

The background of the entire page is a blurred photograph of children in an art classroom. In the foreground, on the right side, there is a clear glass jar containing several paintbrushes with wooden handles and metal ferrules. The brushes have various colors of paint on their bristles. Two large, solid yellow diagonal stripes are overlaid on the image: one starts from the top left and points towards the center, and the other starts from the bottom left and points towards the center. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is positioned in the upper right area, containing the title text.

Education Programs



Varley
Art Gallery
of Markham

About Us

The Varley Art Gallery of Markham is a vital cultural hub for artists and diverse communities. A municipal gallery, we create critical conversations about Canadian art and society. We inspire local and national audiences to engage with art through outstanding exhibitions and rich public and educational programs relevant to the communities we serve.

We also share and celebrate the life and work of F. H. Varley, a founding member of the Group of Seven.

The Varley Art Gallery of Markham is situated on the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples including the Haudenosaunee and Anishnabeg.

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Introduction

The Varley offers dynamic, curriculum-based activities for schools. We offer half-day, full-day, and Portfolio Development Programs from 10 AM to 2 PM, on Mondays and Tuesdays only, and Guided Tours from 10 AM to 12 PM, or 1 PM to 3 PM, on Thursdays only. Students will experience interactive exhibition tours promoting visual literacy and critical thinking, as well as participate in hands-on art workshops in the studios to explore painting, printmaking, and/or sculpture.

1 Hour | Guided Tour | K to 12

In Guided Tours, participants discuss current exhibitions by closely observing artworks and sharing their opinions using appropriate art terminology. Through these tours, learners will develop their observational and analytical skills. This is available from 10 AM to 12 PM, or 1 PM to 3 PM, on Thursdays only.

2 Hours | Half-Day | K to 12

An exhibition tour followed by a hands-on studio session in which students create original artwork inspired by the exhibition.

4 Hours | Full-Day | K to 12

A one-hour gallery tour PLUS TWO one-hour hands-on studio sessions. A one-hour lunch break is included.

4 Hours | Portfolio Development | 9 to 12

Choose between linocut printmaking or life drawing to provide students with the tools to develop a well-rounded portfolio. These programs deliver excellent introductory experiences for relief printmaking and working with human figures.

*Please note, Portfolio Development workshops have a **maximum capacity of 30 students**.* Customized visits may be accommodated. Contact us at varley@markham.ca.

Booking Request Form

How to Book

1. Choose your preferred dates for your visit. We offer school programs on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 10 AM to 2 PM, and Guided Tours on Thursdays, from 10 AM to 12 PM, or 1 PM to 3 PM.
2. Fill out our Booking Request Form with your preferred dates and email it to varley@markham.ca.
3. Check your inbox for a confirmation email either verifying your requested date or suggesting alternative program dates.
4. Get excited! Your Varley Education program is confirmed and we look forward to learning with you!

Fees and Booking Times

Program	Timeslot	Cost/Student
1 Hr. Guided Tour	Thursdays 10 AM to 12 PM 1 PM to 3 PM	\$7.00
2 Hrs. Half- Day	Mondays and Tuesdays 10 AM to 12 PM 12 to 2 PM	\$11.00
4 Hrs. Full- Day	Mondays and Tuesdays 10 AM to 2 PM*	\$15.00
4 Hrs. Portfolio Development	Mondays and Tuesdays 10 AM to 2 PM*	\$23.00

*All four hour programs include a one hour lunch break from 12 to 1 PM

Activities

Activity	Studio Medium	Grades
Paint Like Varley	Painting	K to 12
Animals and Ecosystems	Mixed media	K to 12
Mini Self Portrait Busts	Sculpture	K to 12
Poster Printing	Printmaking	K to 12
Life Drawing	Drawing	9 to 12
Lino-scapes	Printmaking	9 to 12

Click the activity link for images and a full program description.



Ontario Curriculum Links

All studio activities are designed to align with Ontario's Elementary and High School Curriculum. For full curriculum link breakdown by activity, grade, and subject, please contact us.

