STAY INFORMED

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While you’re there, sign up for News & Updates!
As the new Surrey Art Gallery Director—succeeding Liane Davison, who recently accepted the position of Surrey’s Manager of Culture—I am so pleased to welcome you to our fall season, which celebrates the TechLab’s 20th anniversary.

We invite you to join us for Garden in the Machine—a group exhibit featuring groundbreaking Canadian digital media artists along with crucial emerging voices—and Sentient Circuitries, a digital media art symposium with leading artists from around the world. In our feature article, you can read more about the TechLab, propelled by the experimentation of many amazing artists.

As you may know, the Gallery is a class “A” art museum with key digital and new media artworks in our permanent collection, such as Nancy Paterson’s The Machine in the Garden (1993). Several of these artworks were made possible as acquisitions by the Surrey Art Gallery Association, who are celebrating their 35th anniversary this fall. To envision what is next needed to support art, artists, and audiences, the Gallery is beginning a Digital Art Strategy funded through the Canada Council for the Arts.

The Gallery is additionally very honoured to share news of receiving a national award from the Canadian Museums Association for outstanding achievement in education. This award recognizes our Indigenous contemporary art initiatives that have grown from work that began in the 1990s.

This seasonal guide invites you to our talks, tours, artmaking workshops, and more for children through to seniors. Explore your curiosity with family and friends in our exhibits and related events, as well as with our many talented artist-educators.

In the coming months, we look forward to learning about our changing world with you through the lens of digital art.

Alison Rajah, Director, Surrey Art Gallery
Growth, mutation, and permutation define the digital as much as the natural world. To mark the past 20 years of digital art programming, the Gallery is presenting new and recent work from leading artists in this field.

Their work examines the complex relationships between computer technology and the natural environment. Through large-scale images and objects, the artists invite visitors to question the limits of the technological and biological, the cultural and natural world.

In her series Data Mulch, photographer Helma Sawatzky connects the act of composting organic matter with the specific characteristics of digital culture. Using images from the compost bin at Vancouver’s Granville Island Public Market, she shows how excess and accumulation mark our contemporary digital condition. Like composting, the digital itself is rooted in processes of decay, breakdown, and disintegration.

Faisal Anwar’s massive video CharBagh uncovers the link between algorithms and Islamic art and design. Surrey residents have contributed images via social media that respond to the artist’s questions about climate change. Anwar translates and integrates the results in the form of geometric patterns based on historical Islamic garden design.

Robert Youds explores the garden in a different manner in For Everyone a Fountain. Using computation, he translates photographs of an iconic public garden in British Columbia into coloured light sequences. These images appear in a tower of gleaming metal objects and office materials.
In *Unceded Territories*, VR artist Paisley Smith teams up with painter and sculptor Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun. Their virtual reality experience questions the very nature of video game play. It also asks us to reflect on the effects and limits of our extraction-based economic system and the mythical worlds that surround us.

Hovering between film and photography, Leila Sujir’s *Forest Breath* uses stereoscopic 3D video to portray a section of dense woodland on Canada’s West Coast. The artwork encourages us to consider the role of old-growth forests as a space to contemplate mortality and embodied healing.

Artists: Faisal Anwar, Helma Sawatzky, Leila Sujir, Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun and Paisley Smith, Robert Youds

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**NOV 16–FEB 2**

Filipino Music and Art Foundation
This group pays homage to an all-time favourite inspiration: nature. Experience the artists’ muse through richly painted scenes that evoke their love for the natural world. The artworks celebrate the verdant abundance of both the Philippines and Canada. Their vision generates a unified theme of concern for the role of artists in advocating for a clean and sustainable environment.

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**AUG 24–NOV 9**

The Nature of Things: Artswest Society
This Surrey-based non-profit group presents a new series of artworks from its members. Paintings of people, plants, and landscapes showcase the talents of local artists from all levels of experience.

