



2023 A YEAR IN REVIEW

THE GORDON AND MARION SMITH FOUNDATION
FOR YOUNG ARTISTS
June 18, 2024



2023 Fund Curate Engage

Ensuring funding for visual arts literacy programs in perpetuity

2023 was a busy and successful year for the Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists. Included among the many successful activities was the Brilliance Gala held in June. Much of the success can be attributed to the foresight and hard work of the Foundation's Executive Director, Meredith Preuss. Aiding Meredith, were the Foundation Directors and first time volunteers with the Foundation, many of whom made up a dynamic Gala Committee. Additionally, the event was supported by nearly thirty artists, and generous corporate and individual sponsors. On behalf of the Foundation, I would like to thank everyone who worked to make the event a success and thank all the guests who generously support the Gala.

The Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists continues to progress on a sound financial position while at the same time supporting Artists for Kids, providing scholarships for graduating high school students in Vancouver, West Vancouver, and North Vancouver, and continuing to support young people in their pursuit of visual art literacy.

Each year I wish to acknowledge the role played by Gordon Smith in the development of visual art experiences for school aged children. Gordon stated that looking at pictures in books and viewing slides of the works of great artists was not a sufficient approach to foster an appreciation of visual art. This reasoning eventually led to the creation of Artists for Kids and a collection of original art by one or more outstanding artists from each province and territory in Canada and the Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art. A fundamental goal of the gallery is to provide an opportunity to learn about Canadian art and artists through interaction with the collection.

The Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists is committed to support the ideals of Gordon Smith by creating an endowment and maintaining operating budgets to support visual art literacy for young people in perpetuity.

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

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



2023 Looking Back

Together, we work to transform Art Education.

As we reflect on the past year, it is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to this review of our achievements and milestones in 2023. The year has been marked by remarkable accomplishments, driven by our shared dedication to supporting young artists and fostering a vibrant cultural community.

One of the highlights of the year was the inaugural Brilliance Gala, a tribute to the late artist and cherished friend, Gordon Smith. This event celebrated the wide-ranging and enduring legacy of an exceptional individual who significantly influenced our artist community and beyond. The Gala brought together friends and supporters to honor Gordon's brilliance and generosity, which continue to inspire and enlighten creative thinkers, artists, and philanthropists in our region.

Through your attendance and support, we raised essential funds for Artists for Kids. Celebrating its 36th year, Artists for Kids continues to thrive and evolve, delivering exceptional art education and enrichment opportunities for young artists. Gordon, alongside Jack Shadbolt and Bill Reid, was a Founding Artist Patron of this program. His vision led to the creation of the Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists, ensuring perpetual funding for Artists for Kids. Our donors' generosity ensures that these high-quality art education programs remain accessible to children throughout the region, while also activating and animating the Gordon Smith Gallery with year-round programming accessible to all.

In 2023, we achieved remarkable feats. Working with Artists for Kids, we provided bursaries for children to attend the AFK Summer Camp in Paradise Valley, delivered scholarships to students entering post-secondary education in the visual arts, curated captivating and inclusive Canadian art exhibitions, facilitated meaningful connections between artists, students, and the community, hosted live music concerts at the Gordon Smith Gallery, and offered free weekly visual art workshops for children and their families.

These achievements highlight our collective impact and the vibrant arts programming landscape with education at its core. Thank you for being a friend of the arts. On behalf of The Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists and Artists for Kids, we are immensely grateful for your support and look forward to another year of creativity and growth.

Meredith Preuss
Executive Director
Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists



Thank you to the S̓kwx̓wú7mesh and səlilwətał Nations who's ancestral and unceded land The Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation and the Gordon Smith Gallery are located on. Art is a medium of engagement and dialogue; through artwork and public programs, we work to support the exploration of identity, relationship building, and our complicated history on this land and this place we call Canada.

Cover image: Installation view of *Endless Summer*, featuring works by Katie Kozak and Lucien Durey. Photo Courtesy of Blaine Campbell

Above: Katie Kozak and Lucien Durey, *Strawberry Roan*, 2023, fiberglass horse, flocking, lamp parts, lightbulbs, Dimensions Variable, from *Endless Summer* exhibition, Photo Courtesy of Blaine Campbell

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

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.



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.

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

Image: Explore and Create Saturdays,
2023, photo courtesy Khim Hipol

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 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 programming.

CAMPAIGNS

Brilliance Gala

Co-chairs Patti Glass, Yoshi Karasawa, and Ian Wallace, welcomed supporters at the Pipeshop at the Shipyards in North Vancouver for evening of art, fine dining, entertainment, and generosity, all in celebration of, and in tribute to, the late Gordon Smith.

The event sold out all 300 tickets and raised over \$480,000. Over 30 artists donated artworks inspired by Smith's legacy to comprise the "Friends of Gordon Collection", which were exhibited and available for sale by live and silent auction. Fred Lee and Vicky Gabereau hosted the lively evening.

