

# Corridors:

A Community Engaged Art Series  
with CPAWS Yukon &  
Artist in Residence  
Nicole Schafenacker



# Participant Feedback

“The experience with you was transformational - thanks from the bottom of my heart for your invitations and opening us to these experiences and expressions in and about the natural world!”

- “The events were even more energizing and meaningful than we could have hoped for.”

- CPAWS Staff

## Participant feedback continued

“We want you to know that your guidance has changed how we view nature and opened up our creative side. We are now eco art practitioners...Thank you for the time & art encouragement.”

“Thank you for sharing this way of experiencing nature. As someone who’s professional life brought her out a great deal, it’s been particularly special to learn this new and meaningful way to be outdoors.”

## Social Media Posts



**CORRIDORS**  
A COMMUNITY ENGAGED ART SERIES

**Making Art in Nature, An Introduction**  
Sun. May 8<sup>th</sup> • 1 - 4 pm • Yukon University Room C1530

**A Sensory Walk through McIntyre Creek**  
Wed. May 11<sup>th</sup> • 5:30 - 7:30 pm • University Pumphouse Pond

**Crafting Environmental Art in McIntyre Creek**  
Sun. May 15<sup>th</sup> • 1 - 4 pm • University Pumphouse Pond

**Environmental Art Walk and Reflection**  
Wed. May 18<sup>th</sup> • 5:30 - 7:30 pm • University Pumphouse Pond



**CPAWS Yukon**

February 21 · 🌐



Meet Nicole, our artist in residence! Nicole is thrilled to join CPAWS - and to begin dreaming up ways of making art while caring for the land together with you. She will be using creative approaches to explore the vital wildlife corridor of McIntyre Creek/Chasan Chua and the species that make this corridor their home.

Stay posted for updates about her journey and for ways to join her on the trail this spring. This residency is supported by the International Centre of Art for Social Change Futures/forward program.

About Nicole:

NICOLE SCHAFENACKER a writer, performer and artist-researcher with euro-settler ancestry originally from amiskwaciwâskahikan/Edmonton. She has spent the last five years living, studying and working in different subarctic locations including in northern BC and northern Norway and is thrilled to now be making her home in the Yukon, on the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dun and Ta'an Kwach'an Council. Her current practice is focused on eco-art and engaging the intersections between creative practices and land stewardship. She lives in Marsh Lake with a very sweet retired sled dog named Aliy.



**CPAWS Yukon**

March 17 · 🌐



How can art help us relate to our surroundings differently? What role does emotion, or being touched by something, play in social change? How can small creative acts and daily rituals deepen our relationship to places?

These are some questions I'm asking as a community-engaged artist with CPAWS.

What is community engaged art, you might ask?

Rather than focusing on the 'end product' making a piece of art, community-engaged art is all about the process of bringing people together. It's about engaging art as a way to foster relationships AND nurture our individual capacities for growth, change and connection.

One of my favourite daily rituals that brings me closer to the natural spaces around me is taking a walk down to Marsh Lake (where I live) with my dog and notice how the water changes throughout the year. How about you?

✍️ **CORRIDORS: A COMMUNITY ENGAGED ART SERIES** by CPAWS Yukon artist in residence, Nicole.



