



VISIT ACCESS

222 E. Georgia St.

12:00 - 5:00 PM, Tuesday to Saturday

www.accessgallery.ca

@accessgallery

MANDATE

"Access Gallery is a platform for emergent and experimental art practices. We enable critical conversations and risk-taking through new configurations of audience, artists, and community."

HISTORY

Access was founded in 1991 by a small group of UBC graduate students and a local artist. Utilizing two self-renovated rooms and appropriated hallway space, the first gallery space was manifested in an office building on Seymour Street. The President's Allocation Committee at UBC contributed funding to renovate the space into an established gallery, provided that the first exhibition would feature BFA students from UBC. This set the tone for the "artist-run centre," as they continued to show works by students/recent grads/artists at the beginning of their careers.

STRUCTURE

Kimberly Phillips is the director/curator of Access Gallery. She is supported by a board of directors who horizontally mediate the gallery's operations.

They are supported through the Canada Council for the Arts, the British Columbia Arts Council, the City of Vancouver, Burrard Arts Foundation, as well as through donors, members, and grants.

FUNCTION WITHIN VANCOUVER'S ART COMMUNITY

The approach of Access is to examine how they can take the position to push things forward. With a focus on the emergent, they contribute to critical conversations surrounding contemporary art practices in Vancouver as well as on an international scale. This is exemplified through their 23 Days at Sea Residency program, a three-year initiative in which selected artists are sent abroad on a cargo ship from Vancouver to Shanghai for 23 days. Access is relevant to us due to the importance placed on the emerging, the new, and the critical.