



Winter Semester 2022. January 10th, 2022.

Due to the current state of the pandemic in Montreal, we have decided that the in-person Fine Arts classes will be held online for **the first two weeks**, as indicated in the email sent to all our students. After **January 30th**, these classes will return to an in-person format if the government lifts the current lockdown measures. **Youth, jewellery, and ceramics** courses will be postponed until Sunday, **January 30 and 10 weeks long**. You will receive a refund for the two weeks cancelled in February when we have more information.

Our team is working hard to keep our community well informed. VAC staff are available by email to assist you, don't hesitate to write to us at info@visualartscentre.ca. The office is working from home until further notice. Please consult our website for the most up-to-date information.

The **McClure Gallery** will remain open at 50% capacity, and in-person events will be rescheduled online pending further information from the government.

The Safety Policy is below

To our community:

As we push into the 21st month of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us are wondering when we will return to normal, and in fact, what normal even means. With vaccines in place, the safety of day to day interactions and pleasures has increased significantly, but there is still a risk.

At the VAC the safety of our community has always been our priority. As many of you are aware through your continued support and engagement with the centre, we have instituted a series of protocols to protect each other during these difficult times. This includes visitor tracking, mask compliance, sanitization stations and increased cleaning - all in line with the requirements of Santé publique. We are also limiting course participation and gathering in the school and gallery while continuing to offer online courses and programming.

Many of you have asked why we don't also ask for proof of vaccination. Our decision is based on consultation with our board and Santé publique - who has advised us that it would be illegal for us to do so. The Visual Arts Centre has been classified by Santé publique as a community centre with a drop in clientele ([Measures in force in Québec—Starting November 15](#)) The VAC does not completely agree with this classification but we are also not planning to challenge it further as our challenge would be legally difficult.

To quote Santé publique:

FR : « Vous n'avez malheureusement pas le droit d'exiger le passeport vaccinal et d'aller à l'encontre de la décision du gouvernement. Si vous décidez d'aller en ce sens, il peut y avoir des poursuites judiciaires d'un particulier contre vous qui se sentirait brimés dans ses droits. Advenant une poursuite judiciaire, le gouvernement ne pourrait vous supporter dans vos démarches. »

EN: "Unfortunately, you do not have the right to demand the vaccine passport and go against the government's decision. If you decide to go against the government's decision, there may be a lawsuit from an individual against you who feels that his or her rights have been violated. In the event of a lawsuit, the government would not be able to support you in your efforts."

We hope this clarifies the situation. Our goal is to make you feel secure visiting the centre and thank you for your cooperation.



Visual Arts Centre Covid-19 Student and Visitor Safety Policy

Until further notice, in order to take classes at the Visual Arts Centre, students you must agree to follow the safety measures listed below. Anyone not respecting these rules will be required to leave the building.

1. Masks must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in the building.
2. Everyone must maintain at least 1m distance between people.
3. Students and visitors will enter through our Victoria Ave. door and will exit through the Somerville door, with the exception of students taking courses in Studio F (which has its own door).
4. At the beginning of each class, students and visitors will wait outside the Victoria Ave. door, maintaining at least 1m between people.
 - a. An employee of the VAC will let them into the building 10 minutes before the start of class, and then the door will be locked. You may ring the Administration bell to gain access if no one is at the door.
 - b. The gallery coordinator will let visitors in, respecting the maximum number of visitors allowed in at a time. We encourage people to reserve a timeslot beforehand (galeriemcclure@centredesartsvisuels.ca).
5. For youth and teen classes, parents are not allowed to enter the building. Parents will drop off their child to the teacher 15 minutes before class and they must sign them in on the attendance form. At the end of the class, teachers will bring their students to the Somerville exit, maintaining social distancing. Teachers will bring each student to the respective parent through the Somerville entrance. Parents must sign their children out on the attendance form.
6. All visitors and students must respond to a questionnaire about covid-19 before entering the building to ensure that they are not at risk of being infectious.
7. Everyone must disinfect their hands upon entering and exiting the building and when entering and exiting the gallery and studios. Furthermore, we encourage frequent handwashing with soap and water – there are sinks in every studio and in the gallery.
8. There are flow directives throughout the building, which must be adhered to.
9. Visitors and students cannot enter the administrative office. All course registrations and questions must occur online or over the phone.
10. Students and visitors will limit their movement in the building, inside and outside of the gallery and the studio their class is in.
11. Each class will have a specific 10-min. breaktime that must be adhered to. Breaks are staggered to ensure that there are a limited number of people moving through the building. When returning before the end of their 10-min. break, students must ring the audio/video doorbell at the Victoria Ave. entrance and provide their name to the employee who answers.
12. Each washroom has hygiene etiquette posters, which must be followed.
13. Students will be asked to clean their stations and shared tools they have used.
14. Students will not be allowed to move tables, easels, or other studio equipment.
15. You may drink beverages by removing one side of your mask very briefly. It is forbidden to eat food in the building. The only exception is for courses that are 4 or more hours, for which there will be a short lunch break with very strict rules applied by your teacher.
16. If you begin to experience covid-19 symptoms while at the Centre, please inform the closest staff member immediately and they will provide you with instructions.
17. If anyone tests positive for covid-19 and believes that they were infectious while in our building, they must inform the administration (info@visualartscentre.ca).
18. If you need an accommodation to participate in a course, you must contact us to discuss this prior to signing up. Please contact us by email (info@visualartscentre.ca) or telephone (514-488-9558).

We would like to specify that, at this time, students are not required to show proof of vaccination to attend classes at the VAC. Public Health has informed us that because they do not consider our activities to be high-risk and large groups do not gather at the VAC, we cannot require proof of vaccination at this point. If this changes, we will inform you as soon as possible