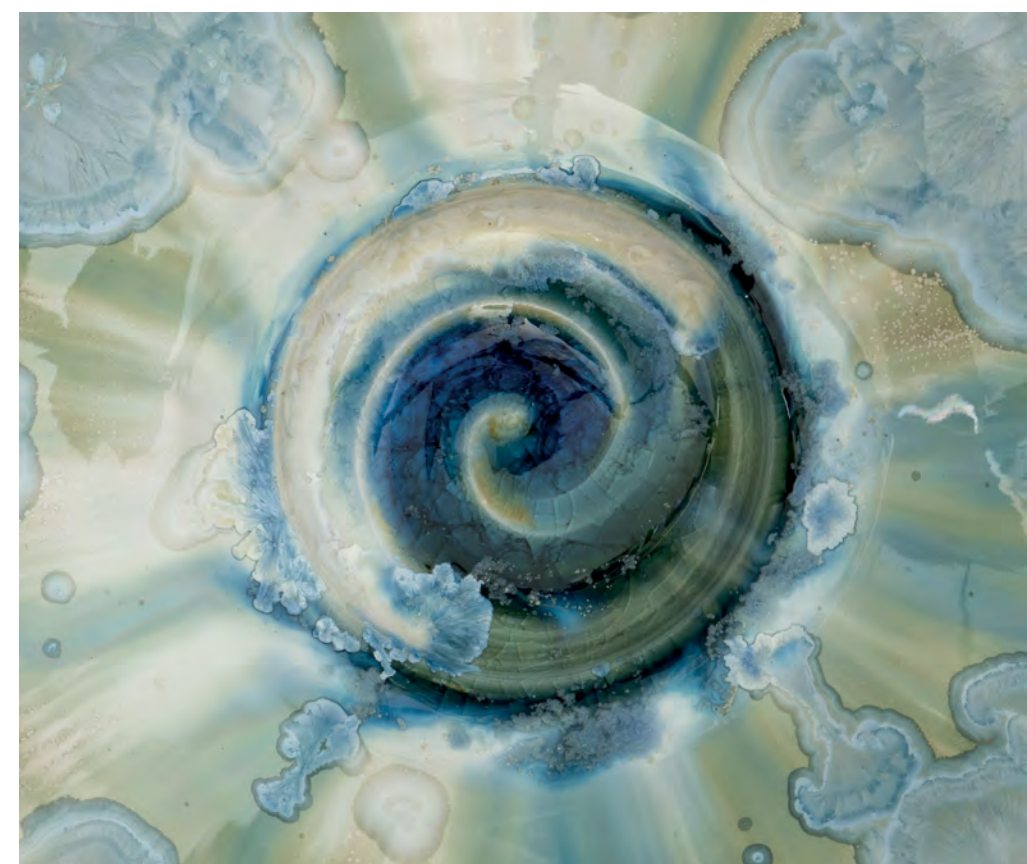
6TH STREET
DUNCAN AVENUE

Marlene (...)
Blast Hole Pond Road,
2002-2021
10 September, 2022

ENTER







HONOURING PROJECT OF THE HEART – LAKE TRAIL SCHOOL

This exhibition is a responsive legacy project that honours the intent of two projects; *Speaking to Memory: Images and Voices from St. Michael's Indian Residential School* and *Project of Heart: Illuminating the Hidden History of Indian Residential Schools in BC*.