Winter 2023

We partnered with AFK to connect with our community of supporters before the end of 2023 in a direct mail and online appeal. Patrons had the opportunity to support in any amount, and direct funds towards Artists for Kids and Smith Foundation Programs. Donations over \$150 were incentivized, as those donors were entered into a draw for an unframed Gordon Smith limited edition print valued at \$700. Together, we raised \$2700

INTEREST AND GIVING

Grants and Scholarships

The Smith Foundation was able to deposit \$200,000 into the Vancouver Foundation-held endowment fund, thanks to the success of the Brilliance Gala. The Foundation also received \$134,860 in annual interest from the endowment fund. These monies, coupled with annual fundraising efforts, allowed us to grant \$90,690 to Artists for Kids and \$10,000 in scholarships to graduating secondary students in North Vancouver, West Vancouver and Vancouver. A \$25,000 major gift from a private donor was given directly from the Smith Foundation to Artists for Kids to fund camp bursaries.

Total Disbursements: \$301,590



RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF OUR 2023 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

John Montalbano • May Lin Poon, Morris & Kumyuen Saldov

\$25,000 or more

Jeff Mooney • Ian Wallace

\$10,000 or more

Yoshi Karasawa & Michael Audain • Eric Carlson • Vicki Gabereau • Patsy Heffel • Tony Ma • Stuart & Della McLaughlin • Jim & Doria Moodie • Brent O'Connor • Andy Sylvester & Daina Augaitis • James Tansey • George Wong • Bobbie Burgers • Geoffrey Farmer • Eric Savics • Duncan Wlodarczak & Peter Pu

\$5,000 or more

Janet Feldman • Tony Ma • Donald McInnes • Darrin Morrison • Danielle Glass • Patti Glass • Natalie Reynolds • Peter Rozee • Andrew & Yasmeen Strang • Arnold Shives • Xwalacktun • Sylvia Tait • David Pirrie • Peter Pu • Bruce Munro Wright • Mina Totino • Pierre Coupey • Charlene Vickers • Russna Kaur • Graham Gillmore • Damian Moppett • Qing Yin

\$1,000 or more

Jim Allworth • Kurt Aydin • Daniel & Rose Birch • Dominica Babicki • Julian Bannister • Sara-Jeanne Bourget Cailin Broere • Jane Caddick • Pauli-Ann Carriere • Brent Comber • Douglas Coupland • Celia Dawson • Christos Dikeakos • Wayne Eastcott • Estate of Enn Erisalu • Michael Ferreira • Barb Finley • Akiko Gomyo • Angela Grossman • Jeannette Guichon • Jennifer Heffel • Deffany Hsu • Jeremy Herndl • Mark Johnsen • Lilly Kazaz • Allison Kerr • Paul Killeen • Ann Kipling • Angela George • Attila Lukacs • Lyse Lemieux • Ken Mitchell • The McDiarmid Family • Coleen & Howard Nemtin • Leonardo Lara & Michael Prout • Dean Linden • Judy McLean • Donald MacPherson • Birthe Piontek • Christopher Poseley • Moura Quayle • George Seslija • Kumi Shanahan • Isabelle Spothelfer • Dr. Anne Watt & Jay Symons • June Tanemura • Andrea Taylor • Ed Tsumura • Terrence Turner • Garrett Senez • Jay Senetchko • Mehran Modarres-Sadeghi • Wayne Ngan Studio • Tiko Kerr • M.E. Sparks • Isabelle Spothelfer • Lotus Laurie Kang • Santhe LeBlanc • Erin McSavaney • Moura Quayle • Marylou Rivard • Peter Rozee • Richard & Annette Savage • Martha Sturdy • Joan Tuey • Andrea Travers • Rene Rose • Nessa Van Bergen • Penelope Wood • Gu Xiong • Karen Zalamea

\$500 or more

James Allworth • Andrew Booth • Sophie Burke • Catherine Dangerfield • Katie Kozak & Lucien Durey • Jennifer Eby • Mike Fantuz • Natalie Genest • Cyndi Gerlach • Jackie Graham • Jeanette Guichon • Tim Orr • Susan Jackson • Charlie Keay • Trish Kelly • Dr. Paul Larocque • Allan Lynch • Dean Mailey • Kevin Mazzone • Scott McIntyre • Tim Orr • Francesca Patterson • Jackie Prokopanko • Karen Sander • Shelley Smee • Reid Shier • Greg Simmons • Holly Schmidt • Grace To • Carol Tsuyuki • Marshall Webb • Mike Wakefield • Sam Wall & Emmy Lee Wall • Anne Marie White • Naomi Yamamoto

\$100 or more

Donald Anderson • Eric Angus • Leah Arthur • Kyra Audain • Kate Ayoubi • Jan and Mark Ballard • Patsy Bartsch • Michael Beattie • Wing Chow • Meagan Conn • Sylvia Cromack • Judi Cunningham • Marion Dixon • Joel Dumaresq • Kate Galicz • Jacqueline Garvin • Susan Germain • Anita Ghatak • Arlene Gladstone • Warren Goodman • Angela Grossmann • Christine Haebler • Susan Haid • Anna Heibert • Alison Hepworth • Cynthia Heaton • Karl Hipol • Khim Hipol • Kirstin Hodge • Paula Kiess • Hilary Letwin • Bill MacDonald • Allan

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This list includes both in-kind and cash donations in 2023.