CPAWS Yukon

April 11 · 🌐

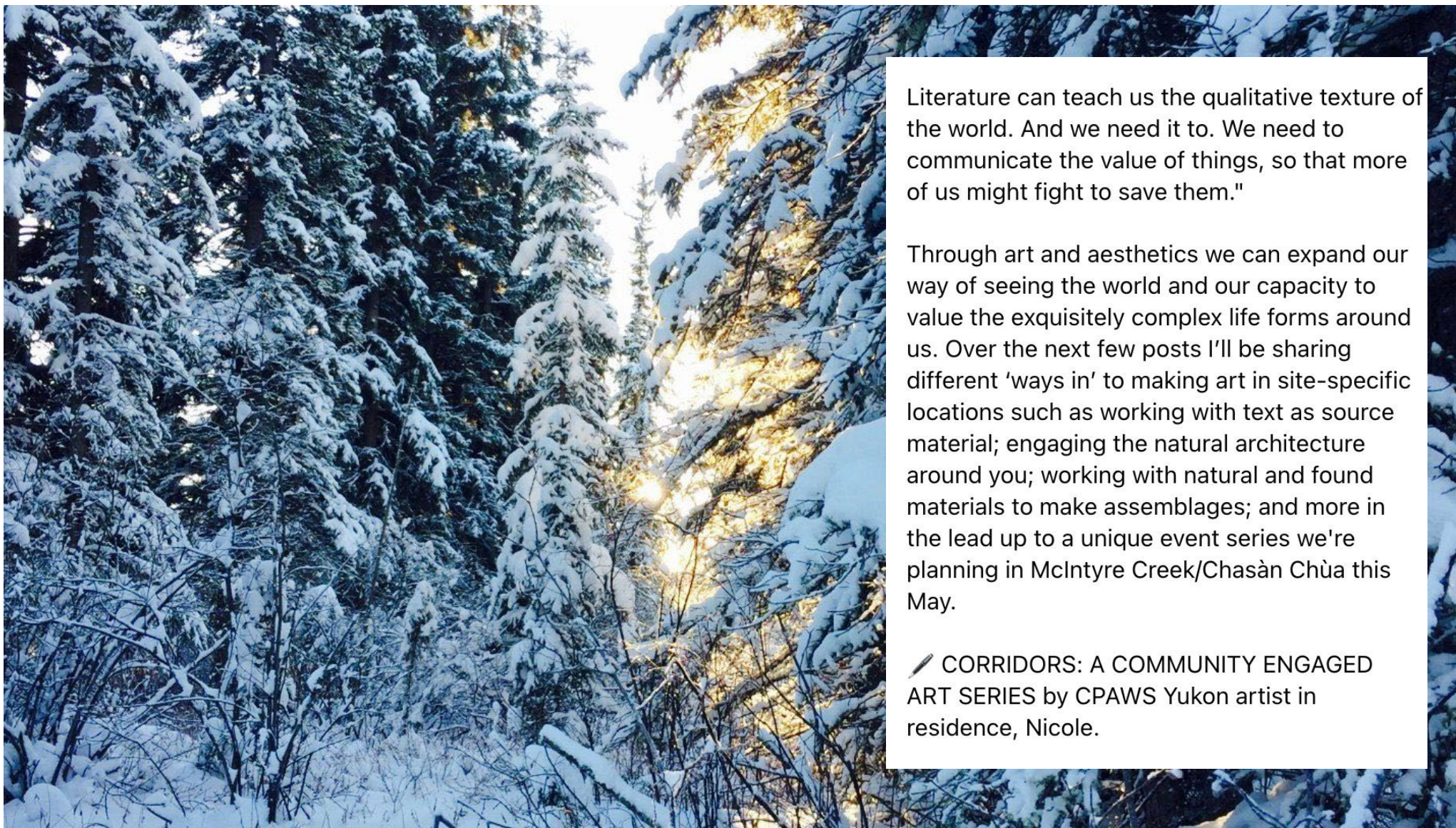


Beauty and aesthetics can play a big role in fostering social change, with natural sciences and creative arts working together towards this end. I find Helen McDonald puts it beautifully in the introduction to her book *Vesper Flights* where she writes,

"We're living through the world's sixth great extinction, one caused by us. The landscapes around us grow emptier and quieter each passing year. We need hard science to establish the rate and scale of these declines, to work out why it is occurring and what mitigation strategies can be brought into play. But we need literature, too; we need to communicate what the losses mean.

I think of the wood warbler, a small citrus-coloured bird fast disappearing from British forests. It is one thing to show the statistical facts about this species' decline. It is another thing to communicate to people what wood warblers are, and what that loss means, when your experience of a wood that is made of light and leaves and song becomes something less complex, less magical, just less, once the warblers have gone.





Literature can teach us the qualitative texture of the world. And we need it to. We need to communicate the value of things, so that more of us might fight to save them."

