

a cvag convergent program

IN THE WATER

everywhere we turn there is water / the land and our lives flow with it

program: 9 january – 29 february 2020 / art opening, talks, make art: 18 january

knowledge sharing rooted in making, growing + collaboration

In The Water enfolds artist KC Adams's creation, production + community residency *Singing to the Water* and her exhibition *Birchbark Technology*; along with the collaborative community incubator –Water (re)Source

KC ADAMS / EXHIBITION: BIRCHBARK TECHNOLOGY

new works on paper, installation, community collaboration, ceremony, 2017– ongoing
video program, 2017 – ongoing: *Nibi gaa-bimaaji'iwemagak (water gives life)* 3:45 min. /
Kani Pat 1:20 min. / *A Different View* 1:30 min. / *Wabigan (Clay Firing)* 8:01 min.

COMMUNITY + PRODUCTION RESIDENCY: SINGING TO THE WATER

This work explores the relationship I have with my ancestors' territorial land and water ...I am interested in my ancestors' knowledge and how they worked with land and water technologies to thrive. – KC Adams

WATER (RE)SOURCE / COMMUNITY INCUBATORS AT CVAG

A REPOSITORY FOR WATER

invites community contributions + collaborations throughout the program, in the Gather:Place

DRAWING WATER

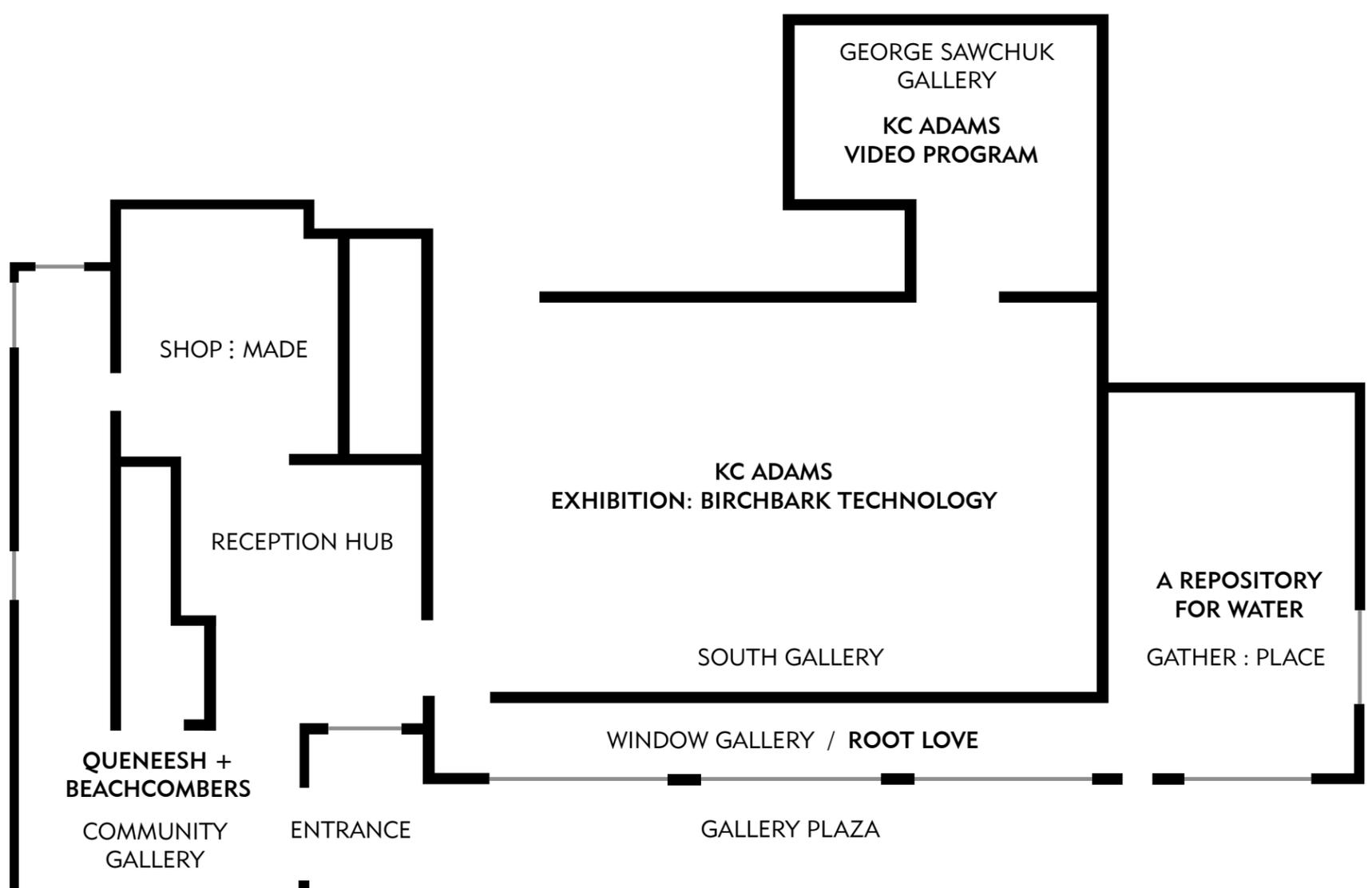
arts-based explorations by Queneesh Elementary students + muralist Jason Craft, in the Community Gallery

