

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board of Directors ..... 1

Message from the Chair and President & CEO ..... 2

Exhibition Highlights ..... 5

Exhibitions ..... 8

Acquisitions ..... 10

Programs and Learning Highlights ..... 14

Volunteer Association ..... 18

By the Numbers ..... 20

Operating Actuals ..... 21

Donor Support and Sponsorship ..... 22

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT & CEO**

Shelley Falconer

**2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Gary Graham, *Chair*

Scott Galbraith, *Secretary Treasurer*

Sara Angelucci

Councillor John-Paul Danko

Dilk Dhanapala

Margaret Fong, *Chair, AGH Volunteer Committee*

Max Francis

David General

Councillor Cameron Kroetsch

James Lefebvre

Eleanor McMahon

Susan Murray

Steve Nixon

Joe Pietrantonio

Matthijs Van Gaalen

Thomas C. Wilson



123 King Street West Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 4S8 • 905.527.6610  
 info@artgalleryofhamilton.com • www.artgalleryofhamilton.com



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, PRESIDENT & CEO



Gary Graham  
Chair, Board of Directors



Shelley Falconer  
AGH President & CEO

In 2023, the AGH saw the demand for embodied and engaging in-person experiences rise and exceed pre-COVID levels. The AGH presented 13 exhibitions and over 800 programs this year and the Gallery enjoyed an astounding 187,862 visitors, indicating a slow but unflinching rehabilitation from the events of recent years.

One of the key priorities in 2023 for management and the Board was to finalize the AGH's five-year strategic plan. Following thorough economic and social analysis, as well as extensive community and stakeholder consultations with artists, donors, members and artistic partners, the plan outlines key goals to;

1. Broaden the study of, and access to, the collections
2. Deepen access to, and understanding of, art and history
3. Build and deepen community relationships
4. Commit to the work of Truth and Reconciliation
5. Broaden public awareness through a strong identity and narrative
6. Develop long-term sustainability models
7. Anchor the AGH as an integral partner in the revitalization of Hamilton's downtown core

Conceived as a shared framework, this plan responsibly aligns the organization's artistic and social programming with shifting community needs over the next five years.

Over the course of this year, we were proud to present a variety of exhibitions that centered diverse voices and recognized a plethora of regional artistic talents. Highlights included *they have piled the stone / as they promised / without syrup* by artist Duane Linklater, a presentation of new works including a series of striking canvases that used abstracted architecture to reveal the labour and deceit ingrained in a chapel built by children forced to attend the former Shingwauk Residential School. Organized and circulated by The MacKenzie Art Gallery, *Radical Stitch* explored the profound technical skill of beading as an art form, revealing its vitality as a method of knowledge transfer and act of resistance. Curated by Yan Zhou, a series of artists scrutinized the impact of smog as a symbol and symptom of our world in the time of climate emergency in *Breathing in China: Art, Ethics, and Environment*.

میں اپنی ماں کی بیٹ ہوں *I am my mother's daughter* by Farheen Haq examined the artists' experience of motherhood, her relationship with her own mother, and her status as a settler on Haudenosaunee territory. Finally, the sprightly exhibition *WONDER: the real, the surreal, and the fantastic* brought together works that reimaged the everyday in search of new realities and creative freedom.

The AGH's growing outreach and commitment to partnerships saw resounding success in the way of travelling exhibitions in 2023, boasting the organization and circulation of the multi-year exhibition tour of the retrospective *Shelley Niro: 500 Year Itch* which saw its inaugural installation at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in New York City. The exhibition will be on display at the AGH in early 2024 before moving on to the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, the Vancouver Art Gallery, and in 2025 will be installed at the Remai Modern in Saskatchewan. After exhibiting at the AGH in 2022, *Michèle Pearson Clarke: Quantum Choir* went on in 2023 to Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art in Winnipeg. Adding to the Gallery's library of publications, three exhibition catalogues were developed this year for *Shelley Niro: 500 Year Itch*, *Farheen Haq: I am my mother's daughter*, and the previous year's installation of the enthralling *Nathan Eugene Carson: Black Carnival*.

We are deeply grateful to have expanded our permanent collection of over 10,500 works with an additional 77 works this year. Including works by Kim Adams, Michèle Pearson Clarke, Elizabeth Doxtater, Hortense Gordon, Esmaa Mohamoud, Tony Scherman, Michael Snow, and Barbara Steinman, amongst others. Notable loans in 2023 include Tom Thomson, *Moonlight Over Canoe Lake*, 1916 and *Ragged Lake*, 1915, which were part of the touring exhibition *Tom Thomson: North Star* organized by the McMichael Canadian Art Collection and presented June 24, 2023 - January 14, 2024, before travelling to the Audain Art Museum in Whistler and the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton. Tim Whiten, *Ouroboros*, 1976, *Mary's Permeating Sign*, 2006 and *Siege Perilous*, 1989, and *Siege Perilous*, 1989, were exhibited in *Tim Whiten: Elemental* co-organized between The Art Gallery of Peterborough, the Art Gallery of York University, Robert McLaughlin Gallery and the McMaster Museum of Art, with touring dates between 2022 and 2023. And recently returned to the Gallery, Robert Houle, *Kanehsatake*, 1990-1993 and *Aboriginal Title*, 1989-1990 were presented in *Robert Houle: Red is Beautiful* organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario and toured to Contemporary Calgary, the Winnipeg Art Gallery and the National Museum of the American Indian between 2021 and 2024.

