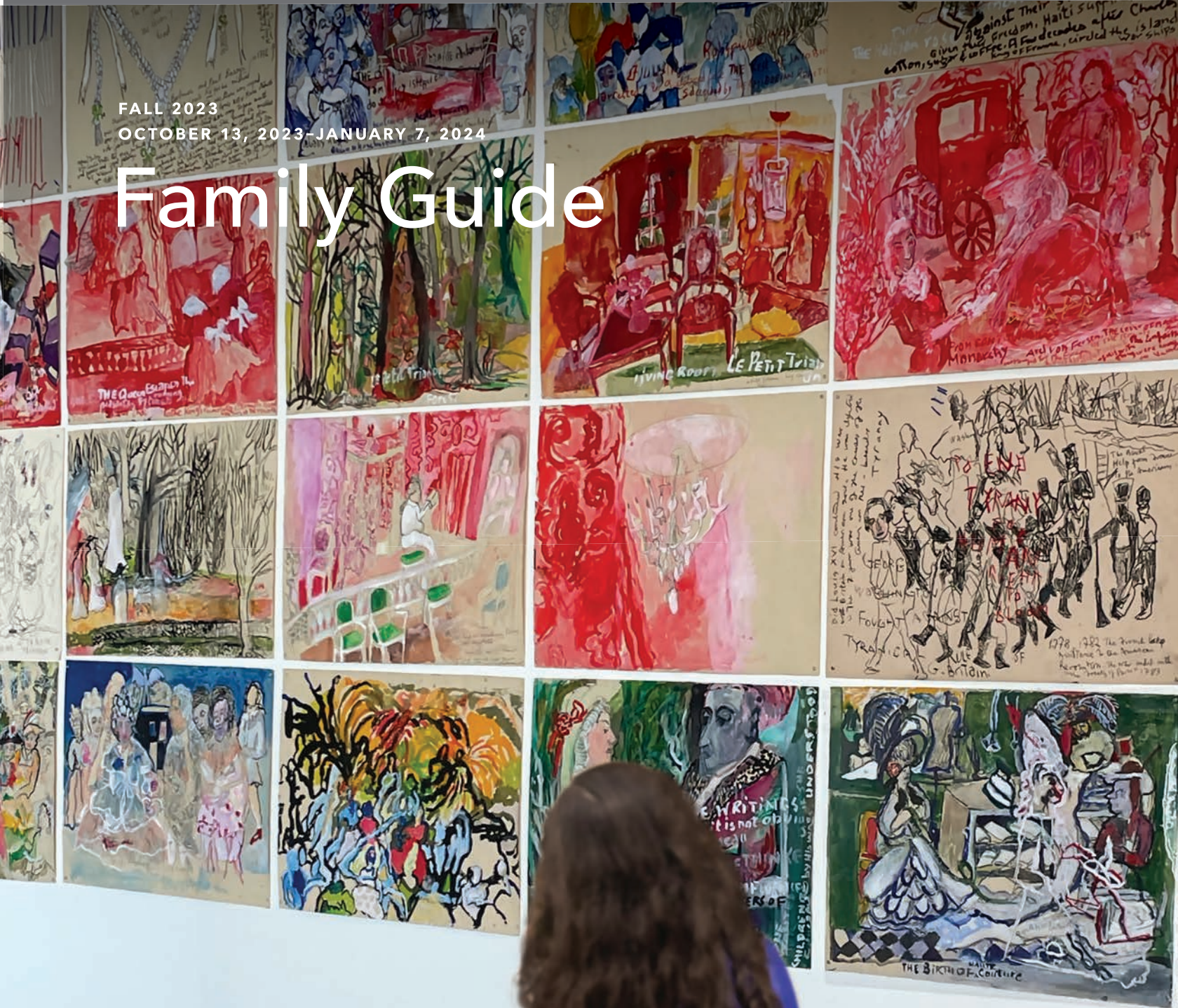


FALL 2023  
OCTOBER 13, 2023-JANUARY 7, 2024

# Family Guide



THE  
POWER  
PLANT

Power  
Kids





## FALL 2023 Exhibitions

Anna Boghiguian: *Time of Change*  
 Abdelkader Benchamma:  
*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.

### OBSERVE TOGETHER

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?

