

2nd Message from the FCA Executive Director regarding COVID-19

Dear members of our cross-Canada arts community,

The COVID-19 crises continues to evolve and as the situation worsens I need to adjust our operation to the new conditions. We have kept the Federation Gallery open until yesterday, observing the social distancing with only a few people in the gallery at once. But with government restrictions growing we are being asked to observe a higher degree of social distancing and as such I will be closing the Federation Gallery on Granville Island effective immediately.



I don't take this decision lightly as the gallery is a prime method for you to gain exposure and sell your work. It is also a core method for the Federation to raise money for our operations and provides employment to 3 members of my staff. So while our team will figure out a way forward for us, I would like to let you know what our plans are thus far for exhibitions and workshops.

With our bricks-and-mortar operation shutting its doors for the coming weeks or months, we need to become innovative. This isn't the time to take a break, this is the time to double-down. So, here at the office we've put our heads together to think of new ways that we can promote your work and provide learning opportunities.

Moving forward all exhibitions go online-only. Going forward please do not ship your work to the gallery even if you have been accepted into an exhibition. Please note that for now acceptance still gives you a point towards your Signature status application even if you don't ship in your work. And you can still win awards and cash prizes.

We want to remain in the consciousness of our art-buying clients, an ever growing group that we've been cultivating for years. So we're focused on giving them a virtual gallery experience by developing exhibition videos. The first will be a hang of the "Bloom" paintings we have already received. After that we'll use the images sent in for jury to create videos.

In the meantime, staff will continue to pack and return-ship artwork from past exhibitions. If you are planning to come down to the gallery to pick up your work please email us to set up an appointment. We will not be keeping regular hours, instead opting to work from home instead. We will do our best to arrange for pickups from the gallery, and please note that due to these extenuating circumstances collection penalties will be waived.

Learning opportunities must also go on. We've already started with online critique sessions. Kit Bell is hosting a set of critiques this coming weekend, for example, and while the Sunday session is already full, [we have a couple of spots remaining for Saturday](#). And we aim to soon provide you with more opportunities you can partake in from your own home.

So while the COVID pandemic may require you to stay at home, don't let it get you down! Get into your studio and start to play. And if you have need, we're still here to help. Remember that we will continue with exhibitions. In response to your overwhelming draw to your easel we have launched the [2020 Social Distancing Exhibition](#) so the fruits of your labour can now win you cash prizes.

For those of you looking for information on how we proceed with Signature Status applications and the AGM please stay tuned. I plan to make a call on these in early April. Perhaps we'll see the light at the end of the tunnel at that time and we can proceed with these.

For those of you looking to apply for your Active status, intake is open. Its all done online anyway, so we'll just continue as per normal.

Keep yourself healthy and happy. Together we'll get through this.

Patrick

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