Through art and aesthetics we can expand our way of seeing the world and our capacity to value the exquisitely complex life forms around us. Over the next few posts I'll be sharing different 'ways in' to making art in site-specific locations such as working with text as source material; engaging the natural architecture around you; working with natural and found materials to make assemblages; and more in the lead up to a unique event series we're planning in McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà this May.

✍ CORRIDORS: A COMMUNITY ENGAGED ART SERIES by CPAWS Yukon artist in residence, Nicole.



**CPAWS Yukon**

April 18 · 🌐



What are some of your favourite sensory memories of springtime? What are sounds, smells, or textures that let you know spring is on the way? 🌱 For me, I love watching smooth, fresh leaves unfurl on branches that have been bare all winter long.

As part of the Community Engaged Art Series, we will be taking a walk through McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà and practicing paying attention to the way our senses take in the life happening all around us. These sensory experiences can serve as rich source material for making art.

What will have special resonance for you this spring on the trail?


✍️ **CORRIDORS: A COMMUNITY ENGAGED ART SERIES** by CPAWS Yukon artist in residence, Nicole.



**CPAWS Yukon**

April 15 · 🌐



Save the date, evening of May 8  Interested in nurturing your relationship to the outdoors through creativity? Looking for some much-needed rest rejuvenation by connecting to nature this spring?

Join us in launching our community-engaged art events this spring with an introductory workshop/gathering where we'll:

- 🌱 Share + reflect on images or stories that inspire your connection to nature
- 🌱 Practice techniques for making art in a site-specific location (making art outside with natural materials)
- 🌱 Envision possibilities for upcoming programming + art-making on the trails in McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chù.

All levels of art experience (including none!) are welcome.

The workshop will be led by Nicole Schafenacker.

✍️ **CORRIDORS: A COMMUNITY ENGAGED ART SERIES** by CPAWS Yukon artist in residence, Nicole.



**CPAWS Yukon**

April 27 at 9:39 AM · 🌐



Ever been mesmerized by the way light falls throughout the day? Or struck by how time moves differently when you're outside? Shadow and light are powerful tools for expressing the ephemeral qualities of the wilderness. What can be there at one minute can be transformed the next, producing a dream-like sensation and sparking our imagination.

We'll play with the passage of light and more as we explore making artworks in nature throughout May in McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà. Full program announcement to come!

✍ **CORRIDORS: A COMMUNITY ENGAGED ART SERIES** by CPAWS Yukon artist in residence, Nicole.



CPAWS Yukon

May 2 at 3:30 PM · 🌐



We are thrilled to announce the event lineup for our **CORRIDORS: A COMMUNITY ENGAGED ART SERIES**. Taking place this May in McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà, artist in residence Nicole Schafenacker will lead you through creative processes to seize the imaginative potential that is ever-present in nature. Join us for one or all the events in the series. Spark your inner artist, nurture your senses, and find what moves you!

14 First event is THIS SUNDAY May 8th, 1-4pm:  
Making Art in Nature, An Introduction

Community-engaged art is all about the process of bringing people together. We want to engage art as a way to foster relationships and nurture our individual capacities for growth, change, and connection. Connect with nature through a creative lens as we ask, how can art help us relate to our surroundings differently? What role does emotion, or being touched by something, play in social change? How can small creative acts and daily rituals deepen our relationship to place?

# CORRIDORS

A COMMUNITY ENGAGED ART SERIES



## Making Art in Nature, An Introduction

Sun. May 8<sup>th</sup> • 1 - 4 pm • Yukon University Room C1530

## A Sensory Walk through McIntyre Creek

Wed. May 11<sup>th</sup> • 5:30 - 7:30 pm • University Pumphouse Pond

## Crafting Environmental Art in McIntyre Creek

Sun. May 15<sup>th</sup> • 1 - 4 pm • University Pumphouse Pond

## Environmental Art Walk and Reflection

Wed. May 18<sup>th</sup> • 5:30 - 7:30 pm • University Pumphouse Pond



**CPAWS Yukon**

May 7 at 12:03 PM · 🌐



Come get tactile with us and repurposed materials this Sunday! From collages to cabinets of curiosity, bringing contrasting objects and images together can be a compelling way to explore texture, colour and contours. Assemblages can also be a way to highlight what makes something itself - or to invent something new all together!

