



Hi there,

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I'm Justin Bear, the Education Coordinator at the School of Art Gallery at the University of Manitoba.

We're hosting Chicago-based curator Grace Deveney's upcoming exhibition *Open Structure* from November 3, 2022 to January 28, 2023, and are **inviting classrooms to participate in a half-hour tour followed by a half-hour hands-on workshop to engage with the work.**

*Open Structure* looks at the work of six contemporary BIPOC and queer artists to consider structure through visual artworks that reference music, poetry, and ambient sound. The artists explore the body and breath through works that pulse, vibrate, and respond to the presence of the viewer. Others depict the natural world and its rhythmic lifecycles. Together, these works offer takes on lived experience, informed by experimental music, the Black radical tradition, and Queer theory.

This is a great exhibit for students because it offers so much potential for engagement through feeling, hearing, and touching – as well as offering voice to underrepresented worldviews. For example, there will be a 10-foot-wide gold leaf circle on the wall of the gallery, with a gentle electric current running through the circle. If visitors wish, they can touch the circle and feel the current moving through their bodies. There will also be a kinetic and acoustic sculpture comprised of a stereo woofer installed inside two standing mattresses that engages viewers through sound and vibration. These serve to connect the viewer to the embodied experiences and realities of BIPOC and queer people.

After a half-hour tour of the gallery, students will participate in a fun half-hour workshop exploring the themes of the exhibition. Using music as a prompt, students will draw, write, and move to express how the sounds make them feel through various drawing games, partnered activities, and writing stations. The structure and content of the workshop can be modified to best respond to the interests, needs, and abilities of your group. The School of Art Gallery and workshop spaces meet most physical accessibility requirements, and additional supports like ASL interpretation can be arranged if needed.

We are currently booking 1 hour slots **Monday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays** between 10:00am-4:00pm while the exhibition is on.

We are also holding a number of artist talks, performances, and external events that are listed on our website. These will mostly be hybrid events with livestream so if you'd like to attend these or have a livestream in your classroom we can make it happen.

Send me an email if you're interested, you can also call me at 204-272-1519 for more information.

Thanks // Kinanaskomitin // Miigwech // Marsi,

**Justin Bear L'Arrivee**

*Indigenous Art Education Coordinator*

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