

# BURNABY ART GALLERY

## B.A.G in a Box : Birds & Boats

## Teachers Information

### In a Nutshell

The **focus** of the box is on exploring the artwork of Canadian artist Alistair Bell. Bell is known for his prints and drawings of boats, birds and other animals. Through the suggested lessons, students experiment with watersoluble crayons, ink with brushes or pens, and different drawing techniques. Activities are inspired by Bell's subjects, artworks, and his processes for creating art.

### Pick-Up and Return

**Box:** Box has one wheeled case, and a portfolio case. Fits into trunk or back seat of car.

**Pick-Up:** During gallery hours, any day after 12:00 noon on first Saturday.

**Return:** During gallery hours, no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday return date.

★ *See confirmation or booking information sheet for specific details.*

### Artists

- 3 original artworks and 8 reproductions by Alistair Bell, Canadian artist.

### Activities

- Five activity ideas are included. (See page two for details.)
- **We suggest choosing one or two activities**, as best suits your class. You may have more time or wish to photocopy an activity to complete after the box is returned.
- Lesson plans for activities are detailed and clear so that teachers who are unfamiliar with concepts or processes should be able to easily understand each step. Most activities are flexible enough to suit grades K-7, although end results and time spent may vary. Some steps may be left out and age related variations are suggested in some cases.

### Background Information

- Artist biography and information on working methods and inspirations.
- Vocabulary, information on how prints are made, and detailed background for original artworks.

### Resource Materials

- Watersoluble crayons.
- Drawing ink, brushes and pen nibs.
- Sketching 'trips': zoo DVD, boat photos for overhead projector.
- Sample activity artworks.
- Worksheets for photocopying, vocabulary cards, template for display labels.
- Evaluation strategies.



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### Activity Ideas, Key Concepts & Classroom Materials

#### Activity One: Introduction and Drawing with Words

A general, open discussion with the class about the artworks, followed by a sketching activity where the students hear a description of the artwork they haven't yet seen. They create a drawing through visualization. The hidden picture is shown at the end.

##### Key Concepts

- About Alistair Bell
- Observation in sketching
- Repetition and rhythm

##### Classroom Materials:

- Pencils or pencil crayons
- Erasers

#### Activity Two: Sketching Trip to the Zoo

Alistair Bell often visited the zoo to sketch the animals. Students view a DVD of a zoo visit, sketching the animals they see. One sketch is developed into a final drawing with colour highlights.

##### Key Concepts

- Bell's techniques: sketching from observation
- Bell's techniques: draft to final image
- Viewpoint
- Watermedia: pen and ink

##### Classroom Materials:

- DVD player and screen
- Cartridge paper
- Pencils and erasers
- Felt pens

#### Activity Three: Sketching Trip to the Docks

A virtual sketching trip to the boat docks using projected overhead transparencies stimulates observations. Students experiment with ink and brushes or pen nibs. One sketch is developed into a final artwork with colour washes using water soluble crayons.

##### Key Concepts

- Bell's techniques: sketching from observation
- Bell's techniques: draft to final image
- Repetition
- Watermedia: ink and colour wash

##### Classroom Materials:

- Overhead projector
- Paper, pencils, erasers
- Felt pens

#### Activity Four: Animal Silhouettes

Create an image in Bell's style using silhouette cutouts that are combined with colour wash and textural elements. Students learn to use structure as a strategy for drawing animals, and use imagination to draw their animal from different viewpoints.

##### Key Concepts

- Watermedia: colour wash
- Drawing techniques: structure
- Viewpoint
- Overlap

##### Classroom Materials:

- Medium weight paper
- Waterbased paints
- Coloured construction paper
- White chalks
- Scissors, glue

#### Activity Five: Sculptures

Students use imagination to transform one of Bell's artworks into a three dimensional boat or animal. They apply the concept of underlying structure, and use repetition to show rhythm in their decoration.

##### Key Concepts

- Repetition and rhythm
- Structure and decoration in 3D artwork
- Observation

##### Classroom Materials:

- *Plasticine (modeling clay), paper rolls cut in short sections, toothpicks, assorted small decorative items*

OR

- *Assorted paper rolls, cardboard, foam, thick paper, toothpicks, assorted small decorative items, string*
- *Glue, tape, scissors*

Questions? Please call the Education Programmer at 604.297.4413 or email [galler@burnaby.ca](mailto:galler@burnaby.ca)

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### Artists and Artworks

General information about the artist. Detailed information about the artist and the included artwork is in the box. Original artworks (shown) are from the City of Burnaby Art Education Collection and reproductions are from that collection or the City of Burnaby Permanent Art Collection.