In reflection of the successes of this year, we are thankful that a selection of our exhibitions and publications were recognized by the following awards. The Ontario Museums Association awarded the Excellence in Publications to *Artful Moments: Shared Learning* by Laurie Kilgour-Walsh, projecting a consistent growth in accomplishments culminating from consistent investments into wellness programming at the Gallery. Additionally, *Duane Linklater: they have piled the stone / as they promised / without syrup* curated by Melissa Bennett, was shortlisted by Galleries Ontario / Ontario Galleries for the Exhibition of the Year (Budget over \$20,000 Monographic).

A broad suite of auxiliary programming complimented the year's exhibition themes, both cultivating new patrons and augmenting current communities at the AGH. Among our recurring public programs like guided tours, Family Fun Days, Mindful Drawing, Free Thursdays, Storytime in the Gallery, AGH Reads, Speakers of Truth, virtual Fridays at Four, Youth Art Collective, and exciting initiatives from the past few years like Breaking Through the Vault Poetry Club, and QUARTZ: Queer Arts Hang, our education programs continued their presence in classrooms through the AGH: In-Class artist-led projects, with artist-educators teaching art forms that enhance the learning potential of class topics both in-person, and virtually to classrooms in remote territories. In co-production with Woodland Cultural Centre, the sold-out Radical Design Fashion Show highlighted the artistry of Indigenous designers around the country and brought topical audiences to the Gallery to experience *Radical Stitch* as well as Woodland's *By Design: Fashionable Inspiration*. *Radical Stitch* was also activated by a dedicated interactive in-gallery beading room, with numerous workshops, conversations, and beading circles led by local Indigenous beaders. The 2023 AGH Festival presented 28 multi-disciplinary events which celebrated the 50th anniversary of Hip Hop and utilized talks, performances, workshops, and more to activate the whimsical *WONDER* exhibition as well as the new lobby mural installation *Reflect*, inviting many new arts and culture collaborators into the AGH network.

The popularity of many of this year's exhibitions played a pivotal role in attracting new and returning visitors. The engaging nature of exhibitions like *Radical Stitch* and *WONDER* resonated with our audiences, resulting in a significant increase in attendance throughout the year. In 2023 the AGH successfully rebounded to our pre-COVID attendance levels, exceeding our 2019 figures by an impressive 17.6%. The overwhelming response to *Radical Stitch* necessitated an extension of three months to accommodate its immense popularity.

The editorial coverage summary for 2023 indicates a substantial reach of 776 million potential news consumers, with 662 editorial mentions and 44 major editorial features. Notable mentions in 2023 include features in *Globe and Mail*, *Hamilton Spectator*, *CBC Hamilton*, and *CHCH Morning Live*, highlighting diverse art exhibitions and community engagement initiatives.

We are deeply grateful to the AGH's dedicated Board of Directors, Governors, devoted volunteers and staff, and our loyal members. We would like to extend our gratitude to our committed partners and donors, and acknowledge the continued support from all three levels of government who provide crucial operating support for the continued success of exhibitions and meaningful programs across learning, wellness, and community that enrich our Hamilton community and beyond.

Gary Graham



Shelley Falconer



## EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS 2023

### DUANE LINKLATER: *they have piled the stone / as they promised / without syrup*

February 11 - May 22, 2023

Presented by Partners in Art



The exhibition of new works *they have piled the stone / as they promised / without syrup* by Duane Linklater (Omaskêko Cree) explored the architecture of the Bishop Fauquier Memorial Chapel in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, the last remaining original structure on the site of the former Shingwauk Residential School for boys built in 1881, in part, by the children who were forced to attend residential school there. The main exhibited works abstracted an image of the rear façade of the chapel into nine parts, printed on linen, sewn together, stretched, and which Linklater further delineated with charcoal, cochineal, tea and other dyes to reveal the contrived and deceitful circumstances within which the children labored. These works were accompanied by a new installation of porcupine quills, and a media work titled *Primary Use*.

### RADICAL STITCH

February 11 - August 27, 2023

Organized and circulated by The MacKenzie Art Gallery



The landmark exhibition *Radical Stitch* looked at the contemporary and transformative context of beading as a place of encounter, knowledge transfer, and acts of resistance through the aesthetic innovations of artists. Gathering top artists from across North America/Turtle Island, these works exemplified current and future directions of some of the most impressive practices and brought much-needed critical attention to the breadth and impact of beading as one of the defining mediums of contemporary Indigenous art on this continent.



**BREATHING IN CHINA: Art, Ethics, and Environment**  
**June 17 - December 31, 2023**



In *Breathing in China*, fifteen featured artists used drawing, painting, sculpture, installation and video to explore the impact of smog as a symbol and symptom of our world in the time of climate emergency. For decades, China and the Global South have been definably impacted by smog, to the point of ecological destitution and human suffering. Guest curator Yan Zhou organized artist exchange trips between Canada and her native China to foster the creation of new works that responded to the current climate crisis.



