



Activating Emily

The Emily Carr Activity Book

DOWNLOAD THE APP
Free!

This book has a life of its own! Colour and draw in it, “activate” it with your tablet or phone, and take it on a field trip! Tell your friends about it!

Use your device to take photos of your work throughout this book, and share them on Instagram and Twitter with the hashtag **#ActivatingEmily**.

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria is located on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen peoples, today known as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory.



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Look for these corners!

*In conjunction with this book, the **Activating Emily companion app** provides an interactive experience with Emily Carr's art. Look for artworks and images framed by corners like these. Download the app to your tablet or mobile device, open it, and follow the on-screen instructions to scan these pieces. There you'll find additional videos, stories and more!*

Get the Activating Emily app for FREE on your iOS device now from the iTunes App Store, or visit the Gallery welcome desk to sign out a device to use.

In some low-light areas of the Gallery the pieces might be more difficult to scan. Try shifting your angle of view or repositioning yourself for more light and better results.

**“I think trees love to
toss and sway; they
make such happy
noises.”**

Emily Carr, Hundreds and Thousands



Looking at Emily Carr With the Whole Body

Emily Carr is known for the movement, energy and vitality she brought to many of her paintings. Some of them seem to come “alive” the more we look at them.

How do you move when you look at Emily Carr’s paintings - do you “toss and sway?” “quiver?” make “happy noises?”

“What do these forests make you feel? ... you can find strength in them that you look for. How absolutely full of truth they are, how full of reality. The juice and essence of life are in them... As the breezes blow among them, they quiver, yet how still they stand developing with the universe.”

*Emily Carr, Opposite Contraries: The Unknown
Journals of Emily Carr and Other Writings*

Look at the Painting

Odds and Ends



Odds and Ends

Scan Odds and Ends with the Activating Emily app to watch what happens when local artist Judith Price “**embodies**” the brush strokes in these paintings and uses her whole body to become the sky, trees, and spirit/feeling of the landscape.

embodies:
to represent in human form

What do you see?

What does it feel like to create these movements with *your whole body*?

