



# WALKING ALONGSIDE TRAUMA

artist information package



CCBC gratefully acknowledges that the land on which we work is the stolen & unceded shared traditional territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the **x<sup>w</sup>məθkwə́yəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/ Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.**



The Craft Council of BC (CCBC) is a charitable arts service organization which supports all stages of artistic practice in the craft sector; creates opportunities for artists to exhibit, sell and produce art; provides an advocacy voice for artists and craft organizations; and aids in the development of active communities around craft.

# project summary

The Walking Alongside Trauma (WAT) project, led by the Craft Council of BC (CCBC), is a material-based exploration of the vicarious traumatization of sexualized violence.

The WAT exhibition is an offshoot of the larger [iMPACTS SSHRC Grant “Define the Line.”](#) a multi-year project led by McGill University to address sexual violence on university campuses across Canada and internationally.

The role of the CCBC in this initiative is to develop and curate a material-based exhibition exploring the impact that “walking alongside trauma” has on society, particularly for those who interact directly with survivors’ trauma (e.g., crisis support workers, family members, health care workers, educators, peers, etc.), who we refer to as “Witnesses” .

Our intention is to create a space that can bring awareness to and potentially healing the effects of vicarious traumatization of sexualized violence (VTSV).

To do so, as the curator, I am inviting twelve material-based artists to produce two works of art that explore the emotional, physical, and/or social impact experienced by individuals dealing with VTSV.

Our hope is that by providing a creative opportunity for “Witnesses” to recount and express their experiences with VTSV, the resulting exhibition will create space for these stories to be shared and observed by others, so that collectively, we will be able to gain a deeper understanding of the impacts that VTSV has on society as a whole.

# your role as an artist

You are being invited to produce two works of art that explore the emotional, physical, and/or social impact experienced by individuals dealing with the vicarious traumatization of sexualized violence (VTSV).

To inform your creative process, you will be paired with a “Witness” (i.e., those who interact directly with survivors’ trauma, such as crisis support workers, family members, health care workers, educators, peers, etc.) to discuss:

- how has VTSV impacted their ability to do their work
- their understanding of how VTSV has impacted their profession as a whole

We estimate that this discussion could be done over *two studio sessions* with your paired Witness but that will be left up to your shared discretion. Also, if you wish to actively include the Witness in the creation of the art - that will be your call. These sessions will be audio recorded and are set up in conjunction with your paired witness.

You will also be invited to participate in documenting your experience around the creation of these works online and in the exhibition catalogue, should you wish to do so, by exploring:

- how your chosen techniques, materials and presentation were impacted by translating the witnesses experience in to an object
- in post creation you will be asked how, if at all, your ongoing practice may be informed by participating in the creation of the object(s)

Should you experience some psychological discomfort throughout the process of translating the Witness’s experience and your response to it into two material-based art objects, *cause things sometimes do come up*, you are offered up to three free and confidential online debriefing opportunities with a registered clinical psychologist who is kindly donating her expertise in dealing with VTSV to the initiative.

# artistic parameters

As this is a touring exhibition here are some parameters to use as *guidelines* for creation:

- works need to be free standing or be able to be displayed on a plinth
- art should not be larger than 3ft sq
- at least one of the pieces should be inspired by the witness's experience
- the second piece *can* be an exploration of the direct impact the interaction has had on you

these are just guidelines - so should your work need or wants to fall outside of these parameters, please feel free to discuss it with me.

# important dates



## Contracts Signed

- September 30, 2024

## Progress check in with Curator

- October 30, 2024

## All Artworks Completed (2/2)

- December 15, 2024

## Crating of Artwork

- January 2, 2025



## Remuneration

- Artists will be compensated \$3000 to produce two works of art for the exhibition.
- \$1,500 on signing contract
- \$1,500 on completion

## Current Exhibition Dates

- Jan 16 - Feb 28, 2025  
Vancouver, Douglas College
- March 19 - 21, 2025  
Montreal, McGill University

# thank you!

in collaboration with  
mcgill university  
douglas college



If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact:

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