**میں اپنی ماں کی بیٹ ہوں I am my mother's daughter**  
**June 23 - December 31, 2023**

Organized and circulated by the Campbell River Art Gallery



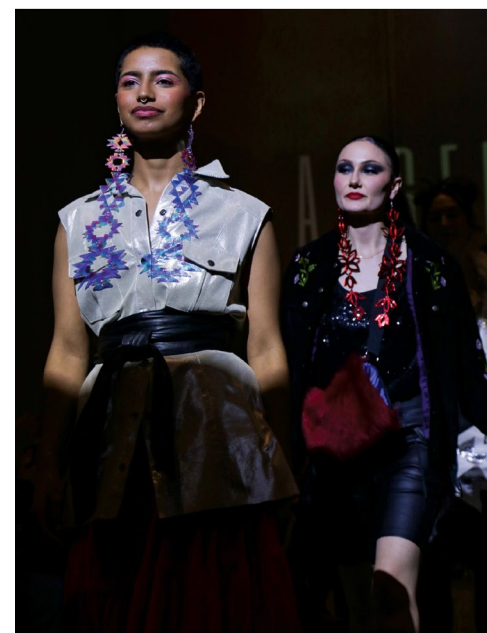
Curated by Haema Sivanesan & Jenelle M. Pasiechnik, *I am my mother's daughter* میں اپنی ماں کی بیٹ ہوں was Farheen Haq's first major solo exhibition in a Southern Ontario museum. Through performance, video, and sculpture, the exhibition examined intergenerational relationships, connecting Haq's mother's experience as a young Muslim bride arriving in Canada, with her own experience as a mother, simultaneously interwoven with an awareness of her family's responsibilities toward the work of reconciliation as settlers on Haudenosaunee territories.

**WONDER: the real, the surreal, and the fantastic**  
**September 23, 2023 - January 7, 2024**

Presented by incite Foundation for the Arts



Significant shifts in our sense of reality caused by digital and sociopolitical factors drove the development of *WONDER: the real, the surreal, and the fantastic*, an exhibition which explored the unconscious mind, fantasies, and the dream world. This playful exhibition brought together historical and contemporary works that reimagine the everyday by staging new and provocative worlds, with the goal of challenging values and norms in search of new realities and creative freedom.





## 2023 EXHIBITIONS

### Edward Burtynsky: Chai

November 18, 2022 - April 9, 2023

Curated by Laurie Kilgour-Walsh

### Syrus Marcus Ware

In Movement: Training Sessions for Freedom Fighters

November 28, 2022 - July 3, 2023

Curated by Melissa Bennett

### Radical Stitch

February 10 - May 27, 2023

Curated by Sherry Farrell Racette, Michelle LaVallee & Cathy Mattes

Organized and circulated by The MacKenzie Art Gallery.

### Duane Linklater

they have piled the stone / as they promised / without syrup

February 10 - May 22, 2023

Curated by Melissa Bennett

### Pigment to Pixel: Digitizing the Permanent Collection

February 10 - May 22, 2023

Curated by Christine Braun, Andrea Howard and Jeannie Fries

### RBC Artist In Residence: Nathan Eugene Carson

April 14, 2022 - April 30, 2023

Curated by Melissa Bennett

Presented by RBC Royal Bank

### Perception: The 127th Annual Women's Art Association of Hamilton Exhibition

April 15 - June 25, 2023

Organized by the Women's Art Association of Hamilton

### RBC Artist in Residence: Melissa General

May 20, 2023 - September 1, 2024

Curated by Melissa Bennett

Presented by RBC Royal Bank

### Breathing in China: Art, Ethics & Environment

June 17 - December 31, 2023

Guest Curator: Yan Zhou

### میں اپنی ماں کی بیٹ ہوں I am my mother's daughter

June 23 - December 31, 2023

Curated by Haema Sivanesan & Jenelle M Pasiechnik

Circulated by Campbell River Art Gallery

### Reflect / Concrete Canvas / Celebrating 50 Years of Hip Hop

July 15 - December 31, 2023

Curated by: Melissa Bennett

### Art of Creation

September 9 - December 3, 2023

Co-produced by the Sloboda Lab, McMaster University and AGH

### WONDER: the real, the surreal, and the fantastic

September 23, 2023 - January 7, 2024

Curated by Tobi Bruce

### Keeping 6: This is Our Space Too

December 9, 2023 - March 31, 2024

Co-curated by K6 Arts Collective, Open-Heart Theatre and the AGH



# ACQUISITIONS

## DONATIONS 2023

**Tony Scherman**  
(Canadian 1950-2023)  
*Lamb* 1989  
encaustic on paper  
67.3 x 59.1 cm  
Gift of Glen Cumming  
2023

**Ottillie Palm Jost (Canadian 1878-1961)**  
*Street Scene in Füssen, Bavaria* 1913  
oil on canvas  
61 x 152.4 cm  
Gift of John Franklin Purdy,  
2023

