

PLEIN AIR AT THE VANCOUVER CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL



Discover the light and colours of the season under the cherry trees. The transcendent beauty of the cherry blossoms continues to inspire artists during Vancouver's signature springtime event, the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival (VCBF).

"The tradition of painting outdoors is a unique experience and the best way to energize the spirit of an artist and the best introduction for beginners to sense, feel and love with passion the gifts of nature: colour, light and cherry blossoms," says Alfonso Tejada, VCBF Plein Air Master, artist and architect. The Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival is so delighted Alfonso continues to lead this program for the 6th year now as he instills a love of plein air in students, bringing out the very best of every participant.

Under the tutelage of a stellar team of visual teaching artists and Federation of Canadian Artists members including Janice Robertson, Alan Wylie and Bob McMurray, students will work in different media – oil, acrylic and watercolour. The four three hour Saturday sessions (April 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 11 am to 2 pm) are open to all levels from beginners to advanced artists.

Bring your paints, easel and supplies to explore VanDusen Botanical Garden's glorious 55 acres and 20 different varieties of cherry trees. Plein air sessions and demonstrations meet in the Glass House (which provides protection should it rain) and then move out to explore beautiful locations in the garden. "These scenes may include bridges, pagodas or ponds," says Tejada. "Taking the student's attention to learn how nature frames objects and becomes the subject of a masterpiece."

This April, give yourself the luxury of taking time out every Saturday to relax, be enveloped by the beauty of cherry blossoms, paint, enjoy an incredible sense of well being and meet new friends! Single sessions are \$50 and the 4 sessions are \$175. Registration is available online now at www.vcbf.ca. ●