

*Provisional Structures: Carmen Papalia with Vo Vo and jes sachse* is a connecting point between the artist, the MacKenzie Art Gallery, and the community. *Provisional Structures* is a 3-part project.

*Provisional Structures* includes:

- an exhibition
- a public program
- an accessibility statement for the MacKenzie Art Gallery

*Provisional Structures* challenges how we interact with gallery space.

Accessibility is about relationships. Accessibility is about the way we are together. This includes the places we spend time in. This also includes time we spend with people and objects.

*Provisional Structures* includes a large, spiraling ramp. The ramp winds up to the ceiling. This ramp is an art piece. The ramp represents an idea. The idea is providing support but also being uncertain.

Rem Koolhaas wrote a book in 2014. The book is called *Elements of Architecture*. In the book, Rem Koolhaas talks about ramps meaning different things. A ramp can mean much more than support. It can also:

- change political systems
- start revolution
- physical (wheelchair) access

The ramp in this artwork helps us think about where accessibility often starts and ends. This is something we need to change.

Collaboration is very important to Carmen Papalia. Collaboration means working with other people.

At the centre of *Provisional Structures* is an audio piece by the artist VoVo. The audio is a recording from an online presentation VoVo gave. VoVo gave this presentation in 2020 for the Portland Disability Justice Collective. This was an online presentation. VoVo's presentation is about how trauma affects people. Understanding this when caring for people is called trauma-informed care. VoVo's presentation helps us to understand more about accessibility. Accessibility also includes how we relate to other people.

jes sachse's art and advocacy has been very important for Carmen Papalia. jes sachse's art is playful. jes sachse's art is also critical. jes sachse created an art piece of over 800 metal plates on a wall. The art piece looks like a donor wall. The plaques read "i need a minute". The words, "I need a minute" is a request for:

- more time
- more consideration
- to slow down

The art piece assumes that things are moving too fast. The art piece asks that we slow down.

As you think about your experience here today, we ask you to think about these things:

- What is my understanding of access?
- What has to change in the places I go to, before I can go there the way I want to
- What has to change in the places I can't go to, before I can go there the way I want to.

Carmen Papalia is an artist. Carmen organizes people and things for change. Carmen also uses improvisation. Improvisation means to make something up without having a plan. Carmen uses improvisation to access:

- public space
- visual culture
- the art institution. This means places like Galleries or Organizations.

Carmen's art is about social issues. Carmen is learning to find ways to support what disabled people want.

*Provisional Structures: Carmen Papalia with VoVo and jes sachse* was created together with Architectural Designer Michael Lis. Michael Lis is from Vancouver.

Money for art is called funding. Funding support for *Provisional Structures: Carmen Papalia with VoVo and jes sachse* comes from the Canada Council for the Arts. The Canada Council for the Arts is an organization that supports artists in Canada.