



**OPEN
SPACE**

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 5, 2020

Statement from Open Space artist-run centre in response to the re-opening of galleries

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At Open Space, we recognize our responsibility to the health and safety of staff, artists, and the community, and as such, we have been carefully considering our course of action in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we continue to transform the ways we move and work, we will not be re-opening the gallery for the public at this time.

It's undeniable that artists are indispensable members of healthy communities and that artist-run centres play a vital role in supporting them and helping them realize their creative visions. The past two months have offered us the chance to try out new means of sharing programming and of connecting with artists and community, and we will continue to be steadfastly committed to supporting artists and art projects in the months to come.

In place of in-person programming, this summer, we are thrilled to announce a series of residencies with artists Tyrone Elliott, Chandra Melting-Tallow, Whess Harman, Dylan Thomas, and Kai Cheng Thom. Through a combination of physical and virtual residencies, we are taking this time to offer the gallery and our virtual space to these artists for them to devote focused time to their practice. The work of each of these artists hearkens to transformative ways of relating and making and we look forward to sharing it.

Meanwhile, our foray into publication with the Tah'lum Indigenous Artist Collective Colouring Book is leading us to fresh ways of connecting with community members, especially children, stuck at home during this time. The second volume of this ongoing series will be released in time for a Family Sunday event co-presented with the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Sunday, June 21.

Other projects, such as a series of grounding exercises from artists, and a series of online vogue workshops will carry on across different mediums, inviting us to connect with each other and to ground deeper into our bodies. A partnership and ongoing residency with curator Toby Lawrence also promises to stoke discussion about curatorial hospitality, and what that can look like in these unsettled times.

Although we miss gathering in person, we are also taking much-needed time to reflect more deeply on our role and our vision, and on how we can bring about the kinds of futures we want to render together.

Take care,

The Open Space team

Operational funders



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