

Slow Art Day – April 13, 2024

“While it is sometimes necessary to think about the hidden meaning of a work, the most important thing is to see and feel it. Few people think about the meaning of each movement in a tea ceremony. Please enjoy the time and sensation you are experiencing, just like music.”

– Wayne Eastcott

Welcome to the Art Gallery at Evergreen.

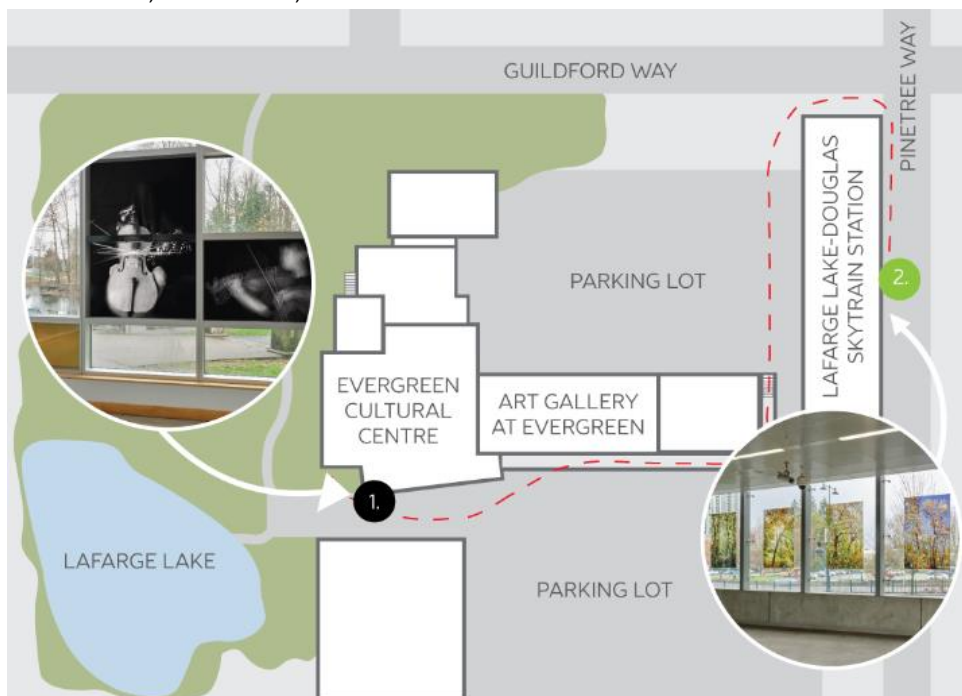
Today is internationally recognized as **Slow Art Day**, an event intended to help more people discover the joy of looking at art. You are welcome to participate and use these prompts to facilitate a slower viewing experience.

You are invited to spend as much time as you would like, the recommended viewing time is 5 minutes with each artwork of your choice.

Afterwards discuss your experience. Share your thoughts with gallery assistant Kim Grewal or share your reflections on Instagram and tag us @artgalleryevergreen.

If you would like to continue your slow looking experience, we welcome you to spend some time with our public artworks, located only steps away from the gallery.

1. Silas Ng, *Music in My Eyes*, 2020-.
2. Sarah Anne Johnson, *Woodland*, 2020-.



Both artworks are part of the 2024 Capture Photography Festival Selected Exhibition Program. Sarah Anne Johnson's *Woodland* is presented in partnership with TransLink.

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Select any artwork and use the following prompts to guide your looking. We've included a few suggested artworks below:



Figure 1: Gordon Smith, *Gambier Island Stream*, 1991, acrylic on canvas.

What initially draws you to the work? Where do your eyes travel? Is there a path through the work or individual elements such as colour, line, shape, textures, scale that capture your attention? Why do certain areas capture your attention?

Can you find connections within the artwork? Are there repeating elements or patterns? What creates harmony in the artwork or what creates contrast/variety in the composition?

What do the material/mediums tell you about the artwork? How is the artwork created? How is it displayed? Does the scale of the work affect its relation to you? Under what conditions do you think the work was created?

Is there a story being shared with this work? Is there symbolism that you have access to or are there barriers to understanding?

Imagine the artwork as a feeling. Where in your body does the artwork sit? Is it in your hands, head, stomach, feet? Does it move throughout your body?



Figure 2: qʷənat, Angela George, *Reflections at Sunset*, 2024, wool blend.



Figure 3: B.C. Binning, *Atomic Fountain*, 1993, serigraph on paper, ed. 1/100.

Does the title of the artwork provide you with more of an understanding about the artwork? Does the date help place it within a specific time/art period in which it was created? Does the information provided change how you view the artwork?

Describe the artwork as if it was sound. Is it loud, soft, an orchestrated melody, a slow tune on a single instrument? Does the sound repeat? Reverberate?

Next, select a new artwork and try these activities:

Observe the work and see if you can make a connection to something outside of the gallery, whether it is to a memory, an event, another artwork, etc. (5 min)

Close your eyes and recall the image of the artwork.

Re-open your eyes and see if you can notice something new.

Sit or stand at least 10 feet away from the artwork. (3 min)

What do you notice first?

Describe the quality of the image: what is the quality of focus (sharp, soft focus), scale, colours, form?

Stand or sit closer to the artwork. (7 min)

Describe the quality of the image again.

Imagine stepping into the artwork: What do you smell? What do you taste? What can you touch? How does it feel?

What do you feel?

Look closely at one artwork. Try to see it as a whole, then pick out small details, moving around it if you are able to do so.

Now, draw the work as a whole, or focus in on the smaller details that stand out to you. Use the blank paper and pencil provided.