



2022 A YEAR IN REVIEW

THE GORDON AND MARION SMITH FOUNDATION
FOR YOUNG ARTISTS
September 2023



2022

Fund. Curate. Engage

Ensuring funding for visual arts literacy programs in perpetuity

As we reflect on the previous year, I feel it is extremely important to acknowledge the outstanding work provided to the Smith Foundation by the Executive Director, Meredith Preuss, the members of the Board of Directors, all those who worked in various capacities, and, especially, the many volunteers and committee members. The Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists has emerged as a complex organization that successfully has addressed its mandate for more than twenty years.

In late 2018 the directors embarked on a plan to streamline the Foundation by reducing staffing commitments and by reviewing Foundation expenditures. Although unknown at the time, this financial restructuring allowed the Foundation to perform efficiently and productively during the COVID-19 years. The combination of reduced expenditures, the continuing support from individual and corporate donors, and a variety of grants received from various organizations enabled the Foundation to maintain its notoriety in the promotion and support for visual arts education. Again in 2022, the Foundation supported hundreds of young people on their journey to learn about and to develop skills in the visual arts. In 2022 the Foundation continued to provide grants to Artist for Kids (AFK) and other initiatives involving school-aged children. Further, the Foundation provided scholarships for students entering post-secondary art education. In fact, in the past twenty years, the Foundation has supported nearly two hundred thousand school-aged children in school programs, after-school and weekend programs, summer camps, and individually.

Gordon Smith, one of Canada's foremost artists, was also a teacher. He envisioned an organization that would encourage and support young people to grow in a world where they had the interest and skills to appreciate visual art. To accomplish this Gordon worked with art teachers and garnered the support of his contemporaries to provide stimulus to establish Artists for Kids. From that beginning the Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists emerged to provide financial support for AFK, and individual students, and to curate art exhibitions in the community.

I would like to thank all those who have continued to support the Foundation financially, as volunteers, or by attending Foundation activities.

Paul Killeen
Chair
Board of Directors
Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists.



Cover image: Installation view of *We can only hint at this with words*, featuring works by Russna Kaur, M.E. Sparks and Andrea Taylor. Photo Courtesy of Rachel Topham Photography.

Above: Installation view of *We can only hint at this with words*, featuring M.E. Spark's *Cradle*, 2022, oil on canvas, 66" x 62" *Silverfish*, 2022, oil and acrylic on canvas, 52.5 x 70 inches; *Red Flag*, 2022, oil on canvas, 68 x 60 inches; *Cowgirl*, 2022, oil on canvas, 49 x 68 inches. Photo courtesy of Rachel Topham Photography.



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT & LIFELONG LEARNING

For students, exposure to the visual arts plays a vital role in creative and academic development, providing an outlet for emotional expression, a constant source of inspiration and a resource for critical thinking.

Art inspires, produces an unwillingness to settle for what we have and a desire for something better. It is the product and producer of creative activity, change; it is essential for continuous development.

Russell L. Ackoff (1919-2009)
Organizational Theorist

Our belief in the importance of an arts education and working collaboratively with art educators ensures visual arts literacy is seen not as an afterthought to curation, but as the purpose of each step we take. As a result, we have witnessed the impact of art – from a hands-on studio experience, to the first encounter with the Gallery or a great Canadian artwork – and believe that art gives people of all ages essential tools to inform their diverse opinions and learning experiences.

Image: Installation view from *We can only hint at this with words* featuring works by Russna Kaur and Andrea Taylor. Photo courtesy of Rachel Topham Photography.

RAISING FUNDS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Fundraising is core to Smith Foundation activities. Making sure monies are available to support art education programs in our schools, scholarships for post-secondary students pursuing a visual arts education, the production of exhibitions in the gallery for the general public, and community outreach and audience-building activities drive all of our fundraising strategies. Our donors believe in supporting quality arts education, which can transform lives. Correspondingly, many contribute critical funding year after year.

A strong, diverse and increasingly committed source of funding makes the Foundation resilient and able to fulfill its mandate and provide stability of annual programming.