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**EXHIBITIONS**

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*Leila Sujir, installation image of Forest Breath, 2018, stereoscopic 3D video lightbox with stereo audio.*

*Donna Schipfel, Enchanted, 2019, watercolour on rice paper.*

*Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun and Paisley Smith, Unceded Territories (detail), 2019.*

*Tessa Dichupa, Breeze, 2016, polymer varnish with matte finish.*
When a viewer pulls a custom-designed slot machine arm, video from thematic areas appear on three nearby screens: imagery of war and destruction on the first; talking heads of politicians, game show hosts, and religious figures on the second; and children’s programming and television commercials on the third. 729 video combinations are possible. The “jackpot” image that concludes the video sequence is the same woman’s face with hands covering her eyes, ears, and mouth displayed in a random order.

At The Arts Wire Interactive Art Conference in 1996, Paterson said: “For some people, The Machine in the Garden is a game and they can’t quite get past the idea of needing to win. For others, there is the Buddhist motif of ‘see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.’ I hope this work speaks to people (perhaps on a subconscious level) about gambling and spirituality and how they meet and merge in the culture of new electronic technologies.”

The artwork title comes from the name of a book by Leo Marx in 1964 that discusses the trope in nineteenth-century American literature of technology interrupting the pastoral landscape.

We are thrilled to have this artwork by such a pioneering Canadian media artist in our collection. Nancy Paterson (1957–2018) was a significant figure in the cyberfeminist movement and frequently made work examining the relationships between women and technology.

By Charlene Back, Communications Coordinator
Installation view of Faisal Anwar’s *CharBagh* presented on the façade of the Aga Khan Museum, Toronto as part of Nuit Blanche in 2016.

**SEP 24–JAN 5**

**Faisal Anwar: CharBagh**

*CharBagh* illuminates the west façade of Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre with ornate geometric patterns. Modelled on the traditional grid compositions of Persian gardens, each pattern grows and shifts in response to data generated on social media and collected by the artist. Anwar’s project is developed in collaboration with community members who have contributed images of landscapes, plots, and gardens south of the Fraser River. *CharBagh*’s presence at UrbanScreen is an extension of its installation at Surrey Art Gallery and grows out of Anwar’s community workshops discussing themes related to sustainable food production, climate change, and peoples’ changing relationships with nature.

**THU, SEP 5 | 7:30–9PM**

**Thursday Artist Talk: Fiona Tang, “Drawing Without Fear”**

Fiona Tang’s large animal drawings aim to impress with their sheer size. In her talk, Tang will share her drawing process, including how she uses trompe l’œil (meaning “deceives the eye”) to create the illusion that the animal is coming out of the paper. Her hope is to reverse the passive relationship between humans and animals.

**SAT, SEP 7 | 11AM–3PM**

**Offsite Ceramics Demonstration**

Look for one of our Gallery ceramics instructors at Fleetwood Festival in Fleetwood Community Centre to demonstrate throwing techniques on the pottery wheel. Find out about the Gallery’s programs and plan your fall art adventures.

**WED, SEP 18 | 8–9:30PM**

**UrbanScreen Community Art Night**

Visit UrbanScreen at Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre for an evening of digital art! See screenings of films made by local youth, animations made by participants in the Gallery’s Art Together program with artist-in-residence Cindy Mochizuki, and a live, interactive version of Faisal Anwar’s *CharBagh* project.
SAT, SEP 21 | 6:30–9PM
Artists in Conversation and Opening Reception
Celebrate the opening of our fall group exhibition Garden in the Machine. A conversation with artists Faisal Anwar, Leila Sujir, and Robert Youds will start at 6:30pm; reception follows at 7:30pm.

THU, OCT 3 | 7:30–9PM
Drawing on examples from his long career and worldwide travels, Ron Long illustrates how he has dealt with the challenges of capturing nature ranging from Nudibranchs (or sea slugs) to birds in flight and almost everything in between. Long will also share photography techniques for the amateur and professional.

WED, OCT 16 | 7–8:30PM
Exhibition Tour
Hearing anecdotes, stories, and thematic connections can make art come alive. Learn more about the digital works in Garden in the Machine in an informal tour with conversation led by Surrey Art Gallery curator Jordan Strom.

SAT, OCT 19 | 6–8:30PM
SAGA Competitive Sketch off
Learn more about the process behind an artist’s creation. Join the Surrey Art Gallery Association as a selection of illustrators face off in four rounds. Take part as one of the artists or enjoy being in the audience, meeting others, and participating in a hands-on art activity. For more information, email vp@sagabc.com.