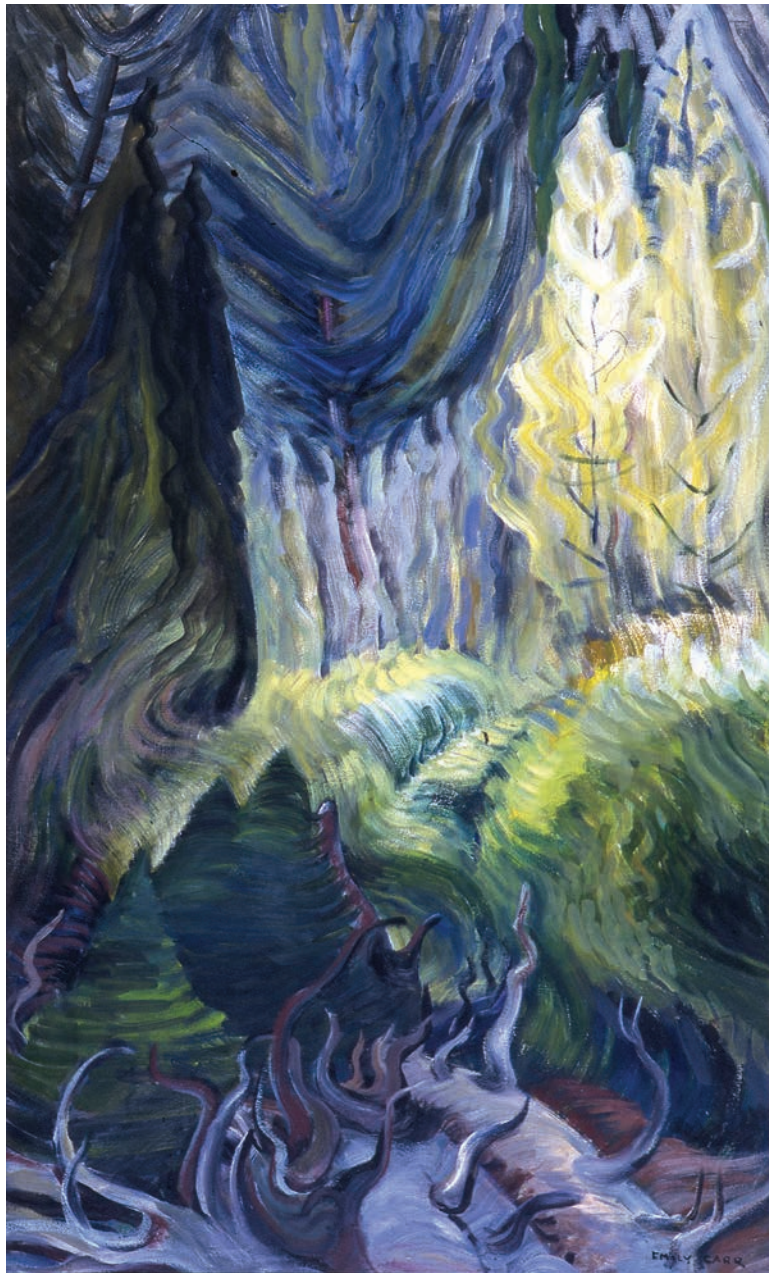


Activity

Create a dance in the Gallery, record it on your smartphone or tablet and share it on Instagram! Use the hashtag [#DancingWithEmily](#) to join others in the online dance gallery.

**“The body says
what words
cannot”**
Martha Graham

Looking back at the paintings — has anything changed about the way you see them? Do you feel it more in your toes or your shoulders than your eyeballs?



Light Swooping Through

Scan this painting with the Activating Emily app and watch local artist Judith Price respond to the artwork with gesture and dance.

Look at the Painting

Light Swooping Through

What do you see?

How do you think Emily Carr moved her paintbrush to create this painting? Short, fast strokes? Long flowing strokes?

Hold an imaginary paintbrush in the air and make the movements you think she made.



For the Love of Nature

Emily Carr often painted in nature, immersed in the forest, surrounded by plants like **Camas***. Camas has been an important food source for Indigenous (First Nations) people on Vancouver Island for many generations, and continues to be to this day.

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria is located on the lands of the Lekwungen speaking peoples, in a **Garry Oak Ecosystem***. Healthy Garry Oak Ecosystems are rich with various plants, animals and insects where Garry Oak trees and Camas naturally thrive. These ecosystems were most healthy before Europeans settled on the island.



Scan this image of a Camas with the Activating Emily app to hear Ethnobotanist and Lekwungen woman Cheryl Bryce welcome us to these ancestral lands.

Activity

Draw your own Camas and show how you will keep it healthy! Will you water it? Remove non-indigenous grasses and Broom so it gets more sunshine and has room to grow?

Look at the Painting

Broom, Beacon Hill



Broom, Beacon Hill

Scan the painting to watch it transform as Camas grows in this **Kwetlal** scene, and change again into a video of how this same place looks now.



Did you know? “**Kwetlal**” is the Lekwungen word for both Camas and Garry Oak Ecosystems (Pronounced “kwet-lahl”)

Note: This is a language that was primarily orally shared, so spellings are approximate.



Field Trip!

See page 19 and go on a Field Trip to Beacon Hill Park (**Meegan**) where you can follow in Emily Carr’s footsteps, and walk in a Garry Oak (**Kwetlal**) ecosystem!

“THIS PLACE IS FULL OF CEDARS; THEIR COLOURS ARE
TERRIBLY SENSITIVE TO CHANGE OF TIME AND LIGHT
– SOMETIMES THEY ARE **BLUISH COLD GREEN**, THEN
THEY TURN **YELLOW WARM GREEN** – SOMETIMES
THEIR BOUGHS FLOP HEAVY & **SOMETIMES FLOAT**,
THEN THEY ARE **FAIRY AS FERNS**
& THEN THEY DROOP, HEAVY AS HEART ACHES.”

