

# Frequently Asked Questions

## AGA Teacher & School Programs

### Planning Ahead

#### **When are AGA School Programs offered?**

The 2011/2012 AGA School Programs are offered from September 12-June 22. Programs are offered Tuesday to Friday and are also available on weekends upon request. All programs are connected to current exhibitions, which are temporary and change periodically. Please plan ahead if there is a specific exhibition you would like to see during your school visit.

#### **How many chaperones are needed for our AGA visit and what will be expected of them?**

As a general guideline, the AGA recommends bringing one adult for every six students in Elementary school (in addition to the classroom teacher) and one adult for every ten students in junior high or high school. The adult volunteers will be responsible for student supervision and ensuring that the students follow the Gallery Expectations. For studio programs, adult volunteers are also asked to help with studio tasks including material distribution and clean up tasks.

#### **Is the number of students I bring regulated? What if my class exceeds 30 students?**

Generally, School Programs are planned to accommodate an average of 30 students per class. Programs are scheduled to accommodate more than one class at a time and therefore Teachers and Schools are encouraged to bring multiple classes to the AGA. In the Gallery, classes are broken into smaller groups (usually groups of 10) and therefore larger classes (over 30) are easy to accommodate. In the studio, space is limited so classes should not exceed 30 students.

#### **How much will our program cost?**

AGA School Programs are priced and booked on a per class basis. Program costs reflect the cost of gallery admission, staffing and program materials. *All costs are calculated before GST.*

#### **90 minute Interactive Gallery Visits**

Class up to 10 students: \$84

Class up to 20 students: \$126

Class up to 30 students: \$168

Larger or multiple classes can be booked as a combination of the above prices.

#### **2 Hour Studio Project**

Class up to 30 students: \$189

Studio Projects have a static price due to the fixed costs of running a program.

#### **Full Day Experience**

Class up to 20 students: \$280

Class up to 30 students: \$320

#### **Art Apprenticeship Program**

Class up to 30 students: \$960

## When should I book a School Program?

All programs must be booked at least two weeks in advance. Please note that programs fill fast during the school year so it is best to book early. School Program bookings for 2011/2012 are available now. Please visit us online to fill in a Booking Request Form.

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## What to Expect

### What are the main connections to the Alberta Education Programs of Study?

AGA School Programs connect to many areas of the Programs of Study including Fine Arts, Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, French and Spanish. For more detailed descriptions of program connections to Alberta Education Programs of Study objectives, visit the School Programs Descriptions page.

### Who delivers the school programs?

Our highly experienced and knowledgeable AGA Educators lead the school programs. Educators have a diverse range of background experiences in art-making, art history and teaching.

### What is the basic format of the school programs?

**Exhibition Visits:** The visit begins with an introduction to the institution and the teacher-selected theme. Students visit and discuss thematically linked artworks while participating in hands-on activities and art exercises during their 90 minute visit.

**Studio Projects:** The Program begins with an introduction to the institution and the chosen theme and a brief art encounter with current exhibitions before students create an art project in the studio.

**Full Day Experience:** This program combines an interactive Exhibition Visit and a Studio Project for a dynamic full-day learning opportunity. Students will have the opportunity to connect with current exhibitions through close looking in the gallery and then exercise their creativity in the studio. Teachers are able to choose their own combination of programs to best integrate the visit with current classroom learning.

**Art Apprenticeship Program:** This program includes a variety of Gallery visits and studio projects that explore different themes and concepts depending on your grade level and class. Each day students visit Gallery exhibitions for explorations and hands-on activities in the morning and work in the studio with a variety of art projects in the afternoon. This program is created through collaboration between the AGA Education Programs Manager and the classroom teacher.

### Will a general visit of all the current AGA exhibitions be included within our program?

Whether you book an Exhibition Visit or a Studio Project, your class will have an opportunity to visit current Gallery exhibitions. General information about the AGA and the building is included in each thematic Exhibition Visit and Educators can answer any additional questions that are not focused on during the tour. Studio Projects include a brief Gallery visit to explore work that connects specifically to the project. Teachers are welcome to explore the gallery with their students independently if time allows.

### **What kinds of services do you offer for special needs students?**

The AGA facilities are equipped to welcome all guests and Educators are trained to differentiate instruction for all students. The AGA is wheelchair accessible and has wheelchairs if needed, available on a first-come, first-served basis at the main level Guest Services Desk. Students in wheelchairs can enter, with their class, through the main entrance using the ramp. For specific comments or questions concerning students with special needs please let us know when booking your School Program.

### **Is there nudity in the exhibitions?**

In many exhibitions, especially those with historical content, the theme of the nude may be part of the artwork. The nude is not a focus in School Programs and if there is any graphic nudity, these spaces are avoided during School Programs. Teachers will be made aware if there is any explicit nudity in any exhibitions and ALL teachers are encouraged to preview the exhibitions if they have any concerns.