SUN, OCT 20 | 11AM–3PM
Family Sunday
Drop in to create, experiment, and enjoy art with friends and family! Engage in activities that respond to the exhibits with hands-on artmaking and thinking through interactive technologies. Be inspired by nature and digital mediums with exhibiting artists such as Helma Sawatzky.
SAT, OCT 26 | 2:30−4PM
**Artists’ Talk**
Hear exhibiting artists Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun and Paisley Smith discuss their virtual reality collaboration **Unceded Territories**. Visit the VR display in the Gallery before and after the event. The VR component of this installation is available for public viewing Thursdays between 3 and 7pm.

WED, OCT 30 | 9AM−3PM
**Contemporary Art Bus Tour**
Hop on our bus to see art in Vancouver’s Mount Pleasant area, including Western Front, Grunt Gallery, and Burrard Art Foundation. Led by a Surrey Art Gallery curator, participants will experience art in a range of media, see what artists are making today, and learn about new gallery trends. $39. Check the Events section of our website to register.

THU, NOV 7 | 7:30−9PM
**Thursday Artist Talk:**
**Suzie Hartford,** *“A Garden of Wings”*
Angel wings are Suzie Hartford’s canvas through which she expresses feelings of love and gratitude. Using mixed media, she designs and builds one-of-a-kind, handmade angel wing sculptures for mounting on a wall. For her talk, she will be sharing over a dozen different sets of angel wings, some almost two metres tall.

SAT, NOV 16 | NOON−4:30PM
**Sentient Circuitries: Digital Media Art Symposium**
Marking the 20th anniversary of the Gallery’s TechLab program, we are convening a gathering of leaders in digital media art to take the pulse of the field today and to speculate where art practices are moving to in the future. This is the first year that our annual symposium will include both sound and visual art with a focus on interactivity. Convened by Brady Marks and Jordan Strom with keynote speaker Beryl Graham.

SAT & SUN, NOV 23 & 24 | NOON−5PM
**Heart to Home Holiday Market**
SAGA’s annual holiday market is back for another round of delightful holiday shopping! Find one-of-a-kind gifts ranging from photographs and jewellery to ceramic mugs and fused glass bowls handmade by local artists. There’s something for everyone on your list! Read more on page 26.

THU, DEC 5 | 7:30−9PM
**Thursday Artist Talk:**
**Yvette Lauer,** *“The Art of Death”*
What scares us most can often bring the most liberation in our art practice. Surrey-based artist Yvette Lauer will walk through history, looking at different cultures’ reflections on death through art. She will then take the audience through her own musings on death through paintings that honour and explore the passing of loved ones and jobs in her own life.
Art Together
Make art, meet friends, and share your ideas! This is a unique opportunity to create do-it-together art projects and learn a range of art media shoulder-to-shoulder with emerging to established mentoring artists. Free drop-in, everyone welcome.

Join us on select Wednesdays:
Sep 18 (8–9:30pm, interactive projection with Faisal Anwar at UrbanScreen)
Oct 16 (4–6pm, electronics workshop with Karen Cancino at the Gallery)
Nov 20 (4–6pm, spoken word and poetry with Tawahum Justin Bige at the Gallery)

For more info, contact a Gallery Engagement Facilitator at artgallery@surrey.ca.

Students tour Many Visions, Many Versions: Art from Indigenous Communities in India in 2018.

Teachers, bring your class for a tour and workshop connected to your curriculum!

Post-Secondary Tours
Want to bring your post-secondary class to the Gallery? We’ll work with you to plan and book a learning opportunity through a tour and activities that connect with your course content. Contact Interpretive Programmer Cecily Nicholson at gallery.schools@surrey.ca.

School Programs
The Gallery’s School Programs cultivate understanding and excitement about contemporary art for K-12 students and teachers through tours and workshops at the Gallery, online resources, and workshops in schools. To learn more, visit surrey.ca/galleryeducation.