CAMPAIGNS

Fall Fête

Supporters were invited to join us for an evening of music and celebration featuring the musical stylings of the Mike Allen Quartet along with premiere BC Wines. A framed limited edition print by Gordon Smith, entitled *Savary #2* was available by Silent Auction, and raffle tickets were sold for the chance to win a basket including wines, Smith Foundation publications, and merchandise. In total, \$3,426 was raised.

Winter 2022

We partnered with Artists for Kids to connect with our community of supporters before the end of 2022 in a direct mail and online appeal. We offered patrons the opportunity to select which programs they directed their funds to, with options including sending a child to AFK's Paradise Valley Summer Camp, supporting the AFK Artist-in-Residence Program, and funding the celebrated Music at the Smith performance series. Donations over \$100 were incentivized, as those donors were entered into a draw for a Charlene Vickers limited edition print. Together, we raised \$7,575.

INTEREST AND GIVING

Grants and Scholarships

The Smith Foundation received \$124,737.35 in annual interest from our Vancouver Foundation-held endowment fund. These monies, coupled with annual fundraising efforts, allowed us to grant \$85,000 to Artists for Kids and \$7,500 in scholarships to graduating secondary students in North Vancouver, West Vancouver and Vancouver.



Above: Successful bidders of the Fall Fête Silent Auction admiring their newly acquired Gordon Smith print.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF OUR DONORS

The Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists would not be where it is today without the support of its donors, sponsors, grant agencies and other benevolent Foundations. We are incredibly grateful to all who continue to help the organization inspire the next generation of Canadian artists and create a society with a rich visual arts literacy.

\$50,000 or more

Gordon Smith • Annette & Richard Savage • Jennifer Thompson & Kurt Wipp • Syd Belzberg & Joanne Tymkiw • Paula Palyga & David Demers • Joan & Leon Tuey • Eric Savics & Kim Spencer-Nairns • Yoshi Karasawa & Michael Audain

\$25,000 or more

Anna Louie • Cindy Richmond & Ian Wallace • Charles and Julie Bentall • Smith Memorial Fund • Dr & Mrs Jeff & Kaity Stein • Rainer Muller • Ross Penhall • Jacqueline Longstaffe • Alison Molloy & Wade Nesmith • Attila Lukacs • Graham Gillmore • Debbie & Douglas Side • Tim Wyman • Douglas Coupland • Ed Tsumura • Jenifer & Andrew Kadler • Estate of Richard Gordon Charles

\$10,000 or more

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\$5,000 or more

The Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation • David Yau • British Columbia Arts Council • Maureen Buckley • Jo-anne Mahon • Lisa Turner • Lianne Darby • Equinox Gallery Limited • Stein Medical Clinic • Todd Woodward • Will Rafuse • Lincoln Clarkes • Krista Johnson • Lori Goldberg • Wayne Lundin • Homecare West • Donald Ellis • Bruce Wright • Etienne Zack • Brian Howell • Dr Marla Kiess • Gregory Simmons • Donald Steele • Robyn Brasell • William Wishloff • Investors Group Financial Services Inc. • Telus Community Affairs • West Sport Fishing • Patti Glass • Rojeanne & Jim Allworth • Jan & Greg Obertas • Darci Laurient • Pierre Coupey • Christos Dikeakos • Bob Hardman • Foster Eastman • Ingrid & Doug Taylor • Brent Comber • Andy Sylvester • Penelope Wood • Naomi Yamamoto • Sonora Resort Canada • BlueShore Financial • Drinda & Barry Scott • Colleen & Victor Elderton • Fred Pincock • David Aisenstat • Martin Bruckner • Andrea Hamilton & Neil Chrystal • Mrs Andrea Hamilton • Jamie Evrard • Susan Germain • Carla Tak • Robert McKinnon • Rene Rose • James Patillo • Mark Tindle • The Tong & Geraldine Louie Family Foundation