The best part is that they can be an amazing way of salvaging materials, helping clean up an environment or repurposing something you don't use anymore. From beach plastic to that one earring without its pair, it can all be used!

Assemblages are one of the practices we'll be exploring this Sunday May 8th at the Making Art in Nature workshop. Join us at 1pm at Yukon University Room C1530 in Whitehorse.

✂️ COMMUNITY ENGAGED ART series by CPAWS Yukon artist in residence, Nicole (@nicole.schafenacker).





**Nicole Marie Schafenacker**

May 10 at 1:31 PM · 🧑

Whitehorse folks! Come test out some homemade willow charcoal with me tomorrow. We will be doing a sensory walk through McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà followed by a reflective map-making exercise. This event is part of the Corridors: A Community Engaged Art Series being hosted by [CPAWS Yukon](#). See you on the trail! 🍷🌿

All of the event details can be found here: <https://fb.me/e/2oEAEr5Zb>



**Nicole Marie Schafenacker**

May 8 at 10:39 AM · 🧑

Whitehorse folks! If you come to Making Art in Nature today you get a little handmade journal from me! ❤️🌿

All the details are here: <https://fb.me/e/1U89EMG7c>



# The Event Series

- Event 1: Exploring techniques
- Event 2: Exploring place
- Event 3: Applying techniques to place
- Event 4: Viewing/experiencing



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# Event 1: Key points and activities



## Making Art in Nature, An Introduction


Sun. May 8<sup>th</sup> • 1 - 4 pm  
Yukon University Room C1530

### CORRIDORS: A COMMUNITY ENGAGED ART SERIES

Interested in nurturing your relationship to nature through creativity? Join us as we explore techniques for making art in nature (aka environmental art) and focus on 'ways of seeing' that amplify the beauty and creativity in our surroundings.

We'll practice techniques for environmental art making and reflect on images and stories about nature that inspire you. These could be used as source material for creating art in McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà at future events.

Led by CPAWS Yukon artist in residence, Nicole Schafenacker. All levels of art experience (including none!) are welcome. Light snacks and all art materials supplied. Please bring your own water bottle.

 Details: Sunday May 8th 1:00-4:00pm, Yukon University, C-Wing Room C1530

## Event 1: Key ideas and activities

### *Why practice environmental art?*

- How does being in nature change us? What does being in nature show you about yourself? How are you of this place? How can you share that experience with someone else passing through?
- I invite you to be curious about the way our perceptions of time/space/self change when we're in nature
- Creatively investigating our relationship with nature and allowing its beauty to affect you can be restorative and can remind of us why we take part in conservation efforts

## Event 1: Key ideas and activities

### *Freewriting/drawing*

- Prompt: Reflect on a time that you were **moved by something in nature**; a time when you emerged and felt different from how you were when you entered. Alternately, what is an early childhood memory from nature that stayed with you?
  - What were the **sensations, images or feelings** from this experience? Textures, colours, shapes?

# Event 1: Key ideas and activities

## *How: Two 'ways in'*

- **Assemblages:** How does placing objects that are unlike each other highlight the beauty and uniqueness of each 'object'?
- **Invitational placements:** How can you share something you've been touched by with another?
- These practices can bring attention to what is ephemeral about nature:
  - Movement and relationships ie. wind moving through trees
  - Passage of light and shadow - How does the environment change over the course of the day? More broadly, how can you show the passage of time (rock/tree example)
  - Can make use of natural or salvaged materials

## Event 1: Key ideas and activities

### *Devising exercise: Creative questions to ask*

- How does it relate to the natural architecture of the place you are in?
- How do you invite your viewer to see it? With text? A visual offer?
- Are you building something or taking something apart?
- How does the light move through it? Are there shadows to play with?
- Is movement a part of it? I.e. wind
- How will it change over time? (And what could that convey to the viewer?)
- Are you part of the sculpture?