Emily Carr, in a letter to Ira Dilworth, undated (around 1942)

Emily's Colours

Have you ever noticed that if you look at a tree – or the grass or the sky – in the morning, it looks different than it does at night?

Scan Lone Cedar with the Activating Emily app to watch how the colours of the forest can change with the light and time of day.

“Cedar provided so much to our ancestors, as it still does today. It provided wood for our homes, for the canoes, the bark was used for baskets, clothing, diapers, rope. Cedar is the tree of life.”

Cheryl Bryce



Lone Cedar

Look at the Painting

Blue Sky

What time of day do you think it was when Carr painted this picture?

Can you imagine a time of day – or a time of year - when the trees, ground and sky would be different colours than the ones Emily used?

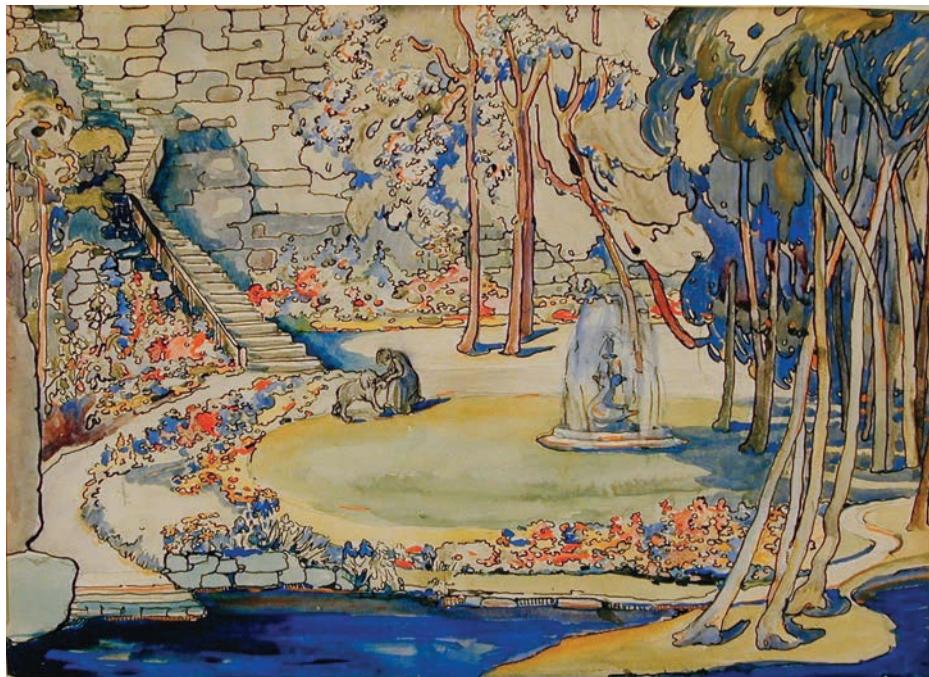


Blue Sky



Activity

Colour this reproduction of *Lone Cedar*. Will you colour on top of the lines? In the lines? Will you use warm colours? Cool colours? What time of day is it in your picture?



Dream Picture

Father wanted his place to look exactly like England. He planted cowslips and primroses and hawthorn hedges and all the Englishy flowers. He had stiles and meadows and took away all the wild Canadian-ness and made it as meek and English as he could.

Emily Carr, The Book of Small

Did you know that the plants mentioned in this quote are **non-indigenous**? To learn more about how non-indigenous plants affect the ecosystem, see page 8 and 9.

Emily Carr: The New Canadian

Emily Carr was born in Victoria, British Columbia, in 1871. So, we would consider her a “new Canadian” since her parents had moved to Victoria just five years before she was born.

