

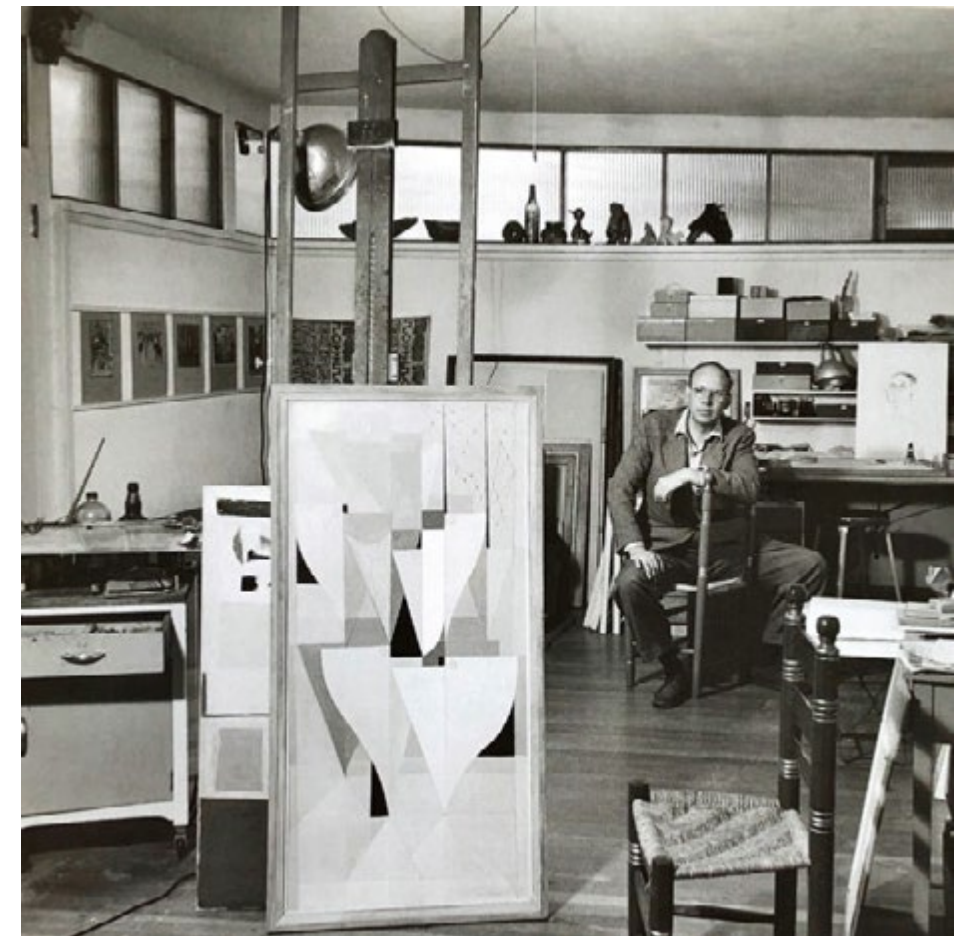


Yes to a Proposed Arts & Culture Facility for West Vancouver

June 2021

Imagine a new Arts & Culture Centre in West Vancouver that can harmonize our existing facilities and proudly honour the rich history of West Vancouver's internationally renowned artists.

West Vancouver has a remarkable artistic history that began in the 1930s and continues to thrive today. West Vancouver's own B.C. Binning designed and built his home with his wife Jessie in 1939 on Mathers Crescent and is listed as Canada's first modernist home. The Binning House, a National Historic site, became a cultural hub for young artists, architects and scholars of the post war period right here in West Vancouver. The Binning House connected Vancouver to the larger modernist movement happening in California, Europe and Japan. The art and architecture created in the decades that followed are a jewel in West Vancouver's crown and should be on display for all to see. There's a reason West Vancouver hosts the annual West Coast Modern Home Tour to sell-out crowds of eager design enthusiasts. Even the realtors have caught on. Arthur Erickson and Geoffrey Massey designed an internationally celebrated house and studio for renowned West Vancouver resident Gordon Smith who became friends with West Vancouver artist and resident Douglas Coupland who has become a household name. These creators and innovators have shaped the culture of the community, region and country — it's time West Vancouver stepped up to create a facility worthy of our global impact on art and architecture.



