

ACT ART GALLERY EXPLORES ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS WITHIN *LESSONS FROM A LIVING WORLD*

The First of Five Planned Exhibitions for the 2023/24 Season of Visual Arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, August 31, 2023 – Maple Ridge, BC –

On Saturday, September 9 from 2:00-4:00 PM, The ACT Art Gallery will open *Lessons from a Living World* with artworks by Cherry Archer, q̓'atí'ca / Phyllis Atkins, Clyde Richard Brittain, Shawna Davis, and Zuzana Vasko.

The exhibition brings together five artists whose art practices center on their relationships, responsibilities, and hope for the Earth. In a time of ongoing ecological crisis, the exhibited artists suggest that lessons they've learned from the land have revealed information on how to take better care of it, and ourselves.

"At first glance the artworks show the viewer beautiful images of nature, but upon closer observation, each has a message about humanity's reliance on the environment" says Courtney Miller, Curator and Gallery Manager.

Cherry Archer is a first-generation Trinidadian-Canadian Vancouver-based multidisciplinary artist whose work explores the humanity-nature relationship.

q̓'atí'ca's traditional name means that "I wear the clouds like a blanket". She is a member of the Kwantlen First Nation. Phyllis Atkins was taught how to paint by Barbara Boldt at the Barbara Boldt Original Art Studio, and hand engraving jewelry from the late Master carver Derek Wilson from Haisla, BC.

Clyde Richard Brittain is a multidisciplinary artist working and living in Vancouver, BC, on the unceded territories of the Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh nations. A primary focus of his practice is exploring the complex and often fraught relationship we, as a species, have with the Earth.

Shawna Davis is Laxskiik, eagle clan, from Wilp Sakum Higookxw of the Gitksan (People of the river mist). In 2022 she published *Majagalee: The Language of Seasons*, a book highlighting the Gitksan language and illustrated in beadwork.

Zuzana Vasko is an artist-scholar based in Maple Ridge who teaches with the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University, where she likes to bring ecological awareness and creative ways of being to learning.

Lessons from a Living World features artworks in the mediums of beadwork, installation, photography, painting, and printmaking.

The Opening Reception is a free event open to the public, and the exhibition will run through November 10, 2023. The ACT Arts Gallery is open Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM and on selected evenings.

A dedicated Community Gallery space located inside The ACT Art Centre; The ACT Art Gallery is operated by the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Arts Council. In fulfilling its mission to broaden and enrich the public's appreciation and understanding of the visual arts, the Gallery presents engaging and diverse displays of artwork by local, regional, and national artists, and accompanying talks, workshops, and other presentations. The adjacent Gallery Shop offers a diverse selection of art and handmade goods including ceramics, jewelry, candles, artwork, art cards, glassware, and home goods, supporting local artists and artisans.

ABOUT THE ACT ART GALLERY AND THE ACT ARTS CENTRE

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. The centre is home to many cultural and community events, reaching over 70,000 patrons annually.

The ACT Arts Centre gratefully acknowledges the generous support of **Epic Homes** as the 2022/23 season title sponsor, and support from **The Department of Canadian Heritage, The BC Arts Council, The Province of British Columbia, The City of Maple Ridge, Prospera Credit Union** and many generous individual and business donors and sponsors.

We acknowledge that we are fortunate to be able to work, create, learn, and connect on the traditional unceded territories of the Katzie First nation and Kwantlen First Nation.

Please visit us at www.theactmapleridge.org/lessons-from-a-living-world

Exhibition Dates:	Saturday, September 9 – Saturday, November 11, 2023
Opening Reception:	Saturday, September 9, 2023, from 2:00-4:00 PM (FREE)
Gallery Hours:	Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM and selected evenings
Location:	The ACT Art Gallery (at The ACT Arts Centre) 11944 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 6G1

MEDIA RESOURCES

Exhibition poster and select images can be accessed [via Dropbox](#). Please always credit the artist when using the images. Artist name is indicated on each file name.

MEDIA CONTACT

Jessica Dionne
Manager, Marketing, Communications, and Brand
604-476-2781 | jessicad@mraact.org