**Kim Adams**  
(Canadian b. 1951)  
*Every Which Way (he/he)*  
1997, pair of 12" John Deer  
boy's bicycles  
Gift of the artist, 2023

**Cara Romero**  
(Chemehuevi b. 1977)  
*Life in the West* 2022  
archival pigment print  
on paper, 43.2 x 39.4 cm  
*Amber Morningstar* 2019  
inkjet print on paper  
43.2 x 39.4 cm  
*Julia* 2019  
inkjet print on paper  
43.2 x 34.3 cm  
*Naomi* 2017  
inkjet print on paper  
43.2 x 39.4 cm 48 x 61 cm

*Wakeah* 2015  
inkjet print on paper  
43.2 x 34.3 cm  
Gifts of Dr. Mima Kapches,  
2023

**Helen Clapcott**  
(British b. 1952)  
*Carpark Clearance* 2002  
egg tempera on board  
70 x 45.7 cm

**Adrian Heath**  
(British 1920-1992)  
*Drawing, August* 1985  
pencil and watercolour  
on paper  
54.6 x 73.7 cm

**Kenneth Bunn**  
(American 1938-2020)  
*Polar Bears* c. 1974  
bronze, ed. 1/7, 30.5 x 20.3 cm  
Gifts from a Private Collection,  
2023

**Ottillie Palm Jost (Canadian 1878-1961)**  
*Portrait of Waldfriede Jost*  
oil on cardboard panel  
29 x 22 cm  
*Hotel Roter Hahn*  
black ink and watercolour  
on paper 33 x 25 cm  
untitled (landscape with  
buildings)  
watercolour on paper  
28 x 18 cm

*untitled (landscape with  
mountain peak)*  
watercolour on paper  
11 x 7.5 cm

*untitled (landscape with path  
bridge)*  
watercolour on paper  
9 x 7 cm

*untitled (forest landscape  
with snow)*  
watercolour on paper  
8.2 x 10.9 cm

*untitled (portrait, grey beard)*  
oil on cigar box panel  
5.9 x 8.2 cm

*untitled (portrait,  
black head scarf)*  
oil on cigar box panel  
5.9 x 8.2 cm

DAG (Dutch American Group)  
watercolour and ink on paper  
7 x 9.9 cm

**John Sloan Gordon**  
(Canadian 1868-1940)  
*Burlington Shoreline*  
oil on canvas laid on millboard  
19.05 x 28 cm

*Bronte Harbour*  
oil on cigar box panel  
15.24 x 20.32 cm

*Sunset, Burlington Bay*  
oil on chamfered panel  
15.24 x 21.6 cm

*Three-masted Ship in  
Lake Ontario*  
oil on cigar box panel  
14.6 x 20.32 cm

*Rocky Shoreline*  
oil on canvas  
17.14 x 22.9 cm

*Cloudy Shoreline*  
oil on canvas  
17.14 x 22.9 cm

*Pier with Lake and Hills*  
oil on cigar box panel  
15.24 x 21.6 cm

*Scottish Church by Coastline*  
oil on cigar box panel  
15.24 x 21.6 cm

*Landscape with Stream*  
oil on cigar box panel  
15.24 x 21.6 cm

**Hortense Gordon**  
(Canadian 1886-1961)  
*Abstract Composition*  
oil on cigar box panel  
21.6 x 15.24

*Country Landscape in Winter*  
oil on cigar box panel  
15.24 x 21.6 cm

*Abstract Composition*  
oil on cigar box panel  
15.24 x 21.6 cm

*Winter Landscape with Stream*  
oil on chamfered panel  
34.92 x 22.9 cm

*Fishermen on the Shoreline*  
oil on chamfered panel  
22.9 x 34.92 cm

*Artist's Box with Shipping Tag*  
late 19th/early 20th century  
wood, 38 x 28 x 10.2 cm  
Gifts of Joanna Kafarowski,  
2023

**Ora Markstein (Canadian b. Hungary 1924-2024)**  
*Mermaid*, alabaster  
30 x 35 x 18 cm

*Hand*, plaster  
10 x 20 x 10 cm

*Dream of Freedom*  
pink alabaster with  
wooden base  
45 x 20 x 10 cm  
Gifts of the artist, 2023

**Joyce Wieland**  
(Canadian 1931-1998)  
*With Love to the Night* 1987  
oil on canvas  
122 x 167.6 cm

**Arthur Shilling**  
(Ojibway 1941-1986)  
*Reclining Nude* 1971  
oil on canvasboard  
61 x 91.4 cm

*Beginning of Clothesline*  
1981, oil on Masonite  
61 x 76.2 cm

**Pitseolak Ashoona**  
(Inuit 1904-1983)  
*The Bird Within* 1968  
stonecut on paper  
ed. 48/50, Art Gallery of  
Hamilton, 39.5 x 51 cm  
Gifts of Melvin and Patricia  
Webber, 2023

**Unidentified (Inuit, active in Hamilton 1953-1963)**  
*Inunguat (doll, female with infant)*

wool, yarn, thread, flannel,  
nylon, 50 x 16 x 6.5 cm  
*Inunguat (doll, male)*  
wool, yarn, thread, flannel,  
nylon, 51.17.5 x 8 cm  
Gifts of Rebecca Raven, 2023