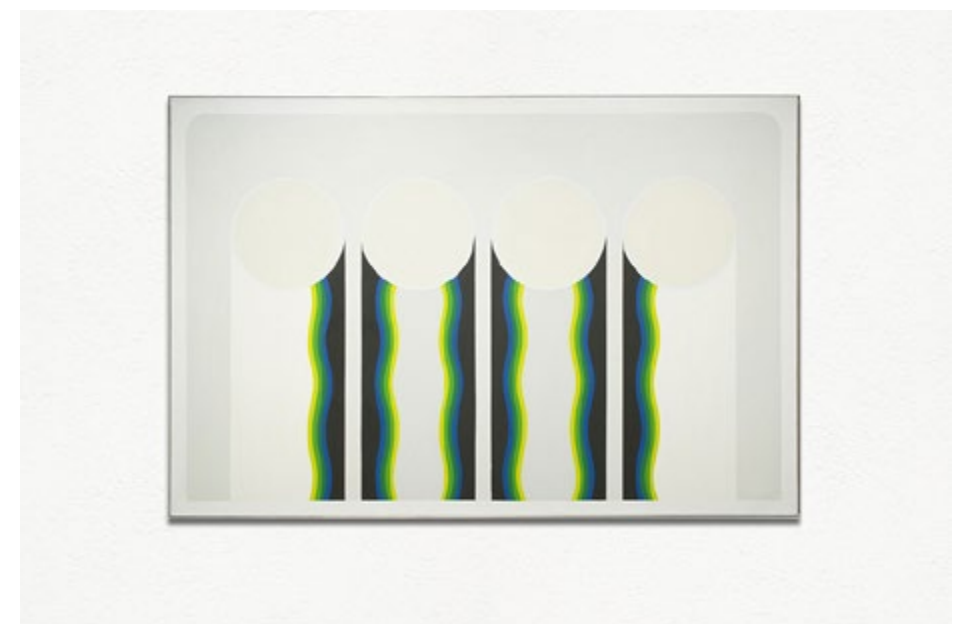
Bert Binning in his West Vancouver home studio circa 1941.

Some of West Vancouver's artists past and present.