**FRONT COVER**  
 Power Kids participants, Fall 2023.  
 Photo by: Nilou Salimi.

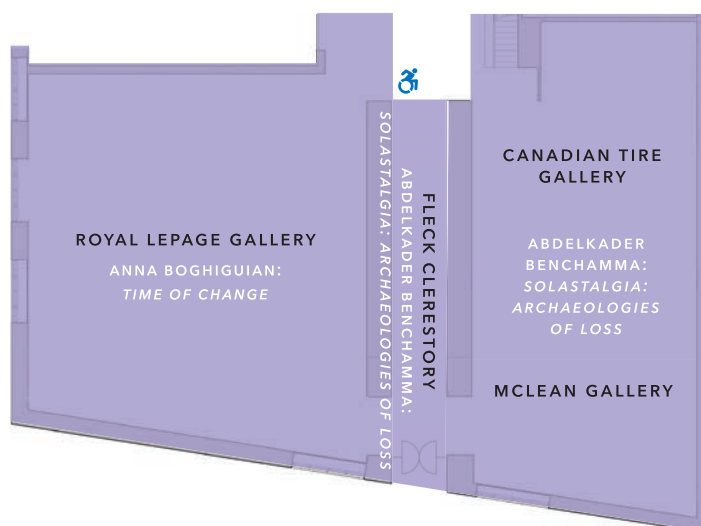
**INSIDE FRONT COVER**  
 Power Kids participants, Summer 2023.  
 Photo: Hyerim Han.

Read this guide online  
 at [bit.ly/powerkids](https://bit.ly/powerkids)

#### SECOND FLOOR



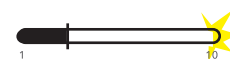
#### GROUND FLOOR



#### In the Galleries



Ask a Gallery Attendant if you have any questions about the artworks.



Remember to use your inside voice.



Keep a little distance from the artworks. They are fragile and your touch can harm them.

1

## First Stop! Anna Boghiguian's *The Chess Game*, in the Royal LePage Gallery



**THIS PAGE** Anna Boghiguian, *The Chess Game*, installation view first floor, Kunsthau Bregenz, 2022. Photo: Markus Tretter. Courtesy of the artist © Anna Boghiguian, Kunsthau Bregenz.

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.

### In Her Own Words

Ask your group for their thoughts on the purpose of art. Here is Anna's response to the same question:

"I think the purpose of art is to heal. It's the healing process of life. If taken in positive attitude, culture and art ... are phenomena that heal the world. And without art and culture, the world can become sick."

Take a close look at Anna's artworks and see if you can find any writing within them.

What are your thoughts on incorporating writing into drawings?

How do you feel about Anna's perspective on this?

"I like to include text because writing is part of drawing, and drawing is line and writing is line. And I think the two fit together."

## 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.

# 2

## Second Stop! Abdelkader Benchamma's *Engramme* - *A livre ouvert* in the McLean Gallery



**RIGHT**  
Abdelkader Benchamma,  
*Engramme - A livre ouvert*,  
(English: *Engram - Open*  
book), 2021, ink and paint  
on paper, 527 x 330 x 5 cm.  
Courtesy the artist and  
Templon, Paris - Brussels -  
New York.

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.

### 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.

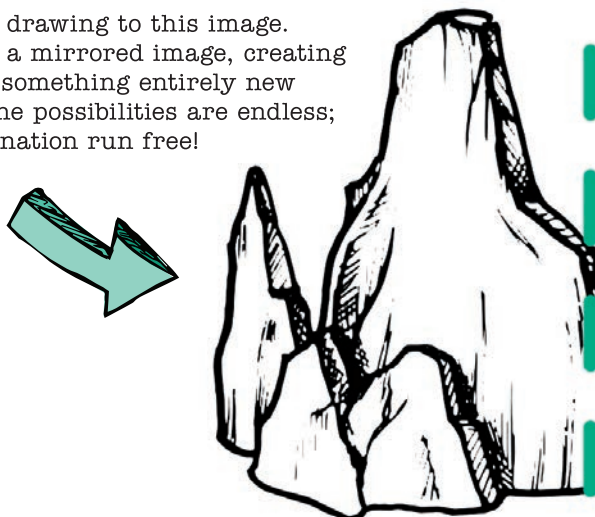
Can you identify five differences between the right and left sides?

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.

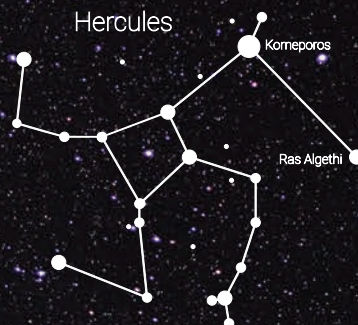
Exploring the night sky involves discovering constellations, which are groupings of stars that form patterns or shapes and have been given names. These patterns might resemble animals, mythical creatures, people, or even objects like microscopes, compasses, or crowns. Once you identify a constellation,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

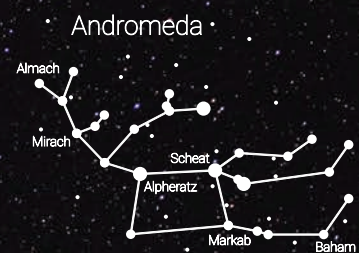
HINT: There are 4 constellations below, bonus if you can find Urša Minor also know as the Little Dipper.