*Bird*  
soapstone, 12.4 x 8.8 x 3.7 cm

*Bird*  
soapstone, 10.7 x 6.5 x 3.8 cm  
Gifts of Paul and Janet Raven,  
2023

**Johanassie Illauq**  
(Inuit, Clyde River)  
*Spirit* April 1987  
whale bone  
28 x 35 x 18 cm

**Philip Kamepkeytok or Kamikpakittuq**  
(Inuit, Ejou Haven b. 1955)  
*Spirit* 1988  
stone  
9 x 20 x 15 cm

**Raygee Palituq**  
(Inuit, Clyde River)  
*Merman* 1989  
bone, 7.5 x 21 x 5 cm

**Unidentified**  
(Inuit, possibly DANI KANA)  
*Tupilak (Tupilaaq)*  
stone with inlay  
15 x 7 x 7.5 cm  
Gifts of Lori Dessau and  
Lewis E. Tauber, Ph.D., 2023



**Barbara Steinman**  
(Canadian b. 1950)  
*Exile* 1990  
two Cibachrome pearl prints on Masonite; diptych  
left 53.3 x 63.5;  
right 137.2 x 161.3 cm  
AP 1/2 from an edition of 5  
Gift of Karen and David Mills  
in memory of John Soule,  
2023

**André Derain**  
(French 1880-1954)  
*Beauté Rayonnante*  
1912-1914, bronze  
16 x 24 x 13 cm  
Gift of Freda and Irwin  
Browns, 2023

**Michael Snow**  
(Canadian, 1929-2023)  
*Untitled (ABC)* 1960  
ink on paper, 59 x 45.7 cm

**Joyce Wieland**  
(Canadian 1930-1998)  
*Piper Colt and TU 114* 1966  
oil on canvas, 125 x 150 cm  
Gifts of Milton Winberg, 2023

**Marlene Creates**  
(Canadian b. 1952)  
*Looking at the City of Hamilton  
from Ten Paces Outside the  
Municipal Boundaries,  
Hamilton*  
Pre-Amalgamation 2000  
30 Cibachrome colour  
photographic prints  
24.13 x 35.6 cm each  
Gift of the artist and Paul  
Petro, 2023

**Esmaa Mohamoud**  
(Canadian b. 1992)  
*Chain Gang 2* 2018-19  
metal chain, 6 pairs of  
used football cleats  
305.8 x 70 cm installed  
Gift of the artist, 2023

**Harold Klunder**  
(Canadian b. 1943)  
*Silence* 2000  
woodblock on  
Okawara paper  
colour proof  
172.5 x 81 cm  
*Moeder* 1989  
etching on Ingres paper  
48 x 28 cm

*Full Circle, Critical Mass I* 1999  
woodblock print on Arches  
88 paper  
AP 1/2  
40.5 x 25.5 cm

*Full Circle, Critical Mass II* 1999  
woodblock print on  
Arches 88 paper  
AP 1/2  
40.5 x 25.5 cm

*Full Circle, Critical Mass III* 1999  
woodblock print on  
Arches 88 paper  
AP 1/2  
40.5 x 25.5 cm

*Full Circle, Critical Mass IV* 1999  
woodblock print on  
Arches 88 paper  
AP 1/2  
40.5 x 25.5 cm

*Full Circle, Critical Mass V* 1999  
woodblock print on Arches  
88 paper  
AP 1/2  
40.5 x 25.5 cm

*Abstract Black* 1999  
lithograph on Arches paper  
86.5 x 62.5 cm

*Head of Christ* 1999  
woodblock print on BFK  
paper, AP, 81 x 61 cm

*Christ the Temptations* 1999  
woodblock print on BFK  
paper, PP 2/5, 81 x 61 cm

*Christ Crucified* 1999  
woodblock print on BFK  
paper, PP 1/2, 81.5 x 61 cm

*I (Canoe Lake Series)* 2002  
woodcut and pastel on offset  
paper, TP, 61 x 45.5 cm

*VIII (Canoe Lake Series)* 2002  
woodcut and pastel on offset  
paper, TP, 61 x 45.5 cm

*III (Canoe Lake Series)* 2002  
woodcut and pastel on offset  
paper, VE 1/2, 51 x 33 cm

*IV (Canoe Lake Series)* 2002  
woodcut and pastel on offset  
paper, VE 1/2, 61 x 45.5 cm

*V (Canoe Lake Series)* 2002  
woodcut and pastel on offset  
paper, VE 1/2, 51 x 33 cm

*II (Canoe Lake Series)* 2002  
woodcut and pastel on offset  
paper, VE, 1/2 51 x 33 cm  
Gifts of Alan Flint, 2023

## PURCHASES 2023

**Elizabeth Doxtater**  
(Mohawk b. 1960)  
*Cornhusk Girl with Wampum  
Earring* 2021  
acrylic on canvas  
30.48 x 22.86 cm  
Purchase, Permanent  
Collection Fund, 2023