B.C. Binning



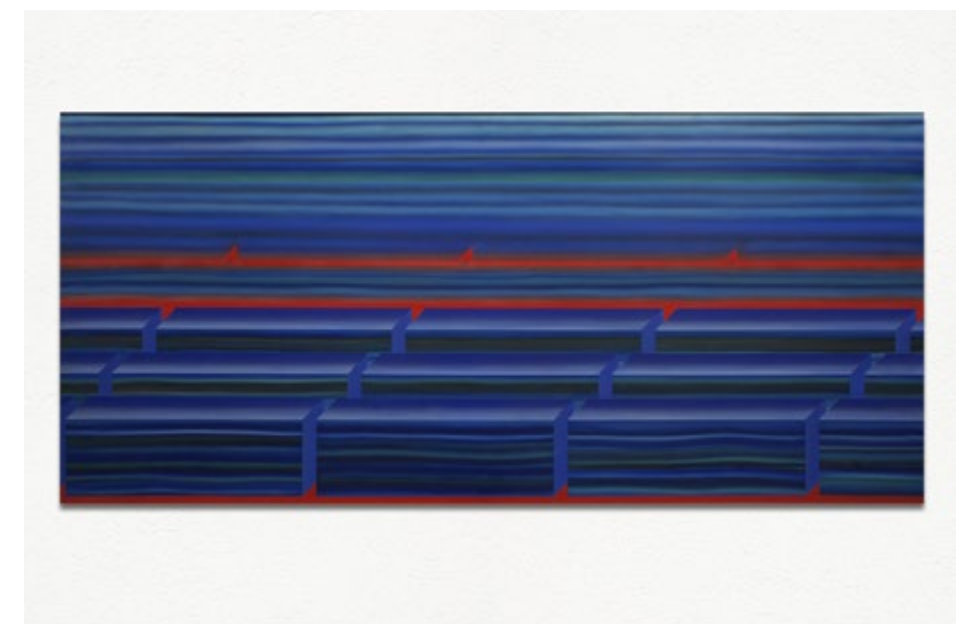
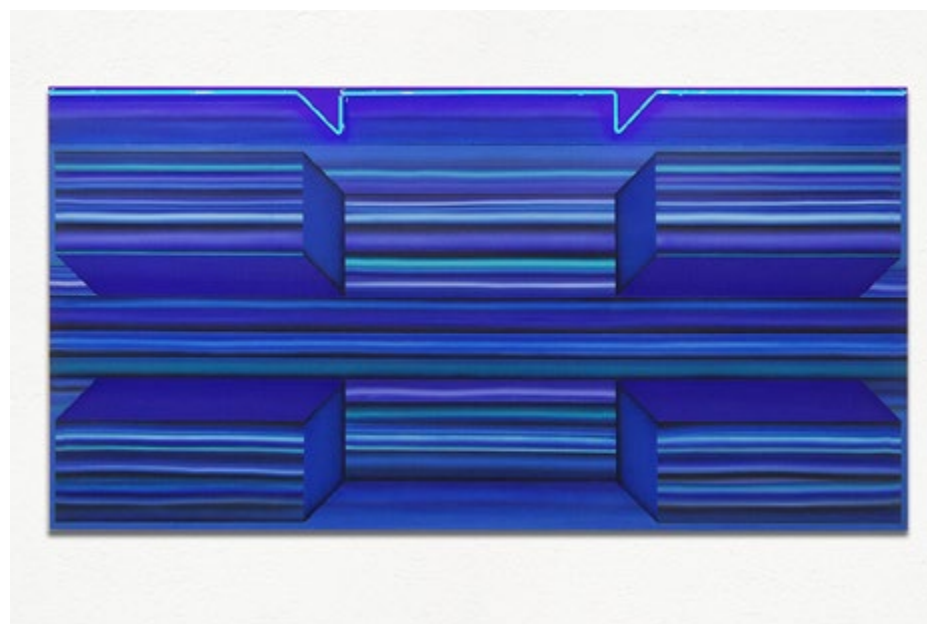
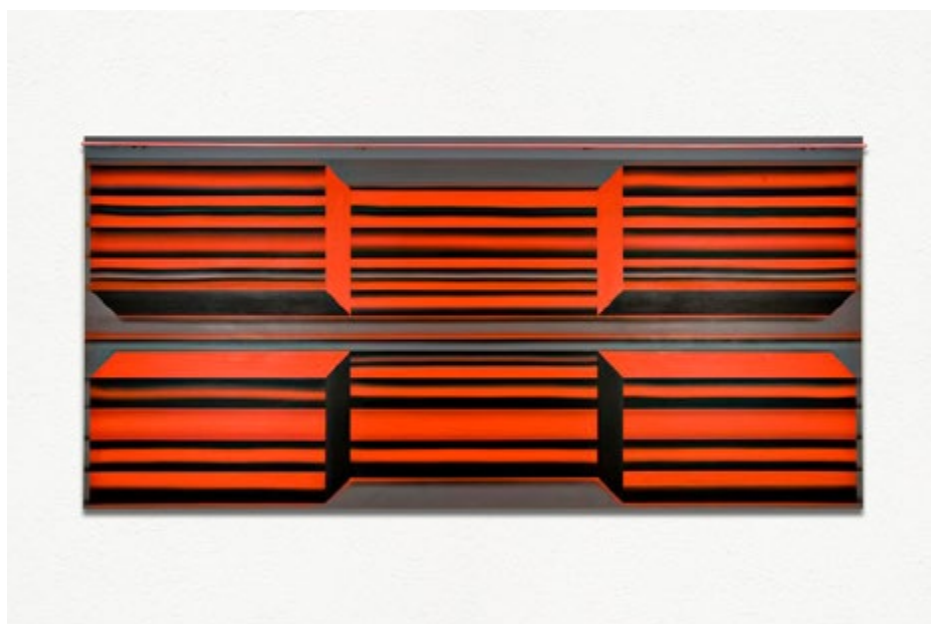
Gordon Smith



