When you find the works of art listed in this guide, look at each one for sixty seconds in silence.

While looking at each work, discuss two details that you notice with your group.

Is there a story being told?

What do you want to remember about this artwork?

If you could ask this artwork a question, what would you ask?

FALL 2023 Exhibitions

Anna Boghiguian: Time of Change
Abdelkader Benchamama: Solastalgia: Archaeologies of Loss
Aria Dean: Abattoir, U.S.A.!

Let’s start our adventure at The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery. Follow along with this guide during your visit to find three artworks in the Fall 2023 exhibitions.

Let’s look, listen, feel, and learn about how these artworks communicate with us. At the end of your journey, you can relax, read a book, and colour a card at the Power Kids Creative Hub.

Read this guide online at bit.ly/powerkids
First Stop!
Anna Boghiguian’s *The Chess Game*, in the Royal LePage Gallery

Anna Boghiguian was born in Cairo, Egypt, in 1946 to an Armenian family. While in Cairo, she studied economics and political science, but she also loved and practiced painting. Later, when she moved to Montreal with her family, she studied fine arts and music. Anna is a storyteller with her art. She takes historical events and characters and turns them into inspiring art.

In this artwork, Anna creates a historical narrative using a chessboard. Her chess pieces are representations of people from history with diverse perspectives. Even though they lived in different times and places, they all share a common trait: they created or developed new ways of thinking in social, political, and cultural fields. Be sure to pick up Anna’s chess pieces pamphlet and discover their stories. If you research their stories in more depth, you will find the connections between them.

**THE ORIGIN OF CHESS**

Let’s go way back to India in the sixth century! That’s where chess started as a game called “chaturanga,” meaning four divisions. Imagine it as a game where you have pieces like infantry (soldiers), cavalry (soldiers on horses), elephantry (soldiers on elephants), and chariotry (soldiers on chariots). Over time, these pieces turned into the pawns, knights, bishops, and rooks we have in chess today. When chaturanga travelled to Persia, now Iran, it was given a new name. The word “chess” came from “shāh,” which means king, and “checkmate” came from “shāh-māt,” which means the king is trapped and helpless.
Second Stop!
Abdelkader Benchamma’s *Engramme - A livre ouvert* in the McLean Gallery

Abdelkader Benchamma’s artworks are a fascinating blend of art and science. He gets inspired by philosophy, geology, astronomy, alchemy, art history, and literature. He uses simple materials such as charcoal, ink, and paint to create complex drawings. In some of his drawings, it seems he is building strange new worlds, and in others, it’s like he is digging up old memories. Abdelkader’s art helps us think about how people and the universe are connected and how both can create, change, and sometimes even break things apart.

![Image of *Engramme - A livre ouvert* by Abdelkader Benchamma](image)

**Symmetry**

is when something has a perfect balance and looks the same on both sides.

It’s as if you could fold it in half, and both halves would match exactly, like a mirror image or a butterfly’s wings.

**Observe Together**

This artwork seems very symmetrical at first glance. When you look with more attention, you see the differences between the drawing’s right and the left sides.

Can you identify five differences between the right and left sides?

Why do you think Abdelkader created an asymmetrical image that looks symmetrical?

Which part of the drawing do you think is inspired by geology? Do you see any part of the drawing that resembles the patterns of rocks?

What are your thoughts on the lines and shapes drawn directly on the walls surrounding the frame? How do you believe they influence the imaginary universe within this artwork?

Add your own drawing to this image. You can make a mirrored image, creating symmetry, or something entirely new and unique. The possibilities are endless, let your imagination run free!
The sky becomes a canvas filled with sparkling stars when the sun sets on a clear night. The darkness of the night lets us ponder the vastness of space surrounding our Earth.

Exploring the night sky involves discovering constellations, which are groupings of stars that form patterns or shapes and have been given names. These patterns might resemble animals, mythical creatures, people, or even objects like microscopes, compasses, or crowns. Once you identify a constellation, it becomes something like a guide that helps you find other stars positioned relative to it.

Can you find the constellations shown at the bottom of the page in the night sky below? Draw a line with a white pencil crayon to connect the dots.

HINT: There are 4 constellations below, bonus if you can find Ursa Minor also know as the Little Dipper.