WATER CYCLES

environmental research + art by Beachcomber Academy students and educators, in the Community Gallery

ROOT LOVE

interactive window exhibition inviting community – bring (non-invasive) cuttings + rootings to share and exchange



KC ADAMS / BIRCHBARK TECHNOLOGY

PART 1 2017– ongoing / new works on paper, installation, ceremony

“I am currently creating new work called *Birchbark Technology* – digital prints of circuit boards and birchbark, embellished with painting and beading, that explores the relationship I have with my ancestors’ territorial land and water. I am of Cree and Ojibway descent and I have been taught that we all relate to our environment and that we can’t be separated from it. We must live in balance with the land and waters to protect all our relations, which includes all current and future living entities. I am interested in my ancestors’ knowledge and how they worked with land and water technologies to thrive. Their knowledge carries a wealth of wisdom and experience including the importance of balance, and their ability to adapt to new technologies. *Birchbark Technology* is about embracing past and current technologies to help guide us towards a better relationship with land and water.”

PART 2 2017 – ongoing / video program

“In the summer of 2015, I traveled to Grand Rapids and I was moved by the people who are walking the path of their ancestors. They are Ki-tah-pah-tumak aski ethinewak (Keeper of the Land). They are using all their knowledge and power to protect the land and waters in their community. The Ki-tah-pah-tumak aski ethinewak have a strong spiritual connection to Mother Earth. They understand that it is their responsibility to practice humility, reverence and reciprocity towards the land. I will be working on a video about how the land, water and the Indigenous people are affected by the building of a Hydro Dam in Grand Rapids Manitoba. The content is derived from images, video, interviews and poetry by former Grand Rapid resident Duncan Mercredi.”

SINGING TO THE WATER 9 – 18 January, 2020 / creation, production + community residency

At the core of the residency, KC worked on site at CVAG to develop and produce components of *Birchbark Technology*, a body of work that embraces traditional and contemporary technologies. The artist’s creative practice engages the local community through the act of making and ceremony to whet the “blood memory” of our fundamental relationship to the land and to water. KC held space for exchange and facilitated the making of wood nettle cordage and clay pinchpots. Some of these elements have been woven into the exhibition. A video has been made of KC speaking about the work that comprises the exhibition and the link can be found on CVAG’s website.



KC ADAMS is a Winnipeg-based artist who graduated from Concordia University with a B.F.A in studio arts. Adams has had several solo exhibitions, group exhibitions and been in three biennales including the PHOTOQUAI: Biennale des images du monde in Paris, France. Adams participated in residencies at the Banff Centre, the Confederation Art Centre in Charlottetown, the National Museum of the American Indian and the Parramatta Arts Gallery in Australia. Her work is in many permanent collections Nationally and Internationally. Twenty pieces from the *Cyborg Hybrid* series are in the permanent collection of the National Art Gallery in Ottawa and four trees from *Birch Bark Ltd*, are in the collection of the Canadian Consulate of Australia, NSW. She was the scenic designer for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet’s *Going Home Star: Truth and Reconciliation*. She helped design a 30-foot public art sculpture entitled *Niimama* for the Winnipeg Forks and a piece for the United Way of Winnipeg entitled *Community*. Adams was awarded the Winnipeg Arts Council’s *Making A Mark Award* and Canada’s Senate 150 medal recipient for her accomplishments with her *Perception* photo series.