Her father, Richard, was born in Kent, in the southeast of England.

Richard Carr’s family didn’t have much money, and he didn’t have much education; he decided to try and find his fortune by travelling the world.

In 1836, Richard Carr left England on a steamship, and travelled to many places in Europe and South America. He finally returned to England in 1848. In 1855, he married Emily Carr’s mother, who was also named Emily.

In 1863, Richard and Emily Carr immigrated to Victoria, British Columbia, a colonial town built on lands that had been home to Indigenous peoples for thousands of years.

See page 8 for more information on these ancestral lands.



Richard Carr studio portrait

Scan this photo and listen to Ian Pears tell Richard Carr’s story of how he came to live and raise his family in Victoria.

The Carrs lived in James Bay and Richard became a successful merchant. They had nine children – five girls and four boys. Their second youngest child was Emily Carr!



Richard Carr Residence, 207 Government St, Victoria BC



Field Trip!

See page 20 for a suggested Field Trip to Emily Carr House where you can learn more about where Emily Carr lived and made her first studio.

Do you live in Victoria? If you do, and you're not Indigenous to these lands, how long have you and/or your family been here?

Activity

Ask the people around you to share their stories of how they came to be in Victoria! Find new friends in the gallery, ask them these questions and write down their answers.

Front Desk Staff

Security Guard

Volunteer

Gift Shop Staff

Gallery Visitor

Field Trip: Goldstream Park



Emily Carr created many paintings and drawings of the majestic cedar trees in Goldstream Park. On your field trip to the park, can you find the cedar trees in this picture?

Hint - From the main parking lot walk over a bridge and take the first trail on your right. Look left at the start of the trail, what do you see?



While visiting the park, try your hand at creating a rubbing on cedar bark using the next page of this booklet. Listen while you draw! Scan this photo with the Activating Emily app to hear about how cedar has been used by Indigenous (First Nations) people for many generations.



Activity

Use the space above create your own cedar bark rubbing!

- 1) Hold this blank page up to the bark of a cedar tree.
- 2) Hold the paper still on the tree with one hand as you rub your pencil (or crayon, charcoal etc.) back and forth across the paper.
- 3) Watch as interesting textures and patterns appear from the bark underneath your page!

Note: Please watch where you step as you walk up to the tree to create the rubbing. Try not to step on any plants so we keep this ecosystem healthy!

Field Trip: Beacon Hill Park



Sketching in the big woods is wonderful...
Air moves between each leaf. Sunlight
plays and dances... Life is sweeping
through the spaces.

Emily Carr, Hundreds and Thousands

Did you know the Lekwungen name
for Beacon Hill is **Meegan**? This means
“a place to warm your belly”. Listen to
Cheryl Bryce talking about protecting
and managing the **Kwetlal** (Camas) in
Meegan.

Enjoy a field trip to this Garry Oak meadow in Beacon Hill Park (**Meegan**)! Sit in the meadow and close your eyes. What do you hear? Can you hear the wind in the trees, the ocean waves, birds singing? Write a list of what you hear.



Field Trip: Emily Carr House



Emily Carr at age 22

No one was teaching drawing in Victoria...

I liked the work.

I taught my class in our dining room.

...the room got messed up; there was trouble after every class.

Can I have the loft of the old cow barn for a studio? ...No studio has ever been so dear to me as that old loft.