**Michèle Pearson Clarke**  
(Canadian b. Trinidad 1973)  
*Glitter Stache* 2021 (printed  
2023) from the series "The  
Animal Seems to Be Moving"  
archival pigment print on  
Hahnemühle Hemp, Alupanel  
mounted, ed. 1/3  
101.6 x 127 cm  
Purchase, Permanent  
Collection Fund, 2023

**Rosalie Favell (Métis b. 1958)**  
*The Collector / The Artist in Her  
Museum* 2019  
oil on canvas, 122 x 122 cm  
Purchased with the support  
of the Elizabeth L. Gordon  
Art Program, a program of  
the Gordon Foundation and  
administrated by the Ontario  
Arts Foundation, and the  
Permanent Collection Fund,  
2023





## PROGRAMS & LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

2023 signalled a shift to accommodate audiences returning to pre-COVID levels of engagement. This was approached with a continued broadening of in-person offerings emphasizing social connection and experiential learning for AGH patrons and communities. Long standing programs like Artful Moments, QUARTZ: Queer Arts Hang, Youth Art Collective, Speakers of Truth, and Breaking Through the Vault Poetry Club saw further growth and increased reach into the community, along with numerous other ongoing activities. Public programming was seamlessly interwoven with and augmented critical themes in each exhibition; of note were exciting in-gallery activations related to surrealism, imaginative thinking, and highlighting Hamilton's diverse arts and Hip Hop scene, an immersive beading studio for collaborative teaching and learning, and a sold-out Radical Design Fashion Show co-produced with Woodland Cultural Centre.

### AGH LEARNING: ON SITE, IN CLASS, VIRTUAL

#### On Site

Exhibitions in 2023 inspired tours and studio programs for students from kindergarten through secondary school, with engagement growing towards pre-COVID numbers. 2023 also saw the return of large-scale symposia for secondary students relating to *Duane Linklater: they have piled the stone / as they promised / without syrup* and *Radical Stitch* as well as the popular Curatorial Symposium, offered to the secondary high skills major program of the HWDSB. On Site programs aimed to support a range of curriculum themes and critical skills for students using art on display and from the collection as provocation for dialogue and creative expression.

#### In Class & Virtual

AGH Artist-educators maintained a strong presence in classrooms through the In-Class artist-led projects. Over four classroom visits, students used a selected artforms to explore and enhance class topics of study. Options were many, and included visual and performing arts, creative writing, and more.

AGH: Virtual, the Gallery's national arts education program continued following its pilot in 2022. The program connected to remote classrooms from as far as Nelson, British Columbia to Labrador. With a combination of synchronous classroom visits and asynchronous presentations, students learned through artistic exploration.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

### Interpretive Programs

Artist talks in 2023 were as engaging and unique as the exhibitions that inspired them. The curators of *Radical Stitch*, Sherry Farrel Racette, Michelle LaVallee, Cathy Mattes, together with artist Ruth Cuthand spoke about the exhibition, the history and present of Indigenous beading, to a nearly sold-out audience. Artist, activist, and scholar, Syrus Marcus Ware spoke about his project, *In Movement: Training Sessions for Freedom Fighters*. Responding to *Breathing in China*, was an evening of dance and discussion with curator Yan Zhou, artist Lam Lau and dancer Naishi Wang. Finally, Chat & Chai, a special talk with artist Farheen Haq, her mother and her daughter about her exhibition, *I am my mother's daughter*.

The Beading Room anchored the *Radical Stitch*, exhibition with an array of workshops, conversation, beading circles, and interactive activities led by local Indigenous beaders. These activations inspired participants to gain a deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, the rich history, tradition, and artistry of Indigenous beading.

*Radical Stitch*, also provided an important opportunity to partner with Woodland Cultural Centre to co-produce a fashion show inspired by both *Radical Stitch* and Woodland's exhibition, *By Design: Fashionable Inspiration*. The sold-out Radical Design Fashion Show celebrated the designs of Jason Berg, Angela De Montigny, Dusty LeGrand/Mobilize, and Evan Ducharme. A shawl of beadwork pieces created by community members of both the AGH and Woodland Cultural Centre was also on display that evening.

Weekly guided tours, monthly Fridays at Four virtual presentations, and groups experiences continued to enliven exhibitions and the collection, creating vibrant conversations and reflections.

### Festival

The 2023 AGH Festival presented 28 multi-disciplinary events spanning a 10-day period. The Festival focused on connecting events and performances to specific aspects of exhibitions or collection items on display in the Gallery, as well as celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hip Hop and showcasing Hamilton's diverse arts and culture scene. Events included talks, musical performances, dance workshops, hands-on artmaking activities, professional development opportunities, film screenings, and an artist market. The Opening Night event, which also served as the official opening of *WONDER: the real, the surreal, and the fantastic*, welcomed over 400 visitors to the Gallery.

### Creative & Social Programs

Breaking Through the Vault Poetry club, AGH Reads, and Free Thursday events were some of the key social programs offered in 2023. While these events were still regularly inspired by exhibitions, they offered a more casual, fun, and interactive experience as a complement to the more formal interpretive activities that support exhibitions. These programs also offered opportunities to connect with members and organizations in the community. Many were aimed at adult audiences but also offered a fun experience for all ages.

