



Challenging Ableism: Painting Futures with Disability Justice in Mind

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 20, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Location TBA
RSVP to john.yamamoto@ubc.ca

Join Prof. Leslie G. Roman, Educational Studies, Faculty of Education, author, sociologist of education, cultural and disability studies scholar and [Wingspan](#) cluster Lead and Richard Harlow, Blind Visual Artist, Human Rights' Advocate for Inclusion and Accessibility with Wingspan's 2019/20 Le École Ladner students in the Delta School District, who will share their experiences with you in this workshop and film screening. Richard is a painter and photographer with a visual impairment whose works include tactile media to experience through touch, and hung at universal height, which is accessible for wheelchair users. Richard fuels his art with activism as a direct response to his experience of living with blindness. His tactile paintings eliminate the barriers in the art world created by so-called abled bodies for the able-bodied. He wants to show that no person has limits to what they can accomplish and that having a disability is not the end. It's only the beginning of a new chapter.

- Have you ever felt caught among the narrow metrics of 'ability', excellence, success in your teaching? Are you wondering how you might teach using anti-ableist and social justice lenses to 'inclusion' to recognize that disabilities and d/Deafness are enriching human differences? Do you sometimes feel ill-equipped or without the curricular resources and examples you need to practice anti-ableism and create spaces for all your students? If you feel you would like to see actual artists with disabilities and/or d/Deafness working collectively with teachers to prepare all students for a wider world of enriching differences, then this film-screening and workshop is for you. Learn from six remarkable artists with disabilities or d/Deafness as they lead students and teachers in seven schools in two BC school districts through lived experiences which challenged the colonial and medicalizing work of dis/abilities.
- Watch an astonishing documentary and be provided with curricular resources and first-person narratives to equip you for a wider understanding of what counts humans and how students with and without disabilities or d/Deafness may flourish by learning from and with artists with disabilities and/or d/Deafness in their K-12 schools. Bring your questions. Film description below:



Wingspan: The Art of Becoming

One of the most astonishing documentaries of 2019, [Wingspan: The Art of Becoming](#), is as much a foray into what students and teachers mostly don't know about the lived inequalities of people with disabilities or d/Deafness in Canada as it is poetic musings and visually stunning tales of six unforgettable resilient artists. In March of 2019, a flight of becoming, lifted off at a Wingspan retreat for teachers, artists and scholars gathered at Loon Lake Lodge on the unceded territories of the Katzie First Nations to learn from one another about what it means to artfully perform inclusion and accessibility in and outside of our public schools. Six professional artists with disabilities or d/Deafness were about to become role models for all students in an 8-week residency in partner K-12 Wingspan BC schools. How might artists and teachers together cultivate disability and d/Deaf pride in schools, and thus, become a vision for other schools across Canada and around the world?

Image description: A murmuration of starlings swirl across the sky like ribbons of smoke.