## Event 1: Key ideas and activities


### *Devising exercise: Scavenger list*

- Prompt: Return to freewriting about what moved you about nature: When is a time nature showed you something about yourself... Alternately, what is an early childhood memory from nature that stayed with you? How could you show that experience visually?
- Choose a **place** in the room to make it
- Choose a **structure** (hanger, frame, box)
- Choose your **objects** (natural or salvaged)
- Use any **connective elements** you need (wire, string, glue etc)

## Event 2: Key ideas and activities

Take a short walk through McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà and explore the nourishing practice of activating all of our senses as a way of connecting to nature. We'll play with how these sensory connections can spark creativity through a reflective map-making exercise.

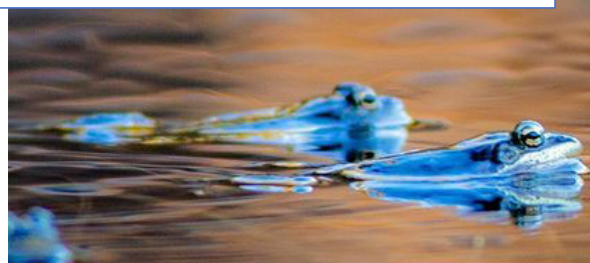
Led by CPAWS artist in residence, Nicole Schafenacker with opening comments by Kwanlin Dün First Nation citizen Gary Bailie on the cultural significance of McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà. Light snacks and all art materials supplied. Please bring your own water bottle.

 Details: Wednesday May 11th 5:30-7:30pm, Pumphouse pond behind Yukon University

Learn more about McIntyre Creek here: <https://cpawsyukon.org/chasan-chua/>

### A Sensory Walk through McIntyre Creek

Wed. May 11<sup>th</sup> • 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
University Pumphouse Pond



## CORRIDORS: A COMMUNITY ENGAGED ART SERIES

 **CPAWS**  
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
YUKON CHAPTER

## Event 2: Key ideas and activities

### *Sensory Walk 'Scavenger Hunt' List*

**Part 1: Spend some time intentionally exploring McIntyre Creek. During your walk through the creek you are invited to look, listen and feel for...**

1. **THREE** things that you can feel (ie. textures, sensations in your body or on your skin...)
2. **THREE** instances of movement you observe (ie. the wind moving through the trees, the creek flowing)
3. **THREE** sounds and their relationship to you in space (ie. are they above you? around you?)
4. **TWO** things you can smell
5. **TWO** instances where you sense a change in light (ie. you see a shadow, or catch a sparkle in a patch of snow or a rock etc)
6. **ONE** instance where you feel compelled to pause and be still in space – if you feel comfortable doing so close your eyes
7. **ONE** instance where you feel compelled to create a novel pathway in space (ie. *weaving through* the trees, *circling around* a rock, moving *underneath* the bridge)
8. **ONE** instance of imagination: what do you see that could be transformed into something else? (ie. could a boulder become the profile of a face? Could the roots in a tree become an aerial view of rivers?)
9. **ONE** tiny feature (ie. a pattern made by lichen) and **ONE** large expansive feature (ie. the creek)

## Event 2: Key ideas and activities

### *Sensory Walk Map-Making*

**Part 2:** Create a reflective map of your experience using mark-making.

Mark-making is a technique where you use marks to capture and express your experience in whatever way makes sense to you (it doesn't have to make sense to anyone else).

Think of it as an intuitive expression of using lines, textures, contours and shapes to capture/record your experience.