Summer in the City's Free Thursday events continued to welcome audiences from across Hamilton together to share in art making, music, games, karaoke, and dance parties. Vinyl Night, created in 2022-23 by Nathan Eugene Carson continued to be a highlight.

Studio programs and adult workshops included beading courses and family workshops in response to *Radical Stitch*, led by Indigenous artists, as well as Painting Uncorked, which returned in November and December.

### Programs for Children and Families

Winterfest 2023 kicked off family programming with over 3000 people attending on Family Day. Monthly Family Fun Days and Storytime in the Gallery, both drop-in programs that serve young families with in-gallery and hands-on experiences, continued as consistently popular offerings. Camp programs returned to in-person programming in 2023, with sold-out sessions for March Break and Summer Camps.

## WELLNESS

### Artful Moments

Following an important pivot and expansion to virtual programming in 2020-22, *Artful Moments* resumed in-person programs in 2023, with a range of wellness programs designed for specialized audiences, including people living with dementia, autism, social isolation, caregivers, and those who use social support. *Artful Moments* programs are built on a methodology called the Model for Successful Engagement, which centres each person, and focuses on empowering strengths through in-depth knowledge about participants. Using the Gallery as the foundation, it encourages attention to three pillars of engagement – environment, approach, and activity, to achieve the outcome of improved wellbeing for each participant. In 2023, programs were offered both virtually and in-person, providing an interactive and socially connective experience. The program was published as a book chapter in the publication, *Art Education in Canadian Museums: Practice in Action*, edited by Anita Sinner, Patricia Osler, and Boyd White.

*Artful Moments: Shared Learning*, a new web-based curriculum, was launched online this year, and will support museums across Canada in building programs for people living with dementia. *Artful Moments: Shared Learning* was presented at three public events in 2023 – the Geriatric Nursing Association of Ontario (Hamilton Chapter), the Hamilton Museum Educators Conference, and as part of a panel discussion at the Canadian Hospital Infrastructure Conference in Toronto. It also received the Ontario Museums Association Award for Excellence in Publication. In addition to formal presentations, *Artful Moments* professional development opportunities have been offered to regional museums, resulting in several training presentations and partnered programs.

### Programs for Connection and Wellbeing

QUARTZ: Queer Arts Hang! showed increasingly strong engagement and attendance over the year and continued to be a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive space for queer community members to share creative experiences at the Gallery.

Youth Art Collective (YAC) continued to provide opportunities for young people ages 15-24 to gather, share experiences, and make art with like-minded peers. YAC is an open invitation for youth to make the AGH a comfortable place to express themselves.

Other Mindfulness programs, including monthly virtual Mindful Drawing events, quarterly Sound Therapy events, Mindful Movement and others paired with creative expressions, and sensory / slow-looking tours, gave participants time to reflect at their own pace.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community relationships continued to build and deepen leading to several outreach initiatives in 2023. Through these programs, community organizations were invited to connect with the Gallery in various ways, interacting with art and audiences together. Some highlights included:

Speakers of Truth, a powerful series of round table discussions connected to Truth and Reconciliation, led by NaWalka-Geeshy Meegwun (Lyndon George). New topics were presented quarterly, highlighting current issues, traditions, and opportunities to come together to share and grow.

The Art of Creation project, co-produced with McMaster University and the Sloboda Lab, used art to explain the importance of health before and during pregnancy to the public. Following the year-long project, the culminating exhibition opened in the Jean and Ross Fischer Community Gallery in the fall, followed by talks and workshops with schools, McMaster health science students, and Public Health.

The Evolving Wall seniors project in partnership with City Housing Hamilton expanded to several new buildings where the residents were invited to a series of painting workshops.

Hamilton You Poets and the Breaking Through the Vault Poetry Club continued to develop dynamic programming along with slams and open mic nights.

Additional creative partnerships with (ACCA) Afro Caribbean Association, Keeping Six, Lit Live, The Hamilton Jewish Foundation, and Aeris Korper Contemporary Dance Company continued to grow as well.



# VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION 2023

To begin with, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to every volunteer for the incredible time, commitment, effort and passion they have brought to their role as an AGH volunteer. The exemplary programming and experiences offered by the AGH could not happen without the support of its volunteers. My hope is that not only are volunteers proud of what they have contributed during the past year but more importantly, that those opportunities have brought them much satisfaction and pleasure.

I would be remiss if I did not also acknowledge those who sit around the Volunteer Association Executive (VAE) table for the passion they have brought to their various roles. Enriching the volunteer experience is something each and every one commits to and works tirelessly to help achieve.

With over 3182 volunteer hours recorded in 2023, we are on a gradual rise towards pre-pandemic levels.

Fall also brought many new and returning volunteers together to support the inaugural ten-day AGH Festival. Led and supported by staff lead, Jordan Delfs, and Performance and Festival volunteer liaison, Jennifer Powell-Fralick, 45 volunteers contributed over 376 hours for this full-staff effort. The community outreach of this event was something that volunteers could clearly be a part of, with many commenting positively on the sense of welcome, inclusion, and sharing of varied cultural and artistic ideas.