**Draco**

Draco means "dragon" in Latin, and the constellation was given this name by the ancient Egyptian astronomer Ptolemy (pronounced TOE-leh-MY). Have you ever come across the name Draco before?

**Hercules**

Hercules was the mightiest of all the legendary Greek heroes. He gained fame for his extraordinary feats and incredible strength, courage, and intelligence. When was the first time you heard the name Hercules?

**Andromeda**

Pegasus was an immortal, winged horse from Greek mythology. What other constellations do you and your group know about?
Aria Dean has been studying buildings used for farming and factories for a long time. In this film, she takes us inside an empty slaughterhouse, also known as an abattoir, a place where animals used to be processed for meat. She uses a special computer tool called Unreal Engine; it’s the same kind of tool that makes video games look real. Buildings like slaughterhouses have played a big role in how our cities were designed. Aria’s film is a journey that makes us ponder how our world is shaped by the places we build, and how we are connected to other humans, animals, and the environment.
Fourth Stop!
Power Kids Creative Hub
in the North Gallery

Welcome to our final stop! Here, you can let your imagination wander after exploring the three exhibitions. Grab a book and dive into topics related to the artists’ projects. Take your time to relax in a peaceful atmosphere while colouring cards inspired by the exhibitions.

If you’d like, share your creations with us on social media by tagging #ThePowerPlantTO. We can’t wait to see your art!

JOIN OUR FREE POWER KIDS WORKSHOPS!

On Sunday, January 7, 2024, following a tour of Abdellkader Benchnamma’s exhibition, *Solastalgia: Archaeologies of Loss*, you will explore how to use simple yet fascinating techniques and materials to create your very own marbled paper, capturing the beauty of natural patterns. This is a hands-on activity that encourages artistic expression and provides quality family time to make a tangible keepsake to remember your visit. For upcoming family programming, please see the next page.

For more information, email powerkids@thepowerplant.org.
ALL YEAR, ALL FREE

PRESENTED BY

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GALLERY HOURS
MONDAY - CLOSED
TUESDAY - CLOSED
WEDNESDAY - 11 AM - 6 PM
THURSDAY - 11 AM - 8 PM
FRIDAY - 11 AM - 6 PM
SATURDAY - 11 AM - 6 PM
SUNDAY - 11 AM - 6 PM
* 11 AM - 6 PM on holiday Mondays

INFORMATION
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Become a Member

As Canada’s leading contemporary art gallery, The Power Plant provides you and your family with exceptional opportunities to access, engage with, and exchange ideas regarding the best artworks of our time by world-renowned artists.

Your membership directly supports artists and the opportunities they have to develop and present new work.

ANNUAL FAMILY/DUAL MEMBERSHIP ($100) INCLUDES:

- Two membership e-cards
- 15% discount on publications, artist editions, and merchandise (in person and online)
- Invitations to exhibition preview events
- Reciprocal admission to public galleries in Ontario (GOG) for two adults and up to four children
- Reciprocal admission to North American institutions (NARM and ROAM) for two adults and up to four children

For more information about membership levels and benefits, please visit our website or ask one of our friendly and knowledgeable Gallery Attendants how you can join The Power Plant family today!

Power Kids

THE POWER PLANT FREE

For children aged 7-12 years with parents or guardians (and younger siblings). Caregivers must remain with their children during these programs.

Tours and workshops are led by Nilou Salimi, Power Kids and Outreach Coordinator, with Rose Maagdenberg, Power Kids Teaching Assistant.

Visit bit.ly/powerkids or email powerkids@thepowerplant.org for more information.

Art in the Sun
Cyanotype Creation
Sunday, October 22, 2023, 3 PM

Shāh-Māt
Creative Chess Adventure
Sunday, November 5, 2023, 3 PM

Chronicles of My Art
Making Artist Books
Sunday, November 19, 2023, 3 PM

As Tall as a Wall
Large Scale Painting
Sunday, December 3, 2023, 3 PM

Swirls on Water
Marbling on Paper
Sunday, January 7, 2024, 3 PM

GROUP VISITS

The Power Plant offers group visits for K-12 students, including hands-on art-making options. To schedule your group, please email tours@thepowerplant.org or call 416-973-4949.