**It is more about recording how you *felt* rather than what you saw. Questions you might ask to create your personal map...**

*Where did your path start; how did you begin? Where did you travel and how did you get there?*

*What were some compelling features you came across and how did they affect you? ie. What were memorable sites/sensations you experienced along the way?*

*How did your journey end?*

## Event 3: Key ideas and activities



### Crafting Environmental Art in McIntyre Creek

Sun. May 15<sup>th</sup> • 1 - 4 pm  
University Pumphouse Pond

**CORRIDORS: A COMMUNITY ENGAGED ART SERIES**



Explore creative practices by making art in McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà. Through experimenting with light and shadow, framing and placement, and assemblages, this hands-on event offers an opportunity to make environmental artwork with guidance from artist in residence Nicole Schafenacker.

How could you highlight the beauty of McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà in a way that could be shared with someone else passing through this place?

All levels of art experience (including none!) are welcome. Light snacks and all art materials supplied. Please bring your own water bottle.

14 Details: Sunday May 15th 1:00-4:00pm, Pumphouse pond behind Yukon University

## Event 3: Key ideas and activities

### *Two 'Ways In' to Making Environmental Art*

- **Assemblages:** How does placing objects that are unlike each other highlight the beauty and uniqueness of each 'object'? How does it convey the complexity of an experience?
- **Invitational placements:** How can you share something you've been touched by with another? Examples:
  - Framing a detail (ie. series of frames on lichen)
  - Creating a place for your viewer to stand/sit/move or experience something
  - Creating an interactive experience for your viewer (ie. rock stacking or rearranging)
  - Can be done with text or through imagery ie. footprints, pathways, written prompts
- **Both of these practices can bring attention to what is ephemeral about nature:**
  - Movement and relationships ie. wind moving through trees
  - Passage of light and shadow - How does the environment change over the course of the day? More broadly, how can you show the passage of time (rock/tree example)
  - Can make use of natural or salvaged materials

## Event 3: Key ideas and activities

### *Devising List*

•**Prompt:** Return to your mark-making map about what moved you about your experience in McIntyre Creek/Chasan Chua today: What did nature showed you about yourself or the world? How could you show that experience visually? What are the textures, images or sensations you want to highlight?

- Choose a place in the creek to make it
- Choose a structure that is either already there (trees, pole, a `branch hanger etc)
- Choose your objects (natural or salvaged)
- Use any connective elements you need (wire, string, glue etc)

## Event 3: Key ideas and activities


### *Questions to reflect on while you work*

- How does it relate to the natural architecture of the space you are in?
- How do you invite your viewer to see it? With text? A visual offer (ie. a chair)
- Are you building something or taking something apart?
- How does the light move through it? Are there shadows to play with?
- Is movement a part of it? Ie. wind
- How will it change over time? (And what could that convey to the viewer?)
- Are you part of the sculpture?

## Event 4: Key ideas and activities

Immerse yourself in nature through the eyes of other artists. Join us for a short walk through McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà as we view the art created in the series and engage with our environment in a new way, through the lens of these creative works.

Led by CPAWS artist in residence, Nicole Schafenacker. Light snacks and all art materials supplied. Please bring your own water bottle. This closing event will include a short talk by CPAWS Yukon staff on the McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà wilderness campaign.

 14 Details: Wednesday May 18th 5:30-7:30pm, Pumphouse pond behind Yukon University



### Environmental Art Walk and Reflection

Wed. May 18<sup>th</sup> • 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
University Pumphouse Pond

CORRIDORS: A COMMUNITY ENGAGED ART SERIES

 CPAWS  
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
YUKON CHAPTER

## Event 4: Key ideas and activities

### *Devising Activities for Our Final Day*

- For returning students:
  - Continue to develop the piece you were creating from our last session AND/OR draw on the invitations below for new inspiration
- For newcomers:
  - OPTION 1: Create a pathway that leads to a detail or view you want to highlight. Use found natural materials (ie. rocks, moss, feathers). How can you highlight the view or object you want to share with your viewer?
  - OPTION 2: Gather all the waste materials you can find in the creek (ie. bottle caps, plastic, etc) and arrange it into an assemblage. Clean it up afterwards.
  - OPTION 3: Create a text-based invitation following Yoko Ono's example below. What would you like to share with your viewer?
  - OR a combination of the above!

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