

PRESS RELEASE

Knitting as Espionage: The Diefenbunker announces Greta Grip as its 2020 Artist-in-Residence

Ottawa, ON (April 25, 2020): The [Diefenbunker, Canada's Cold War Museum](#) is thrilled to announce artist, [Greta Grip](#), as its Artist-in-Residence for 2020. Greta Grip is fascinated with code. From reading coded knitting patterns to knitting acronyms and QR codes, to hacking a knitting machine; knitting itself weaves in and out of what can be read and what is hidden. The history of espionage has knitting hidden as a facilitator of secrets. Her residency at the Diefenbunker will include researching, deciphering, and creating knitting as code.

"We're really looking forward to welcoming Greta underground once we reopen," says Courtney Gehling, the Diefenbunker's Visitor Experience Manager. "Her incredible artwork and the theme of knitting as code make her the perfect fit for the museum."

Greta Grip explains her inspiration, "The cold and sterile space at the Diefenbunker has inspired me to bring the warmth of knitting to its walls. The bunker having its origins in uncertain times: to protect, to keep safe, to rebuild is similar to the act of knitting which is often nurturing, providing shelter as well as creating a sense of community but also it is often an isolating act. Both the Diefenbunker and knitting are both entrenched with codes: deciphering, hiding and creating, of which I will be expanding on during the residency."

While the current COVID pandemic has shifted Greta's focus to creating for an important cause, our frontlines, we have been thinking of different ways to bring her residency to life in the future. She says, "I am interested to exhibit in the Bank of Canada Vault, as it was built to safe guard Canada's gold standard in order to rebuild the country after nuclear attack. Fitting for today's climate, we are not under nuclear attack but we are faced with rebuilding the country."

We are very excited to see what she will create, inspired by our recent past, present, and future. Stay tuned for updates about Greta Grip's residency.

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Images: available upon request.

About the Diefenbunker's Artist-in-Residence Program

Since 2014, the Diefenbunker Artist-in-Residence Program fosters connections between the Museum, local artists, and the wider Ottawa community through the creation and presentation of art inspired by this National Historic Site and its history.



About the Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum & National Historic Site:

The [Diefenbunker, Canada's Cold War Museum](#) is a four-story, 100,000 square foot underground bunker, built between 1959 and 1961. During the Cold War, government and military officials were to take shelter here in the event of a nuclear war. It was active as Canadian Forces Station Carp until it was decommissioned in 1994.

For years it protected us from 75 feet underground and we knew virtually nothing about it. Since 1998, the Diefenbunker has operated as a community museum housed inside a National Historic Site. It is a non-profit, charitable organization committed to the preservation, interpretation and display of Canadian history during the Cold War. It boasts award-winning tours, events and programs that offer a unique perspective of Canada and the Cold War. It draws in close to 70,000 visitors from around the world annually.