Emily Carr, Growing Pains

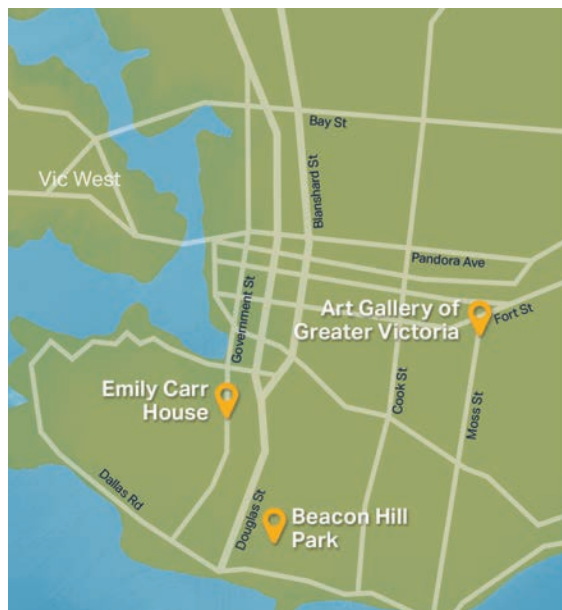
Did you know that the house that Emily Carr was born and grew up in is in Victoria? It is located at 207 Government Street in James Bay.

You can visit Emily Carr House and explore her dining room, parlour and other rooms. Spend time in the garden - drawing - where the cow barn used to be.

Emily Carr House is open for visitors from May through September and often you will find sketching materials waiting for you.

You can find more information about opening hours and admission at www.emilycarr.com or call (250) 383-5843.





This area is part of the Swengwhung family group. This is one of the family groups of the Lekwungen people.

Copyright information:

Front cover: Emily Carr, *Above the Gravel Pit* (detail), 1936, oil on paper, 61 x 91.1 cm, Collection of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Anonymous Gift, 1980.038.001.

p. 4 Emily Carr, *Light Swooping Through*, 1938-39, oil on canvas, 111 x 68.5 cm, Collection of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Gift of the Hon. Mark Kearley, 1964.229.001.

p. 6 Emily Carr, *Odds and Ends*, 1939, oil on canvas, 67.4 x 109.5 cm, Collection of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, formerly in the collection of the Greater Victoria Public Library. Transferred to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, 1998.001.001.

p. 8 Credit for Ethnobotanical information/stories by Cheryl Bryce. The knowledge is generations old and current experiences of Cheryl Bryce. The Star Sisters story is from the family group, Checkonin of the Songhees.

p. 9 Emily Carr, *Broom, Beacon Hill*, 1937, oil on paper, 29.5 x 43.1 cm, Collection of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, The Thomas Gardiner Keir Bequest, 1994.055.006.

p. 11 Emily Carr, *Lone Cedar*, 1936, oil on paper board, 90.8 x 60.1 cm, Collection of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, The Thomas Gardiner Keir Bequest, 1994.055.001

p. 12 Emily Carr, *Blue Sky*, 1936, oil on canvas, 93.5 x 65 cm, Collection of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, The Thomas Gardiner Keir Bequest, 1994.055.002

p. 14 Emily Carr, *Dream Picture*, 1924, watercolour on paper, 26 x 36.2 cm, Collection of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Flora Hamilton Burns Bequest, 1989.037.002

p. 15 Photographer unknown, Richard Carr studio portrait, around 1876, E-09901, courtesy of the Royal BC Museum and Archives

p. 16 Photographer unknown, The Richard Carr residence, 207 Government Street, Victoria, August 1891, A-09186, courtesy of the Royal BC Museum and Archives

p. 20 Photographer unknown, Emily Carr at age 22, 1893, H-02813, courtesy of the Royal BC Museum and Archives

Back cover: Emily Carr, *Dancing Tree* (detail), around 1938, oil on paper, 61.1 x 91.6 cm, Collection of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Gift of the Hon. Mark Kearley in memory of Mabel Florence Kearley, 1968.212.001

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Activating Emily invites you to experience renowned BC artist Emily Carr's artwork and stories in new ways. Inspired by artwork from the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria's collection, this activity book and app invites you to respond to her art with your whole body, learn about Indigenous plants the artist was surrounded by as she created, play with colour, learn about her family history while exploring your own, and much more!

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creativeBC



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL**
An agency of the Province of British Columbia

App and activity book produced by



The Number