Douglas Coupland



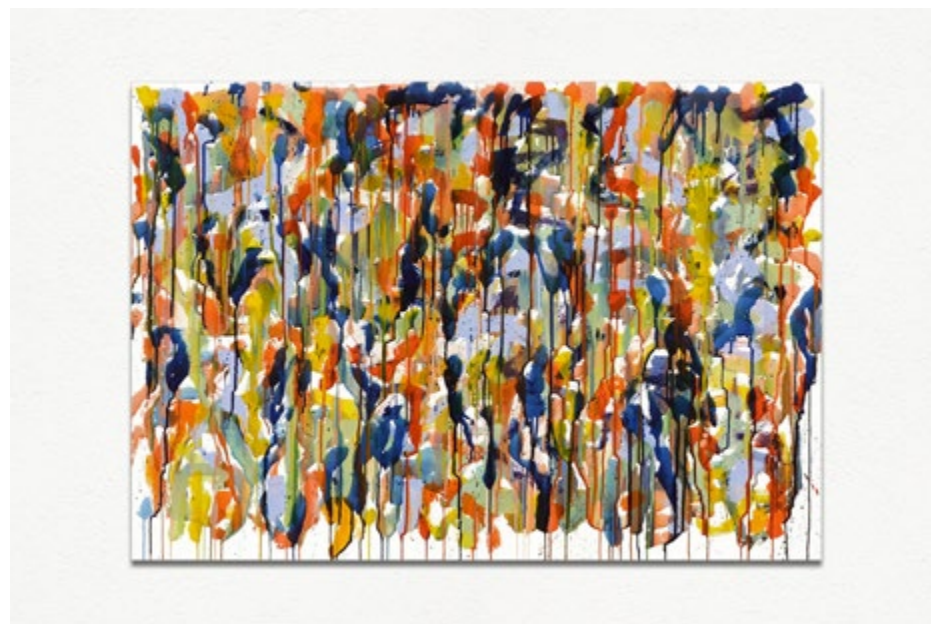
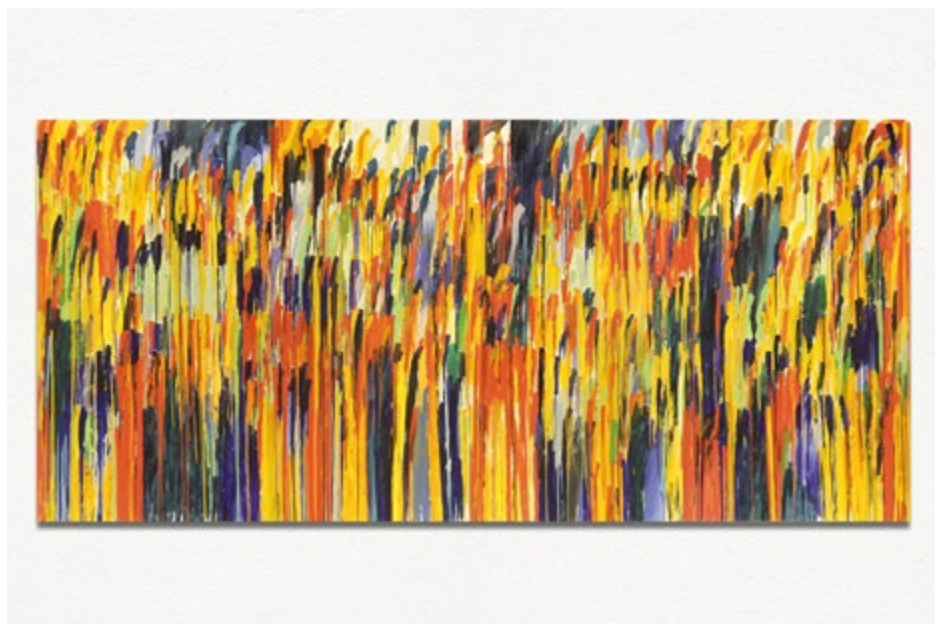
Joan Balzar



Bobbie Burgers



Pierre Coupey



West Vancouver's Current Arts Facilities

Scattered and crumbling, well past their due date.

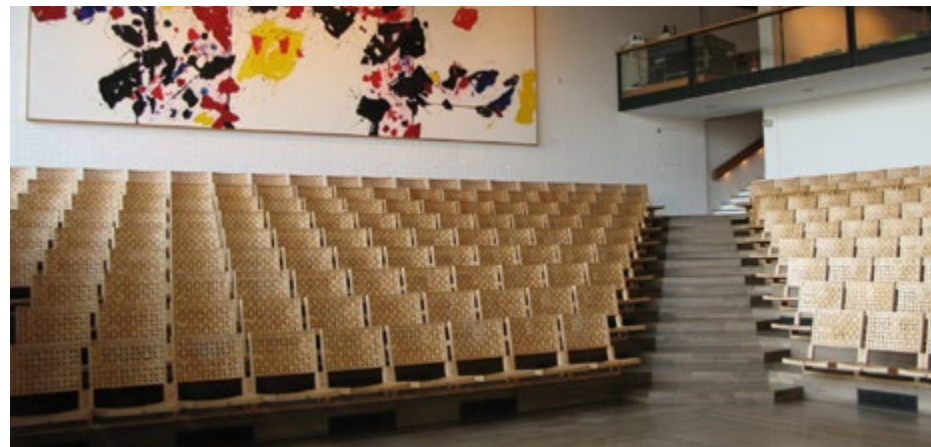


The possibility of a new Arts & Culture space on the West Van waterfront is an exciting proposition which can harmonize our scattered and crumbling arts facilities, Silk Purse, Music Box and the small but mighty West Van Art Museum and roll them into a single location in Ambleside. This proposed arts facility will be a site that is a public space for everyone. For the arts and culture community, it will consolidate exhibition space, rehearsal space, programs and classes, and storage. For the general public, it will be a space to experience art exhibitions, take a class, rent a venue for a private celebration, a place to enjoy a meal with friends and family, or shop for gifts.



Louisiana Museum in Denmark

A similar example in a similar setting.



If you support a new arts and culture centre, please write a short email of support to: mayorandcouncil@westvancouver.ca
– Be sure to include your mailing address.

Read more about it [here](#) or get involved [here](#).



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