#### Alistair Bell



Alistair Bell  
*Shelducks*  
Colour woodcut print  
13.3 x 10.8cm  
1980

Alistair Bell was born in Darlington, England in 1913 and died in Vancouver, BC in 1997. His home and studio was in West Vancouver.

Bell was primarily a self-taught artist. He worked as a draftsman in a Vancouver structural steel plant for most of his working career, and became recognized as an artist fairly late in life. He is known in particular for his prints and drawings of birds, animals and boats.

Bell worked primarily with woodcut, or drypoint printmaking techniques. He enjoyed drawing from life, and often visited zoos or mooring areas to draw the animals and boats. He has said that drawing is a passion for him, and the starting point for all his artwork. The emphasis in Bell's artwork is on expressing the personal impact he feels from his subjects, be they birds or boats. He simplifies and combines elements, often using repetition or placement to achieve his effects.



Alistair Bell  
*Tugs at Mooring*  
Drypoint  
21 x 27.4cm  
1981



Alistair Bell  
*Water Monitor*  
Woodcut print, 'Trial Proof' on yellow paper  
31.7 x 57.1cm  
1970

### Displaying the Artworks at School

#### Location

The artworks can be set on a secure ledge, such as a chalk ledge or large music stand. Choose a safe spot for all pieces, out of the way of **traffic**, and preferably in an area students can **sit in front** for discussions.

#### Care

Please ensure students do not touch the artwork. Artworks are framed with plexiglass which can be scratched.

**Please store artworks in a secure location such as an office or locked room when not being used.** Thank you!

# BURNABY ART GALLERY

## B.A.G. in a Box :

# Booking Information

## Booking Information

<b>To Book</b>	Please call <b>604.297.4422</b> or email <a href="mailto:gALLERY@burnaby.ca">gALLERY@burnaby.ca</a> with your name, contact information, and preferred month and box.
<b>Available</b>	September - June
<b>Loan Period</b>	Three weeks, Saturday-Thursday. Not renewable.
<b>Pick-up</b>	During gallery hours, any day on or after first loan day.
<b>Return</b>	During gallery hours, no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday due date.
<b>Deposit</b>	A refundable deposit of \$20.00 must be received at time of booking. Credit card preferred. Deposit refunded upon box return, unless returned late, damaged, or late cancellation.
<b>Fee</b>	An additional fee of \$20.00 is due two weeks in advance of your loan date.
<b>Cancellations</b>	Require 14 days notice. Deposit will not be refunded for cancellations with less than 14 days notice.
<b>Request Guidelines</b>	Bookings made on a first-come first-serve basis. Bookings limited to three per school unless space permits. We recommend booking as early in the year as possible.
<b>Transporting the Boxes</b>	Boxes have one or two sizeable cases. Larger kits have wheels. Fits in the back seat of most cars.

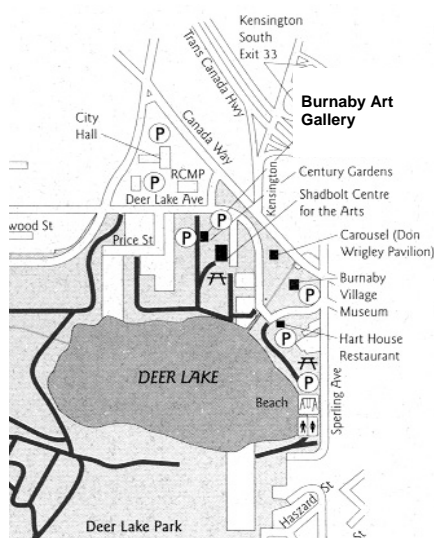
## Location and Hours

**Location** 6344 Deer Lake Avenue,  
Burnaby BC V5G 2J3  
T. 604.297.4422  
F. 604.205.7339  
Email: [gALLERY@burnaby.ca](mailto:gALLERY@burnaby.ca)  
Internet: [www.burnabyartgallery.ca](http://www.burnabyartgallery.ca)

**Hours** Tuesday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday, 12 - 5 p.m.  
Mondays, CLOSED

*Please note: No pick-up or return outside gallery hours. Late returns will not have deposit refunded.*

### Driving Directions From HWY #1:



Take the Kensington/Canada Way exit, heading south toward

Canada Way. Turn right (west) on Canada Way.

Turn left on Deer Lake Parkway/Norland Way.

Turn left on Deer Lake Avenue.

Just over the hill, turn right into the Burnaby Art Gallery parking lot.

