

Art Strollers



About....

Art Strollers offers museum tours, gallery tours, workshops and creative mornings for mothers and children in the Toronto area. From free gallery tours, workshops, creative mornings and guided Museum tours, Art Strollers makes it easy for mothers to enjoy a cultural outing with their little ones.

The Idea....

is to offer weekly cultural options for mothers and children in Toronto and to make workshops, gallery and museum visits easy and enjoyable. An outing with children, let alone a gallery or museum visit present its challenges. We structure everything in advance, offer caregiver services on our major tours, ensure all venues are stroller friendly and incorporate a small art projects for toddlers and children.... To push the idea further we launched our workshop series where various art related topics covering art history, artists and various mediums. These series, structured by art consultants, offer the mother a chance to partake in the lecture and discussion and introduce children to various art related topics at an early age. To add to the artistic atmosphere workshops are held at the RedEye Studio Gallery in the Distillery District.

The Founder....

Veronika Roux-Vlachova, a mother of two found that after the birth of her first son, visiting galleries and attending art classes became quite challenging. There are many art related programs for children yet nothing for mothers with children, especially mothers with infants.

Veronika's self driven passion for the arts, and her ever stimulating work at one of the largest agencies for stock photography was not enough to quench her thirst. Getting acquainted with her own plight she realized that something had to be done. She therefore, decided to test the waters and scheduled a first gallery tour in August 2008 in the Distillery, the tour attracted over thirty mothers with screaming, crying, laughing and bubbling little energy filled newborns, all stepped into an art gallery with a no exit strategy. And no exit it has been for her ever since. The success of these regular gallery dates led to the expansion of [Art Strollers](#).

The Team...

is composed of Sara Baig, a mother and architect who oversees the marketing. All classes are structures by one of our ten art consultants, each bringing something different to the table. Consultants were selected for their art knowledge, their passion for the arts and the art scene and their interest in working with mothers and children. Here is an overview of some of our art consultants:

Paul Byron: a teacher, artist and art student, his artistic practice focuses on Painting/Drawing, while his academic research interests include Modern Western and Buddhist Art, the Philosophy of Art, and the recent intersection of aesthetic theory and cognitive neuroscience. All of Paul's lectures will be custom created for the Art Strollers, starting in February with mothers in art: then and now, which will offer an overview of mothers through the centuries.

Jessica Blackwell: a recent graduate from Guelph University, Jessica's vibrant personality and keen interest for promoting Canadian artist and sharing her love and passion for the arts will sure to engage everyone of all ages. Jessica will focus on the overview of Canadian artists.

Felicia Cohen: Felicia's has extensive experience in the photography business. Her lectures will highlight various photography techniques, movements and photographers. Her first lecture" the history of fashion photography will not only offer fascinating facts and techniques, it will engage participants in bringing their favorite fashion images.

Shelley Savor: An artist by trade, Shelley's ability to combine words, colors and images is non paralleled. Her first classes with the Art Strollers will start in Spring where Shelley will design a book based on colors, words and illustrations for the class.

Louis Au, a photographer, digital imaging specialist and an educator. Louis brings over 20 years of experience in working with some of the worlds top photographers.

The services...

Weekly we will offer a selection of cultural activities for mothers, below is an overview of what is available. Customized art tours are also available.

1. Free Gallery tours: Tours are organized monthly and bring us to various parts of the city where we see two to three different galleries.

2. Creative mornings: an open-studio style where mothers and children paint at their leisure in a gallery setting. Caregiver assistance is made available if mothers want to focus on their creations.

3. Workshops: We offer everything from photography techniques, to artists presenting their works and talking about their inspirations, to art history and masters overviews.

4. Museum tour series: Monthly we visit the leading Toronto museums. Starting with our signature Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) four week tour, which will be held three times per year. Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Bata Shoe Museum, Gardiner ceramic museum, The Power Plant, the Textile museum are all venues on our list. We work with the museums to best structure the tours to cater to our specific group needs. Museum tour participants receives the Official Art Strollers museum kit which includes sketchbooks, pencils and more for both mothers and children.

Veronika talks a little about her experience with the Art Strollers...

"Motherhood certainly has its challenges yet the biggest challenge I found after my first born was to have a conversation which didn't evolve solely around the baby. What is great about our tours is that we get to enjoy some fabulous venues, enhance our knowledge and share new experiences with our little ones, conversations jump from the composition and color of a painting to the best baby carriers. Just today during our AGO tour we were looking at a Warhol's "Elvis I & II" which shows a colored piece next to a fading black and white one, both showing the same image and the conversation turned to how babies best see monochrome images in their first months, what a great parallels! After every tour there is the feeling that you met other people with the same interests, shared some wonderful insights on your little ones and in tune with what is happening in the city."