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## **Booking a Program**

### **What do I have to do to book a school program?**

After you have decided on a program, fill in the Booking Request Form to make a School Program Request. Note that this is only a request and does not guarantee a program at the requested time. Once you have booked, you will receive an email from the Education Business Manager, confirming your time or suggesting new dates and times if necessary.

### **How can I change or cancel a school program I have already booked?**

For changes or cancellations to your booking, please contact the Education Business Manager, Nicole Reeves ([Nicole.reeves@youraga.ca](mailto:Nicole.reeves@youraga.ca)). Any changes or cancellations to bookings made less than 10 business days before a program will be subject to a cancellation fee of 20% of the total booking fee (before GST). Please refer to the last line of your invoice for this sum.

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## **Program Preparation**

### **What can I do to prepare my class for our visit at the AGA?**

Make the most of your visit to the AGA by preparing your students for what they will see and talk about. Ensure that students understand the behaviour that is expected of them. For ideas regarding pre-visit activities and information visit is online (Teachers & Schools → School Programs & Resources).

### **What can I do to prepare the parent volunteers for their role at the gallery?**

Ensure that all group supervisors are aware that their role is to support the students' learning. They can do this by:

- Setting a good example and following the Gallery expectations
- Allowing Gallery staff to lead the program without interruption
- Supervising children and ensuring that the group stays together

For more information on the role and responsibilities of chaperones, visit us online.

### **How can I obtain Teacher Resources?**

For teacher resources, visit us online and click on Teachers & Schools and Teacher Programs and Resources. For additional content questions or specific resource inquiries, please contact the Education Programs Manager at [Jessie.beier@youraga.ca](mailto:Jessie.beier@youraga.ca)

### **What should my students bring?**

Students are not required to bring any classroom supplies with them, as pencils and sketch-boards and paper are provided. All studio materials are included in the Studio Projects as well. Sketchbooks are always welcome, but not necessary.

For Full Day Experiences, students should bring a bagged lunch and a refillable water container. There are no water fountains at the AGA. Students should also bring an open mind and a positive attitude!

### **What objects are prohibited within the gallery spaces?**

Large bags and backpacks, cell phones, cameras, umbrellas, food, and drinks, are not permitted in the Gallery spaces. Please review all of our Gallery expectations for more information.

### **Is drawing permitted in the gallery spaces?**

Not only is drawing allowed in gallery spaces, but it is highly encouraged. In most cases, students will be given a sketch-board for their visit to the gallery, and they will be expected to participate in sketching activities.

### **Can I (the teacher) give my students a guided tour?**

All School Programs include Gallery admission for your groups. If you would like to remain after your program with your students, please confirm upon booking your program with the Education Business Manager. Self-Guided visits are subject to capacity and can only be booked with a School Program.

### **Are lunch facilities available at the AGA?**

The AGA has some lunch facilities that must be booked ahead for use. These facilities are located in the studios and Theatre lobby and are free of charge. All Full Day Experiences and Art Apprenticeship Programs include use of the lunch facilities automatically. In addition to our lunch facilities, there are several places surrounding the AGA including Sir Winston Churchill Square and City Hall that can be used to eat lunch, weather permitting.

### **What if I want more information or would like to speak to someone about my program?**

For information about School Program objectives and content, please contact the Education Programs Manager at [jessie.beier@youraga.ca](mailto:jessie.beier@youraga.ca). For information about prices, bookings or general inquiries contact please contact the Education Business Manager at [nicole.reeves@youraga.ca](mailto:nicole.reeves@youraga.ca).

## Arriving at the AGA

### **How do we get to the Art Gallery of Alberta?**

The AGA is located at 2 Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton, AB. For directions to the AGA, please visit us online and click on Visit.

### **Is there parking at the AGA? Where should the bus drop us off?**

Busses can stop and unload students in the loading zones located on either side of the AGA front entrance on 102A Ave or 99 Street. There is also bus parking (first-come, first-served) located north of the AGA on 99 street across from City Hall.

### **What entrance should school groups use?**

All School groups should enter through the Front Entrance located on the corner of 102A Avenue and 99 Street (facing Sir Winston Churchill Square). Upon entering the AGA, please move your group into the atrium to avoid blocking the doors. The lead teacher can then approach the Guest Services Desk to let them know your group has arrived. A Gallery Educator will meet you and bring your group to the Singhmar Centre for Art Education.

### **Is there a secure place we can store our bags, cell phones, cameras, umbrellas, food or water bottles?**

School Programs begin in the Singhmar Centre for Art Education located on the Lower Level of the AGA. The Centre has studio spaces and coat rooms where all personal belongings can be left. Although these spaces are secure, patrons are encouraged to leave all valuables at school or at home.

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## After Your Visit

### **What follow up activities do you recommend?**

Visit us online and click on Teachers & Schools → School Programs & Resources for information on follow up activities you can do in the classroom.

### **How can I get involved with the AGA?**

There are many ways to become involved with the AGA. You can support the AGA by becoming a member or volunteer. Visit us online for more information.