2023 Brilliance Gala guests mingle over cocktails while admiring the *Friends of Gordon Collection* at the Pipeshop at the Shipyards. Photo Courtesy of When They Find Us.

AND ORGANIZATIONS

Thank you for enabling accessible cultural programming!

\$50,000 or more

The Audain Foundation • The Tuey Charitable Foundation

\$10,000 or more

The Christopher Foundation • Polygon Homes • PARC Retirement Living • Onni Property Management Inc. • North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission • Canada Council for the Arts

\$5,000 or more

Grosvenor Property • Leith Wheeler • Mission Hill Family Estate Winery • Justine Nichols Communications • The Heffel Foundation

\$1,000 or more

Darwin Construction • When They Find Us • Charles & Julie Bentall Family Foundation • The Freybe Foundation • The Andrew Mahon Foundation • The RBC Foundation • Meyer Family Vineyards • The Pipe Shop Venue • Hemlock Printers • Opus Art Supplies • North Vancouver School District • The O'Brien Family Foundation • Tofino Beach Collective

\$100 or more

The Gift Funds Foundation • Erickson Family Collection • The Audain Art Museum • Hy's Steakhouse Whistler • The Four Seasons Whistler

Supporters and Partners

Artists for Kids • Capture Photography Festival



Brilliance Gala guests listen to Tributes to Gordon Smith while relaxing before dinner. *Friends of Gordon Collection* in the background. Photo Courtesy of When They Find Us

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Spring Exhibition
Endless Summer

Curated by Jenn Jackson

Lucien Durey and Katie Kozak

April 15th – June 17th 2023



Endless Summer was an exhibition and series of public programs featuring the collaborative works of artists Katie Kozak and Lucien Durey. Since 2012, Kozak and Durey have collaborated on durational projects that expressed care for one another and gratitude toward the places and spaces in which their artworks were realized and exhibited. The resulting artworks and programs contemplated lineage, ancestry, queerness, sustainability, and healing within a context of reimagining place-based relations that served the social and cultural landscape of their shared communities.

Endless Summer conveyed a dedicated period of trust and exchange between the artists. The program engaged with their longstanding collaborative practice of collecting discarded materials to be reassembled in unexpected ways. This drawing together of collaborative social networks and reciprocal exchange continued Kozak and Durey's ongoing practice of collectivity and care.

The project included new and recent sculptural, photographic, and video works that considered lineages of reciprocity growing from friendship and familiarity. The public programs extended to include additional artists, musicians, and creative collaborators through workshops, events, a self-published zine, and presentations, fostering a vibrant and inclusive cultural environment.

Public programs included:

- **Outdoor walking tour at Ambleside Park**
- **Scanner-bed photo-making workshop at the Gordon Smith Gallery**
- **A special vocal performance by exhibiting artist Lucien Durey and his sister Bess Durey responding to the Endless Summer exhibition at the Gordon Smith Gallery**



Above: Poster for *Endless Summer*

Below: A Young Artists participating in the Scanner-bed photo-making workshop with the help of artist, Katie Kozak, and curator, Jenn Jackson, at the Gordon Smith Gallery

2023 PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Our public programming is a key 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 Opening Reception

- Over 200 people attended the Spring Exhibition's Opening Reception
- Featured a wine and canapes reception sponsored by Parc Retirement Living



Left: Guests at the opening reception for *Endless Summer*, photo courtesy of Khim Hipol.
Right: Cover of *Endless Summer* zine, designed by Sara MacLellan.

Explore and Create

- We offered free family-friendly programming at the Gordon Smith Gallery inspired by works our Spring Exhibition, *Endless Summers*, as well as Artists for Kids' Fall Teaching Exhibition, *The Art of Conversation*
- Over 150 children and parents/guardians attended Explore and Create in 2023

Right: Families enjoying Explore and Create Saturdays during *The Art of Conversation* Exhibition. Photo courtesy of Khim Hipol.



Music at the Smith

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

Left: Music at the Smith, 2023. Photo courtesy of Khim Hipol



REACHING OUR GOALS THANKS TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

From Fundraising support and leadership on the board of directors, to assisting at events late into the evening, to attending to the gallery and providing docent-led tours, our volunteers allow us to shine!

GALLERY AND EVENT VOLUNTEERS

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