DRACO MEANS "DRAGON" IN LATIN, AND THE CONSTELLATION WAS GIVEN THIS NAME BY THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ASTRONOMER PTOLEMY (PRONOUNCED TO-LE-MEE). HAVE YOU EVER COME ACROSS THE NAME DRACO BEFORE?



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?



PEGASUS WAS AN IMMORTAL WINGED HORSE FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY. WHAT OTHER CONSTELLATIONS DO YOU AND YOUR GROUP KNOW ABOUT?



# 3

## Third Stop! Aria Dean's *Abattoir, U.S.A.!* in the North Gallery



**RIGHT**  
Aria Dean, *Abattoir, U.S.A.!*,  
installation view, The  
Renaissance Society,  
Chicago, 2023. Photo:  
Robert Chase Heishman.

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.

### Did you know?

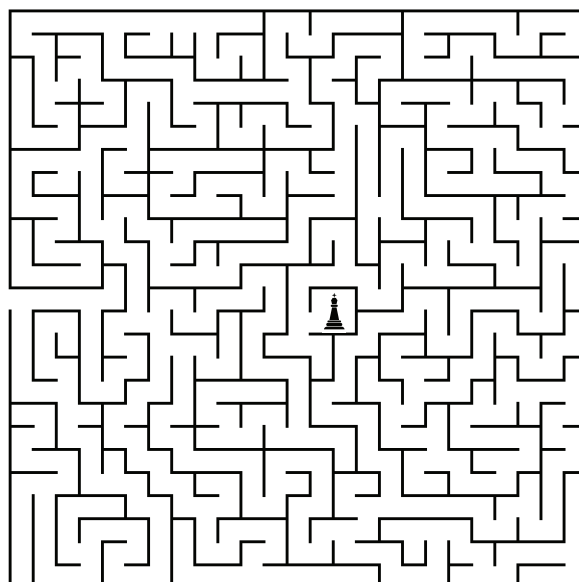
In the late nineteenth century, an outbreak of disease among hogs\* in the United Kingdom created a massive demand for pork products from Toronto. This unexpected demand led to a rapid growth of the pork industry. By the early 1900s, Toronto had the largest pork processing company in the Commonwealth. As a result, Toronto earned the nickname "Hogtown," a name that has stuck through history. Some of those pork processing companies used to be located close to The Power Plant.

\*Hog is another word for a pig.



**IN CHESS, KNIGHTS CAN ONLY MOVE IN AN "L" SHAPE, MEANING THEY MOVE TWO SQUARES IN ONE DIRECTION AND THEN ONE SQUARE IN ANOTHER. THIS CAN MAKE THEIR PATH LOOK LIKE A MAZE.**

**YOUR GOAL IS TO HELP THE KNIGHT MAKE ITS WAY TO THE KING AND PUT HIM IN CHECKMATE. DRAW A LINE GUIDING THE KNIGHT THROUGH THE MAZE TO REACH THE KING AND EMERGE VICTORIOUS.**



# 4

## Fourth Stop! Power Kids Creative Hub in the North Gallery



**LEFT**  
Power Kids Creative Hub,  
Summer 2023. Photo by:  
Nilou Salimi  
**LEFT BELOW AND BACK COVER**  
Colouring Cards, Summer  
2023. Photo by: Nilou Salimi  
**BOTTOM**  
Power Kids Images, Summer  
2023. Photo: Nilou Salimi



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 Abdelkader Benchamma'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](mailto:powerkids@thepowerplant.org).



## ALL YEAR, ALL FREE

### PRESENTED BY

BMO  Financial Group

### 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

+1.416.973.4949

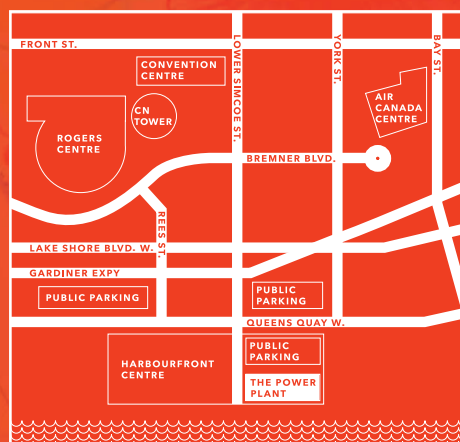
info@thepowerplant.org

thepowerplant.org



### LOCATION

231 Queens Quay West  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
M5J 2G8



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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](http://bit.ly/powerkids) or email [powerkids@thepowerplant.org](mailto: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](mailto:tours@thepowerplant.org) or call 416-973-4949

Power  
Kids