



Birthday Parties



Youth Art Programs



Portfolio 2025

## BUILDING A CREATIVE FUTURE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The MacLaren's *VanGo* Program employs regional artists, connecting them to classrooms across Simcoe County and engaging over 7,000 students each year. In addition to *VanGo*, the MacLaren offers a range of youth programs, seasonal art camps and afterschool classes as well as workshops, events, and exhibitions for audiences of all ages. Here are highlights of our educational programming:

### Tours and Activities

The MacLaren welcomes the chance to organize exhibition tours and Gallery programs for school and community groups.

### Family Sundays

Families can enjoy a Sunday afternoon together exploring a variety of media and concepts related to art. Guest artists lead the whole family in creating art projects using a wide range of materials. (September to June)

### Art Classes and Camps

Hands-on, artist-led art classes for adults, children and youth are held at the MacLaren and other venues, as well as Winter Break, March Break and Summer Art Camps.

### Youth Art Programs

For young people 14 to 18 years of age, the MacLaren offers engaging programs and volunteer opportunities at the Gallery and beyond. (September to August)

### Portfolio

Each Spring, this annual juried exhibition of artworks by graduating Grade 12 high school students highlights the creative talent in the region and offers students a professional exhibition experience.

For details, visit [www.maclarenart.com](http://www.maclarenart.com)



Family Sunday

## HOW TO BOOK

MacLaren *VanGo* programs can be booked online, by email or telephone Monday through Friday throughout the academic year. *VanGo* Gallery and in-person school programs are available based on Public Health guidelines. When booking please let us know what program you are interested in, planned date and time, class size, and anything that will better help us serve your class. The MacLaren Art Centre requires that *VanGo* artists work with only one class at a time in both a virtual and in-person setting.

**Note:** Program fees are based on a maximum of 30 students per class and include materials. Additional materials can be included for an additional fee. For virtual programs, *VanGo* materials kits will be prepared and packaged according to safety standards and will be available for pickup one week in advance.

To book a program, and for more information on rescheduling, cancellations, and payments, please contact **Natalie Fisher**, Education and Community Arts Assistant at 705-720-1044 ext. 232 or [natalie@maclarenart.com](mailto:natalie@maclarenart.com).

To learn more about the MacLaren Art Centre and our offerings please visit [www.maclarenart.com](http://www.maclarenart.com)

*VanGo* is generously supported by:



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# VanGO

## 25|26

All 2025/2026 *VanGo* programs are offered in both **virtual and in-person** formats!

Students who are regularly engaged in the arts become greater thinkers and learners. MacLaren *VanGo* programs offer unique opportunities for students to meet and work with professional visual artists in the classroom and at the Gallery. Students participate in meaningful cross-curricular activities that encourage creativity, skills development, and visual literacy, nurturing their appreciation of visual art. *VanGo* artists are highly qualified, experienced art instructors dedicated to inspiring creativity in all children.

*VanGo* meets the requirements of the Ontario Arts Curriculum and offers links to the Geography, Science and Social Studies Curriculum. All programs include a teacher information package with booking confirmation.

*VanGo* is one of many arts education programs offered by the Education Department of the MacLaren Art Centre, the regional public art gallery serving Barrie, the County of Simcoe and the surrounding area.

# PRIMARY

For Primary students, *VanGo* artists encourage the joy of creative expression through stimulating art materials and techniques, reinforcing their understanding of the visual elements and principles of design. We invite teachers to advise *VanGo* artists when a program can be connected to an area of study or a class activity.



## Luminous Landscapes **NEW!**

Inspired by Canadian Artist Ernest Conyers Barker

In this acrylic painting program, students will be inspired by the bright waters of Georgian Bay to create an abstract masterpiece. Using masking tape, they will represent the pattern seen in the setting sun over the water. The focus is on *colour theory*, *fine motor skills* and the application of *organic* and *geometric shapes*.

**Curriculum Connections:** Visual Arts, Geography

## Colour Creators

This watercolour program engages students in the exploration of *primary* and *secondary colours*, while delighting them with *interactive components*. Three artworks are created by overlapping transparent colour, water-soluble crayon drawing and watercolour painting techniques. Students learn to recognize *warm* and *cool colours* and discover how colour can be used to *express emotion*.

**Curriculum Connections:** Visual Arts

## In the Making

In this program, *VanGo* artists will present the importance of art as an early form of storytelling, by making connections to Canadian petroglyphs and sharing their own personal art and relationship to the community. Students will create a *two-dimensional* drawing, and a *three-dimensional form* by building an expressive clay vessel and carving a *pattern* on its surface.

**Curriculum Connections:** Visual Arts, Social Studies

## Cityscape

Working with a variety of printmaking techniques, students in this Softoleum printing program develop a basic understanding of city architecture and visual elements. *Shape*, *line* and *texture* are created using stamps, ink and rollers. The story is all about building a modern urban community.