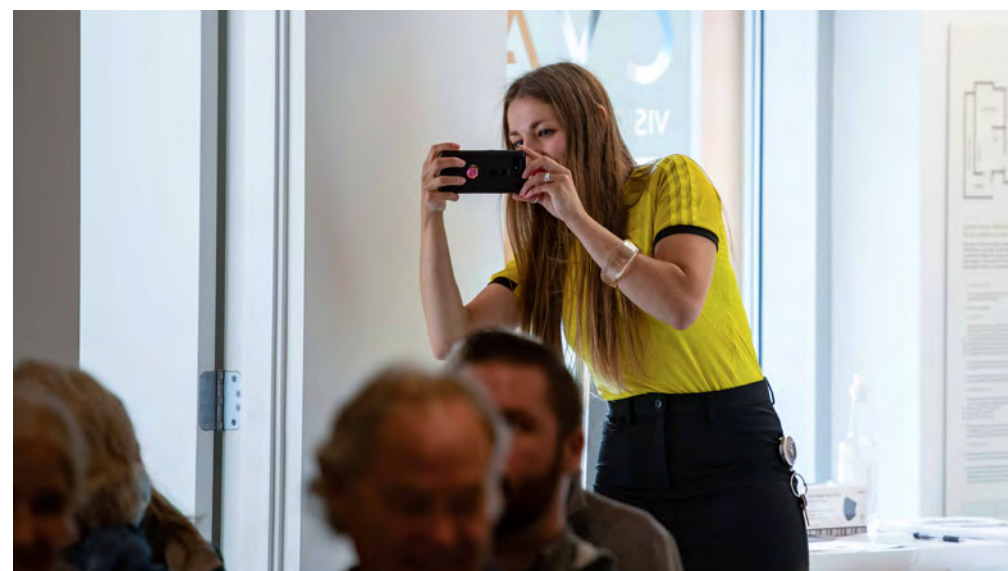
BEHIND THE SCENES | INSTALL



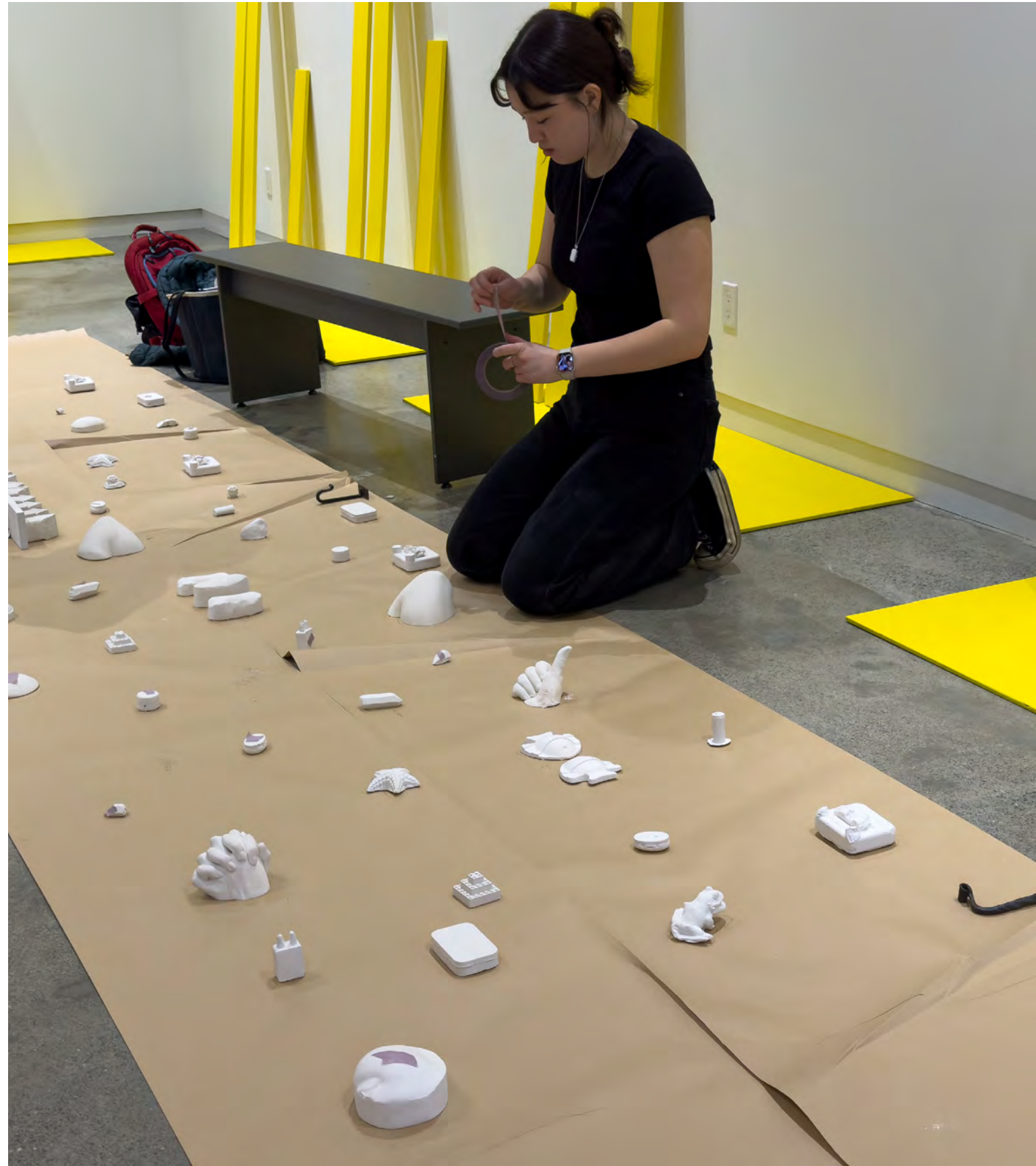


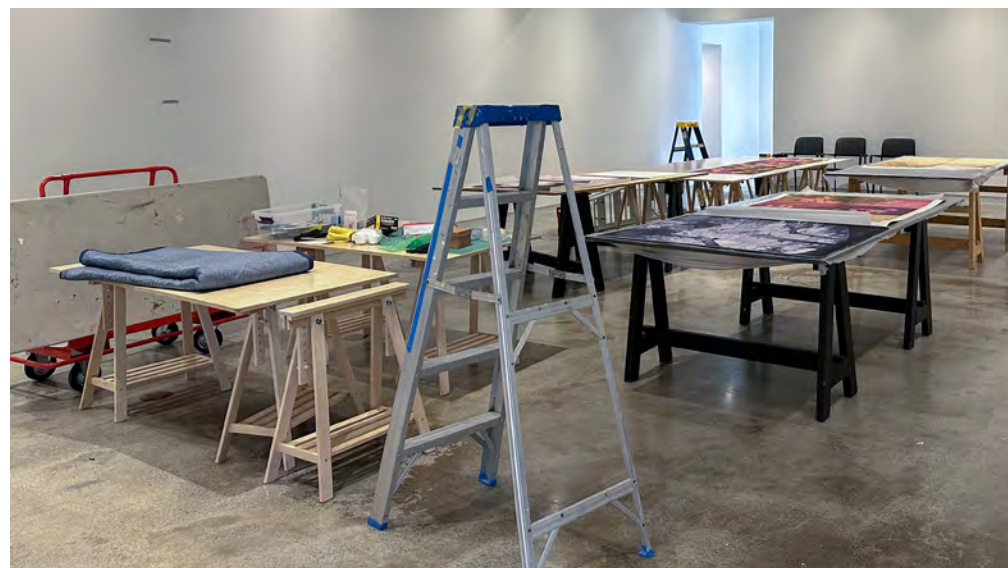












Each year, hundreds of millions of herring return to the Sea,
their spawn painting a milky turquoise collar

For a few chaotic days, the sea is transformed.







THANK YOU | GILAKAS'LA



580 DUNCAN AVENUE COURTENAY BC V9N 2M7
250.338.6211 | COMOXVALLEYARTGALLERY.COM

HOURS: WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY 10-5
ADMISSION: DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

The Comox Valley Art Gallery would like to acknowledge that we are located upon the Unceded Traditional Territory of the K'ómoks First Nation. CVAG recognizes the enduring presence of First Nations people on this land.

The Comox Valley Art Gallery is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with artists, writers, guest curators + community partners. CVAG's convergent programming is made possible through the support of our volunteers, donors + members | Funders: Canada Council for the Arts, BC Arts Council, Government of Canada, Province of BC, City of Courtenay, Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland, Comox Valley Regional District, BC Gaming, Winnipeg Arts Council, Manitoba Arts Council, Swedish Arts Council, Newfoundland + Labrador Arts Council | Local Support: ABC Printing + Signs, School District 71, Innov8 Digital Solutions, Sherwin-Williams Paints, Lacasse Construction, Progressive Systems, Phi Architecture, Pacific Audio Works, Shine-Eze Ltd., Muir Engineering Ltd., Izco Technology Solutions, Cumberland Village Works, School District 71 Print Shop, Safe + Sound Window Film, Westcoast Home Theatre, Industrial Plastics + Paint, Comox Valley Kayaks + Canoes, Dulux Paints Nanaimo | Community Collaborators: Healing Dance Sacred Circle, Ikwe Noojim Niimi Idiwin, SD 71 Indigenous Learning, Kumugwe Cultural Society, Project Watershed, Wachiay Studio, MakeltZone, Imago Theatre, McLoughlin Gardens Society, NIC Fine Arts, Digital Design, + ECCE programs in conjunction with CV+CR Early Learning Centres

CVAG AGM and documentation production contributors include: Alun Macanulty, David Lawson, Taylor Robinson, Marlee Barry, CVAG interns and staff