Visual Arts

Creating art, responding to and analyzing art, art terminology and techniques. Students critically analyze the intent of the artist, and the function of visual media both historically and today. Students consider the impact of art on both personal and cultural identity.

Social Studies

Students will learn how to extract information about different communities based on visual evidence in artwork. Students discover how various artists have interpreted Canada from the past to the present. Using inquiry and interpretive skills, students analyze the tensions that occur between individuals and the wider cultural context.

Language Arts, English and Media Literacy

Students build their communication, vocabulary, creative writing, and critical thinking skills through discussion. Students learn how to develop and share their own creative ideas, and use critical thinking to form opinions and look for implied meaning.

Science, Technology and Environmental Studies

To expand their environmental awareness, students investigate how the natural environment and our relationship with it have inspired artists' materials and subject matter across time and place. Students analyze human impact on and intervention in both natural and built environments.

FAQs

How far in advance should I book a visit?

A booking request form needs to be received at least 2 weeks prior to the date of request for standard programs.

Is there a minimum number of students required to book a program?

A charge of twenty students minimum is applied to every program with a studio workshop. For gallery tours, we ask for a minimum of ten participants.

What is the ratio of adults to students?

Kindergarten to Grade 6:

1 Adult for every 6 Students

Grades 7 to 12:

1 Adult for every 10 students

Do we need a reservation for teacher-led (self-guided) tours?

No, admission to the Varley Art Gallery is free and teachers can bring their students for a self-guided tour any time during regular operating hours. For a guided tour, a Booking Request Form is required.

Where can we eat lunch?

Your one hour lunch break will take place in our studio. In the spring or summer, lunch can take place in the studio or outside (weather permitting).

*Note: lunch and snacks are not provided by the Gallery. For high school students, there are options along Main Street Unionville to purchase lunch, such as cafes and confectionaries.

Cancellations

The Varley Art Gallery of Markham reserves the right to cancel a program at any time to ensure the safety of participants and the site.

Cancellation of a booking by a school or group:

Notice of cancellation must be submitted to the Varley Art Gallery no later than 10 business days prior to your visit date. Notice of cancellation received later than 10 business days will be invoiced at 25% of the original booking fee. Cancellation fees must be paid within 30 days from the program date. Schools will not be charged if the gallery cancels a reservation due to inclement weather.

Changes in numbers:

Invoices are calculated at the time of booking, and are based on price per participant. Changes in participation numbers are allowed up to three business days prior to your visit. Refunds will not be granted for groups with fewer than 10 participants. Additional participants will be invoiced on the day of the visit. Please communicate any changes to varley@markham.ca or by calling 905.477.7000 ext.3261 before your visit so that staff resources and revised pricing can be determined. We would love to answer any of your questions!

Contact Us:

Varley Art Gallery Education Programs

905-477-7000 ext. 3268 | varley@markham.ca

Scholarships and Bursaries

Wallace Joyce Scholarship

The Wallace Joyce Scholarship is a \$1000 bursary that supports students from York Region pursuing post-secondary studies in an art-related field.

Mr. Wallace Joyce touched the lives of countless people in Markham. He was a champion of the arts and supported many organizations throughout his life. The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham celebrates his contributions through the Wallace Joyce Scholarship. One award is offered annually, through a juried process, to a graduating high school student in York Region pursuing third level studies in an art related field.

Eligibility:

- Graduating York Region high school student
- Pursuing art-related studies at a post-secondary level

Awarded by:



Application Form



William J. Withrow School Visits Bursary Program

William J. Withrow was a patron and founding board member of the Varley Art Gallery. The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham established the William J. Withrow School Visits Bursary in his name. This program enables students to visit the Varley Art Gallery by subsidizing the cost of bus transportation. Subsidized students receive guided gallery tours and hands-on learning through the programs led by the Varley Art Gallery's experienced team of educators.

Eligibility:

- Non-tuition school or organization
- Located in York Region
- Up to 60 participants
- Self-identifying as primarily minority students
- Confirmation of financial need

Funded by:



Application Form



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   VarleyArt Gallery
varleyartgallery.ca



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