Welcome Tour and Ceramics Workshop
This free tour and workshop introduces settlement service groups to the Gallery as a place of learning. We start with an accessible tour of the current exhibits, followed by a ceramics activity where participants are invited to make hand-built vessels and sculptures with clay. To register, contact Interpretive Programmer Cecily Nicholson at gallery.schools@surrey.ca.
The Gallery initiated the TechLab program as a response to new developments in contemporary art underway in the 1990s. The prevalence of computer-based art forms was rapidly expanding and the needs that artists had for making and presenting art were quickly changing. By the end of the century, the general public’s interest in computers was at an all-time high. Growing dependence on the Internet for information access and social engagement was becoming more essential.

In the spring of 1999, the Gallery constructed and equipped a temporary digital media lab within its main exhibition hall. This was the birth of the TechLab. After rolling out a year-long series of exhibitions and related programs, an additional year of programming was added and the TechLab opened as a permanent facility in 2002.

The TechLab became a venue for art practices that were often too experimental to be shown in other art museums. Touch-based interactive sculpture, robotic drawing machines, database-driven films, generative sound art, embodied cinema, Google Streetview Tableau photography and aerial drone videos are just some of the projects we debuted.

Since its inception in 1999, Surrey Art Gallery’s TechLab has showcased over 70 digital media art exhibitions with close to 150 artists.

The Gallery became a venue for experimental art practices that were often too experimental to be shown in other art museums. Touch-based interactive sculpture, robotic drawing machines, database-driven films, generative sound art, embodied cinema, Google Streetview Tableau photography and aerial drone videos are just some of the projects we debuted.

What was once an emerging art form is now a dominant one around the globe and we feel privileged to have been a part of it.

By Jordan Strom, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections
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Mixed media artist Katina Giesbrecht creates artworks through drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. She specializes in monotype art—a form of printmaking that results in one unique print. Katina enjoys teaching and draws inspiration from the creative environment. This fall, Katina will teach Colour Theory and Printmaking for Beginners for adults, and Colour Exploration and Printmaking Magic for children at Surrey Art Gallery.

FEATURED CLASS

What’s your favourite colour? Colour is a complex subject that plays a major role in many forms of art. Adults and children alike can explore what makes colour so special. Discover how you mix and create colours and learn about the colour wheel, the visual perception of colour, and the visual effects of different colour combinations through several exploratory projects.

**Colour Exploration (7–10yrs)**
Wed, Oct 23—Nov 13, 5–6:30pm
4683554 $49.80

**Colour Theory (16+yrs)**
Wed, Oct 23—Nov 13, 7–9pm
4683555 $47.20

ADULT

**Acrylic Painting for Absolute Beginners**
Tue, Sep 24, 7pm [8]
4682304 $94.40
Instructor: Pauline Tiongson

**Digital Photography—Unlocking Your Camera’s Potential**
Sun, Nov 3, 1–4pm [1]
4683518 $60.00
Instructor: Pardeep Singh

**Colour Theory**
Wed, Oct 23, 7pm [4]
4683555 $47.20
Instructor: Katina Giesbrecht

**Drawing for Absolute Beginners**
Thu, Sep 26, 7pm [7]
4680344 $82.60
Instructor: Alexandra Thomson

**Guided Life Drawing**
Tue, Oct 15, 6:30pm [6]
4680308 $177.90
Instructor: Claire Cilliers

**Printmaking—Beginners**
Wed, Sep 25, 7pm [4]
4683553 $47.20
Instructor: Katina Giesbrecht

**Tools to Overcome Creative Block**
Sat, Nov 30, 10am–5pm [1]
4683524 $85.00
Instructor: Jennifer Clark

**Watercolour: Expressions in Transparency**
Wed, Sep 25, 7pm [4]
4680334 $94.40
Instructor: Ali Sepahi

ADULT POTTERY

**Pottery for Beginners**
Tue, Sep 24, 9:30am [10]
4680338 $229.30
Tue, Sep 24, 7pm [10]
4680339 $229.30
Instructor: Murray Sanders
Thu, Sep 16, 7pm [10]
4680340 $229.30

**Continuing Pottery**
Wed, Sep 25, 7pm [10]
4680336 $229.30

**Registered Open Studio Plus**
Sat, Sep 28, 10am [8]
4680343 $262.72

**Drop-in Pottery Studio**
Adult students registered in a pottery class also have access to the pottery studio on a drop-in basis. These non-instructional sessions allow you to use our studio to practice on the wheel or finish work started in class. Only clay purchased onsite can be fired in our kilns. Workshop entry for each four-hour session must be purchased from the front desk prior to your studio time. $8 per 4 hour drop-in session
Do you find art captivating? Why not try something new! Volunteering at Surrey Art Gallery is a great way to have fun, learn about art, and make friends in the process.