\$1,000 or more

Ainsley Wickerson • Sue Bjorkmark • Judy Cheng • Paul Lee • George Seslija • Marlen Reyes • Pacific Alps Management Ltd. • Heffel Gallery Ltd. • Jay Symons • Rachel Kapsalis • Jodi Beattie • Kyle Washington • John Ferrie • Xuguang Wang • Ann Kipling • Nancy Boyd • Lisa & William Geddes • Dr. Marla Keiss • Ian Thom • Christian Woo • Sylvia Tait • Mark James • Tobin Robbins • Derek Norton • Alison Meredith • Cynthia Sully • Christian Chia • Daniel Birch • Stephanie McCallum • Arthur Symons • June Thompson • Steve Lucas • Devon Abs

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This list includes both in-kind and cash donations from inception to the end of 2022.

AND ORGANIZATIONS

Thank you for enabling accessible cultural programming!

PARC Retirement Living • Audain Foundation for the Visual Arts • The Charles and Julie Bentall Family Foundation • The Christopher Foundation • Freybe Foundation • Hamber Foundation • Joan and Leon Tuey Family Foundation • Michael O'Brian Family Foundation

Canada Council for the Arts • British Columbia Arts Council • North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission • Metro Vancouver Art and Culture Grants

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

OUR SPRING EXHIBITION

Curated by Kate Henderson

Featuring artists Russna Kaur,
M.E. Sparks and Andrea Taylor

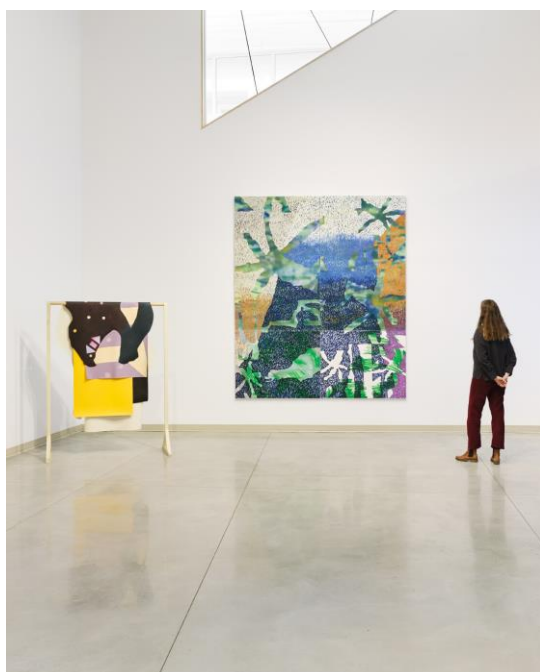
Apr 23 – Jun 25, 2022

Through multisurfaced experiential painting, sculpture, installation, and animation, Russna Kaur, M.E. Sparks, and Andrea Taylor worked to fill in the blanks where words cannot describe the myriad personal, historical, and cultural encounters and occurrences that make up the human experience. In their practices, all three artists share an approach to surface and material, and with their work, each explores the limits and possibilities of their respective mediums.

Through these bodies of work, the artists posed various questions: In what ways can an image be extended, pulled apart, unhinged from its borders, set free? How can mediums with predetermined uses become malleable and unfixed? In what ways are these material concerns a metaphor for how we move through the world as humans—particularly as women?

As a self-published zine, a series of public programs, and as an exhibition, *We can only hint at this with words* attempted to answer these questions. The exhibited works resisted the boundaries of wall and plinth—they crept, folded, and draped throughout the gallery, becoming unfixed, modular, and ever-evolving. The surface of each artwork served as a skin to tell a story. In this way, these mixed-media objects became living, breathing bodies in the room—entities that we, as viewers, can engage in wordless conversation with.

The artists cull from childhood narratives, cultural traditions, and art historical legacies to create new meanings, thereby inserting their own presences into the folds of history. Through the artists' processes of quoting, redacting, and revising histories—both personal and political—they subvert heteronormative, patriarchal legacies, proposing alternative narratives that pull apart and reject problematic and oppressive histories that have become bound to the female body. The exhibition opened up into other wordless worlds that speak to experiential and radical lines of questioning, bodily freedom, care, and rebellion.