**Curriculum Connections:** Visual Arts, Social Studies

## PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Program	Media	Grade	Length	Fee
Luminous Landscapes	acrylic painting	JK - 1	120 minutes	\$335
Colour Creators	watercolour painting	JK - 1	120 minutes	\$335
In the Making	clay	JK - 1	120 minutes	\$335
Cityscape	printmaking	1 - 3	120 minutes	\$335
Waterscapes	acrylic painting	1 - 3	120 minutes	\$335
Mixed Beasts	clay	1 - 3	120 minutes	\$335
Starry Night	paper marbling, mixed media	2 - 3	120 minutes	\$335

# JUNIOR

Our Junior *VanGo* programs provide students with an opportunity for a graduated understanding of the *principles of design* through the creative manipulation of *colour*, *line*, *texture*, *shape* and *pattern*. Introducing curriculum-based content and contemporary issues (context) encourages young people to understand the social significance of works of art, both past and present.



## Fantastic Forests **NEW!**

Inspired by Canadian Artist Emily Carr

Students will create a painting on an 11 x 14-inch canvas board inspired by the Canadian rural landscape. Using paint and paper collage, they will explore various painting techniques to depict an expressive forest scene. The focus is on *composition*, *visual texture*, *scale* and *depth*.

**Curriculum Connections:** Visual arts, Geography

## InPrint **NEW!**

Inspired by Canadian Artist David Bolduc

In this mixed-media printmaking program, students will create a monotype print using water soluble markers and collaged cut-out shapes. With a focus on *positive form*, *colour theory* and *symbols*, they will create a vibrant artwork inspired by the animals of our region.

**Curriculum Connections:** Visual arts, Geography

## Galaxy Quest

In this watercolour painting program, students will try their hand using traditional watercolour painting techniques and explore *optical colour-mixing*, *visual texture* and *transparency* as they create an out-of-this-world artwork representing space, the planets and more!

**Curriculum Connections:** Visual Arts, Science

**Curriculum Connections:** Visual Arts, Social Studies, Literature

## PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Program	Media	Grade	Length	Fee
Fantastic Forests	acrylic painting	4 - 6	120 minutes	\$335
InPrint	printmaking	4 - 6	120 minutes	\$335
Galaxy Quest	watercolour painting	4 - 6	120 minutes	\$335
Gargoyles and Grotesques	clay	4 - 6	120 minutes	\$335
On Your Mark	Mixed-media drawing	4 - 6	120 minutes	\$335
Mythic Masks	Papier-mâché, mixed media	4 - 6	240 minutes	\$670

# INTERMEDIATE

Our Intermediate *VanGo* programs provide students with an opportunity for deeper understanding and application of the principles of design, further exploring themes, ideas and imagery from the contemporary world around them. Students will understand the roll of art as critical analysis, communication and reflection.



## Pop Goes the World **NEW!**

Inspired by Pop Art

In this program, students will learn how to create an artwork with three colour layers. They will be guided to conceptualize a design, using a triad colour scheme, and then stamp colour with the templates they create. The focus is on composition, symbols, pattern and colour theory to create a tiled image that pops!

**Curriculum Connections:** Visual Arts

## Light on the Land

Inspired by Canadian Artist Lucius O'Brien

With an introduction to the historic, regional paintings by Lucius O'Brien, young artists will create monochrome landscapes. Using artist-quality watercolour paints, brushes and wax resist on watercolour paper, students learn about *colour gradation*, *monochromatic scale*, *painting techniques*, *positive* and *negative space*, *texture* and *transparency*.

**Curriculum Connections:** Visual Arts, Geography

## The Clean Shape

Inspired by Indigenous Québécoise Artist Rita Letendre

In this program, students will be inspired by the abstract paintings of Indigenous-Québécoise artist Rita Letendre. Students will explore the style of *hard-edge abstraction* on canvas board using masking tape as a tool to paint clean *shapes*, *lines* and *overlapping edges*. The focus is on *colour theory*, *layering*, *texture* and *transparency*, as well as *geometric* and *spatial reasoning*.

**Curriculum Connections:** Visual Arts, Math

## EcoScape

Students will learn to create a series of unique prints based on a creative representation of *micro-organisms in an ecosystem*. Students design an image and carve it into soft linoleum. The impressions are inked and pressed to create a two-colour reduction print. The focus is on *visual elements*, *principles of design*, *cooperative effort*, and *printmaking* as an art form.

**Curriculum Connections:** Visual Arts, Science

## PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Program	Media	Grade	Length	Fee
Pop Goes the World	stamping	7 - 8	120 minutes	\$335
Light on the Land	watercolour painting	7 - 8	120 minutes	\$335
The Clean Shape	acrylic painting	7 - 8	120 minutes	\$335
EcoScape	printmaking	7 - 8	120 minutes	\$335