Here are some ways you can get involved:

**Docents (Tour Guides)**
Join a dynamic community of volunteers dedicated to enriching art education for children! Surrey Art Gallery Docents lead engaging tours of contemporary art exhibitions from September to June. Participants take part in ongoing training with curators, art educators, and artists.

**Gallery Event Volunteers**
Interact with artists and engage Gallery visitors with contemporary art and ideas. Help out at vibrant events like exhibition openings and artist talks or facilitate art activities at Family Sundays and festivals where families explore, enjoy, and create art together.

**Children’s Art Program Assistants (CAPA)**
Share your passion for art with eager young minds! Help out in art classes and camps for young artists. As a CAPA, you’ll develop leadership skills, organize studios, work with children, and assist the artist-educators.

**Youth Docent Program**
Explore contemporary art, hone your presentation skills, develop education programs, and learn to lead. As a Youth Docent, you’ll enhance exhibitions through activities that are both fun and educational.

Applications are being accepted now for upcoming programs. To learn more, get in touch with our Volunteer Program Coordinator, Chris Dawson-Murphy, at artsvolunteer@surrey.ca or 604.501.5198.

Surrey Art Gallery Docents

Docents are educators, typically volunteers, who facilitate tours and education programs at cultural institutions such as galleries, museums, and interpretive sites. It is a long-standing tradition of public service.

Surrey Art Gallery docents have been leading tours since early in the Gallery’s history, making important links between contemporary art and ideas. The docent program provides opportunities to engage with, explore, and discuss contemporary art while demystifying the Gallery, making it a familiar and welcoming place. Our docents are a diverse community though many are retired. It’s a role that appeals to life-long learners.

The efforts of our volunteers substantially benefit the community. Each year, thousands of children attend Gallery tours. Through this, they develop comfort in visiting cultural institutions and in doing so, gain access to these important places of learning. These visits foster the development of visual and cultural literacy, as well as creative and critical thinking skills.

The Gallery’s docent program offers volunteers the prospect of deeper involvement in a dynamic cultural community where participants make lasting friendships and connections. Our next docent training will begin February 6, 2020.

By Chris Dawson-Murphy, Volunteer Program Coordinator

Surrey Art Gallery docent Alex Adam leads an exhibition tour for a visiting school group.
It’s that time of year again! Come browse the beautiful one-of-a-kind creations from artists who are part of Surrey Art Gallery Association (SAGA).

Choose the perfect gift for your friends and families to celebrate the holiday season. Bring along a few of your besties and enjoy some hot apple cider and holiday tunes while you shop and get into the festive spirit.

Margo Harrison has been involved with the SAGA Gift Shop and Heart to Home Holiday Market for many years. She makes adorable lifelike ceramic cats. She says, “As a vendor, I like to do my own Christmas shopping at Heart to Home for unique and unusual items that you can’t find anywhere else!” We’re excited that she’ll be back as a vendor with us again this year. Margo always brings a great attitude and warm smile along with her beautiful creations.

Textile artist Rhonda Philips is a shopper’s favourite with her felted wool hats and scarves and unusual jewellery. She enjoys working the Heart to Home weekend. “The atmosphere is like being invited to a nice party. Everyone is so friendly and having such a great time.”

Heart to Home Holiday Market takes place in the Studio Theatre at the Surrey Arts Centre. We proudly feature amazing pieces from local artists. You’ll find handmade chocolates, ceramics, jams, jellies, hand-felted and hand-knit scarves and hats, jewellery, paintings, prints, photographs, and cards.

We’d love to see you this November!

By Barb Warwick,
SAGA Gift Shop Manager
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