



Courtney Miller Named Gallery Manager and Curator at The ACT Art Gallery

(April 6, 2022, Maple Ridge, BC) - The Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Arts Council and The ACT Arts Centre announces that **Courtney Miller** has been appointed as **Gallery Manager and Curator**.

Courtney Miller recently served as Museum Manager for the Mission Museum (BC). Her published art writing includes exhibition reviews in *Ar(n)t Write*, *C Magazine*, and *Peripheral Review*.

Miller served as Gallery Assistant at The ACT for four years previous to earning her Master of Fine Arts in Criticism and Curatorial Practices from the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD) University in Toronto. "It was my time at The ACT Art Gallery that inspired me to pursue the curatorial program at OCAD," says Miller.

Before joining The ACT the fall of 2014, Miller had just earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Arts from University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), which followed a creative upbringing. "Both of my parents were artists and I have creative people in family," says Miller of her start in the arts. "My interest in the arts was cultivated at a young age."

"I am exciting about all the facets for this role," says Miller, "including the curatorial, technical, and community aspects."

“Curatorial work is a lot of work behind the scenes – a very social role,” she explains. “Talking with, and learning from artists, networking, establishing connections – connecting with artists is something I am very excited about.”

Miller says she enjoys coming away from a single idea with something completed. This technical part – the planning, the design, the promotion, how the artworks will interact in the space – involves a great deal of problem solving, which she loves.

“The *real* reward, however, is seeing how it was received and how has it enriched the community”, says Miller of the public-facing, community part of the role.

Asked what she is hoping to bring to The ACT as she prepares to program the 2022/2023 exhibition season and beyond, Miller speaks of diversity. “All curators bring new and different perspectives, artists, mediums,” says Miller. “Among others, we hope to include some contemporary and Indigenous art as well as the ever-important opportunities to showcase young and up-and-coming artists.”

Miller has deep roots in the Fraser Valley. A citizen of Métis Nation British Columbia, born and raised in Mission, Miller is happy to be back home. “When I was living away in Toronto, I would often think of coming back and how I would apply what I have learned in our local art spaces,” she says.

Miller hopes visitors to The ACT Art Gallery continue to come away with inspiration, perspectives, and techniques, that perhaps they have not experienced before. “I hope the art exhibitions compel people to further explore their own creative expressions, by participating in one of the art learning programs offered at The ACT Arts centre ” says Miller.

About The ACT Art Gallery and ACT Arts Centre

The ACT Art Gallery is a community Gallery and part of The ACT Arts Centre, operated by the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Arts Council, now in its 51st year.

The Gallery is free-of-charge, open Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 10am to 3pm, as well as on selected evenings to coincide with theatre performances. Please visit www.theactmapleridge.org/gallery.

The ACT Arts Centre, opened in 2003, is operated by the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Arts Council , and provides excellence in Arts Learning Programs, Gallery Exhibitions and Performing Arts Presentations, along with being home to many cultural and community events, reaching over 70,000 patrons annually through 30-50 performances, the ACT Art Gallery, Arts Learning Programs, community groups, and rental clients.

The ACT Arts Centre gratefully acknowledges the generous support of **Morningstar Homes** as the 2021/22 season title sponsor, event Sponsors, Funders, Donors and contributors to the centre’s Annual Fund raiser events.

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