COMMUNITY INCUBATORS

WATER (re)SOURCE

A REPOSITORY FOR WATER invites community contributions + collaborations throughout the run of *In The Water* convergent program (ongoing until February 29, 2020)

A *Repository for Water* holds a collection of multi media work, community stories, water samples, resource links, and the contributions of various local and more distant artists. The incubator is a source for collective consideration of our memory, perceptions, experiences, concerns and relationships with the water that surrounds and permeates everything in our world. This incubator project begins with contributions from artists: Liz Carter, bobbi denton, Tom Elliott+Angela Somerset, Kim Holmes, Spencer Shehan-Kalina, Bran Mackie, Gabrielle Moore, Renee Poisson, Sara Vipond, Project Watershed (Emily Carr student collaboration). Ongoing individual and community contributions are welcomed during the run of the convergent program *In the Water* (until February 29th). Bring water samples from a source that is special to you. Include a short story / memory / poem / drawing / photograph about the source of the water, for inclusion in this community incubator.

DRAWING WATER arts-based explorations by Queneesh Elementary students + muralist Jason Craft

Over the past months students (K- Grade 6), educators, and artist Jason Craft, have worked together to create the concept for the new mural in the welcome foyer of Queneesh Elementary. The mural reflects the watery world that the Comox Valley is steeped in. *Drawing Water* comprises 300 works by students that Jason responded to as the foundation for the mural. CVAG's production team has created a video slideshow showcasing this dialogue and the work that has taken shape as a result. "The Mural at Queneesh Elementary was a very special project for me, as well as the school community. All students at the school were asked to do a drawing for the mural, based on the school's unique identity and local environment. Some of which were then used to create the final design. I painted the mural over the winter break, which made it exciting for the students to come back to. I have been painting murals professionally for 15 years and generally use a similar process to involve students. It thrills me to see young people get excited about art. I believe involving young people in art cultivates patience, perseverance and problem solving. Doing art is also very beneficial for their self-worth and gives them a sense of accomplishment and ownership. The students at Queneesh were exceptionally creative and enthusiastic, which culminated in a very successful piece of art." – Jason Craft

WATER CYCLES environmental research + art by Beachcomber Academy students and educators

Water Cycles is a collection of site specific studies the students (all ages) have been engaged in over the past months, as they consider the implications of the cycles of tides and geological / aquarian eras that their school site is situated in. Work presented includes: Little Oysters Preschool - shoreline + salmon study; Dolphin Class - flora + fauna at sea level; Older Students - coastal flats to sub-alpine watershed; photographic documentation by CVAG curators as part of a site-visit at the school.

ROOT LOVE interactive window exhibition inviting community / bring (non-invasive) cuttings + rootings to share and exchange (ongoing until February 29, 2020)

Root Love began in December 2019 with a living wall and plant sharing project and continues as part of *In the Water*. This community engagement project offers opportunities to come together to share knowledge rooted in making, growing and sharing. Non-invasive plant cuttings can be brought to the gallery for rooting in water in the living wall installation in the CVAG window gallery. In exchange, rooted plants can be taken home. During the art opening on Saturday, January 18, a plant and knowledge sharing station will provide a nodal point for community connection to share and exchange exchange cuttings. Water and small handmade plant-transferring containers can be made. Materials are supplied, along with instructions. The station will remain available to the community throughout the duration of *In The Water*.



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

The Comox Valley Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges 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.

CVAG gratefully acknowledges the support of 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, Project Watershed, BC Gaming, SD71 Print Shop, Sherwin-Williams Paint Store, ABC Printing, Little City Signs and North Island College. We especially thank our volunteers, donors + members.



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