Top: Installation view from *We can only hint at this with words*, featuring M.E. Sparks' *Striped*, 2022, oil and acrylic on canvas, 50 x 72 in; *Snaked*, 2022, oil on canvas, 60 x 70 in; *Cradle (No.2)*, 2022, oil and acrylic on canvas, 30 x 36 x 24 in. Photo courtesy of Rachel Topham Photography.

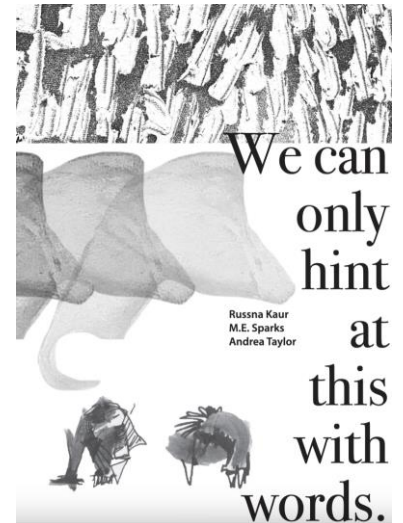
Bottom: Installation view from *We can only hint at this with words*, featuring M.E. Sparks' *Polka*, 2022, oil on cut canvas, 50 x 68 x 2 in, and Russna Kaur's *Stoney space, going from one to another*, 2022, acrylic and spray paint on canvas, 96 x 108 in. Photo courtesy of Rachel Topham Photography.

OUR PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Our public programming is a large part of meeting our mission statement and generating excitement and interest in the North Vancouver community and beyond. North Vancouver is a distinct and vibrant community, and we are happy to offer thought-provoking programs for our neighbors, as well as to art lovers and supporters farther afield.

Spring Exhibition at the Smith

- 25 people tuned in for the virtual artist and writer panel discussion
- Approximately 200 people attended the Spring Exhibition's Opening Reception, which featured a cocktail reception sponsored by PARC Retirement Living



Left: Virtual Contributor Panel, featuring artists Russna Kaur, M.E. Sparks and Andrea Taylor, and guest-curator Kate Henderson. Artwork pictured on screen: Andrea Taylor, *Rêver*, 2022 cardboard, glue, fiberglass, epoxy resin, epoxy putty, canvas, wool roving, acrylic paint, charcoal, oil paint, 16 x 20 x 4 in. Photo by Michael Love.

Right: Cover of *We can only hint at this with words* zine, designed by Vicky Lum and Margery Theroux, with writing by Kate Henderson, Russna Kaur, M.E. Sparks, Andrea Taylor, Yani Kong and Jayne Wilkinson, and edited by Jaclyn Arndt.

Explore and Create

- We offered free family-friendly programming at the Gordon Smith Gallery inspired by works our Spring Exhibition, *We can only hint at this with words*, as well as Artists for Kids' Fall Teaching Exhibition, *Paths*
- 152 children and parents/guardians attended Explore and Create in 2022

Right: Families enjoying a spray painting activity outside the Gordon Smith Gallery inspired by *We can only hint at this with words*.



Music at the Smith

- We offered 8 concerts throughout our spring and fall seasons, selected by Guest Music Curator Sarah Ballantyne

Left: North Shore Chamber Orchestra performing at the Gordon Smith Gallery, spring 2022.



REACHING OUR GOALS THANKS TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are key to our success

From administrative assistance to leadership on the board of directors to attending to the gallery and docent-led tours, volunteers allow us to shine.

Cora Barillaro
Olivia Bird
Christina Capy
Ken Carriere
Laurel Chad
Sakiko Cramer
Sylvia Cromack
Charlene Gavel
Valentina Gvozdeva
Ginnosuke Hama
Kelly Lee
Matthew Leung
Devin Moore
Shari Nelson
Sharron O'Brien
June Sharpe
Ruth Williams

AND SO MANY MORE WHO STEPPED
IN WHEN WE NEEDED THEM.





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