Throughout 2023, the Volunteer Association Executive (VAE) took actions to support the Gallery's mandate of honouring, highlighting, and learning more about Indigenous roots and influences, encouraging all volunteers to pursue their individual growth in their path to Truth and Reconciliation.

This past year has seen the VAE adopt numerous changes in an effort to address the realities of volunteering post pandemic. Our goal has been to become as open, transparent and inclusive as possible. We hope that those attempts have been evident for all who have become interested in volunteering at the AGH. For example, the VAE has sent out a number of communications to all volunteers to ensure everyone receives the same messaging and to hopefully encourage continued participation.

At April's AGM we ratified changes to the VAE that will hopefully make it more streamlined, reflective of the needs of the Gallery and enticing for people to step forward and try something new or different. To that end the following changes to the composition of the VAE were ratified:

- eliminating the roles of Past Chair and Film and Performance liaison;
- combining the roles of Membership Services and Retail into one liaison position; and,
- creating a Recruitment Committee and subsequently, the position of Recruitment liaison.

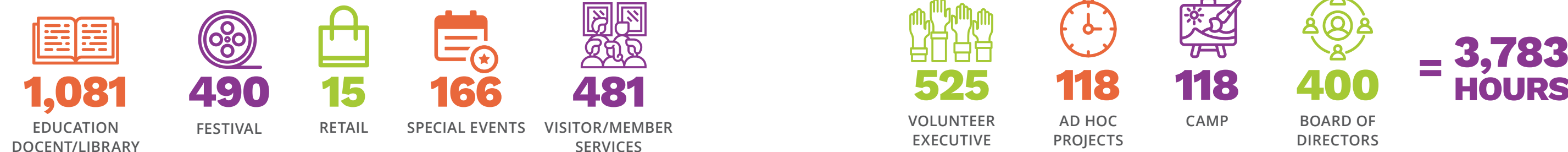
The Volunteer Association is approaching its 75th anniversary. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Volunteer Association and to honour its past, our goal is to raise \$10,000 for a donation(s) to the AGH collection which will support regional, under-represented and/or Indigenous artists.

As important as volunteers are to guaranteeing meaningful and interactive programs and experiences for the public, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the staff who support volunteers. To experience and benefit from these instructive, supportive and professional relationships is one of the perks of volunteering at the AGH. Staff's support is invaluable in helping to create an environment that supports and enriches every volunteer's experience at the AGH.

Respectfully submitted,

Hanno Weinberger  
Chair, VAE

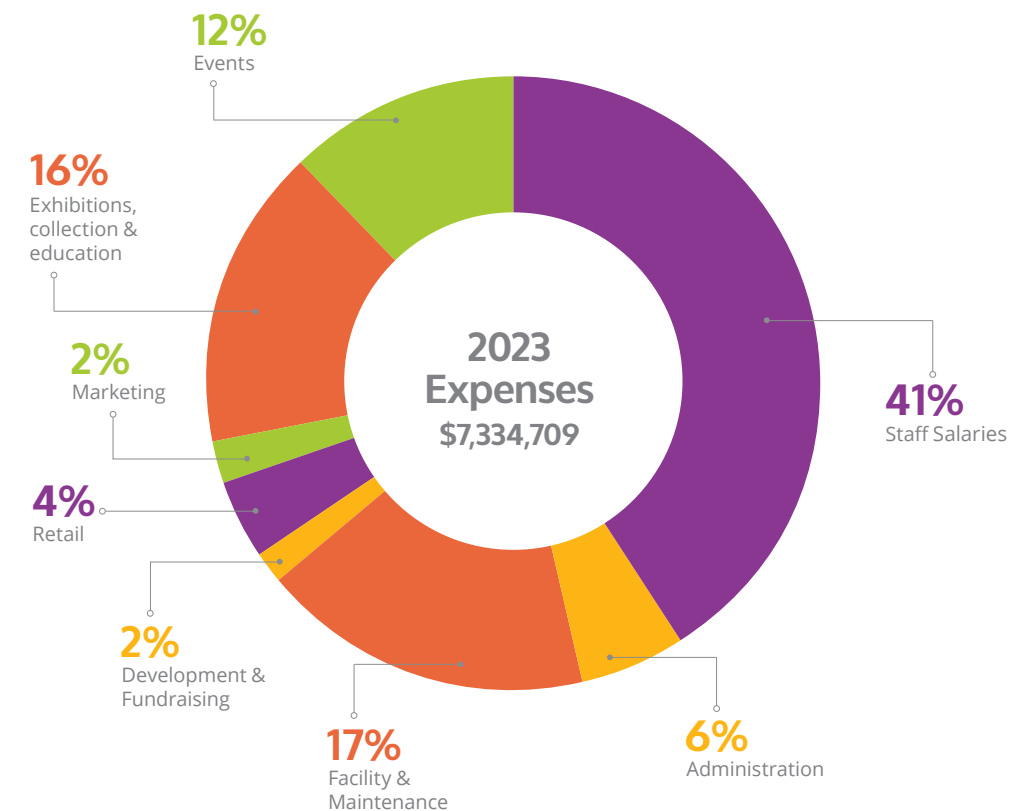
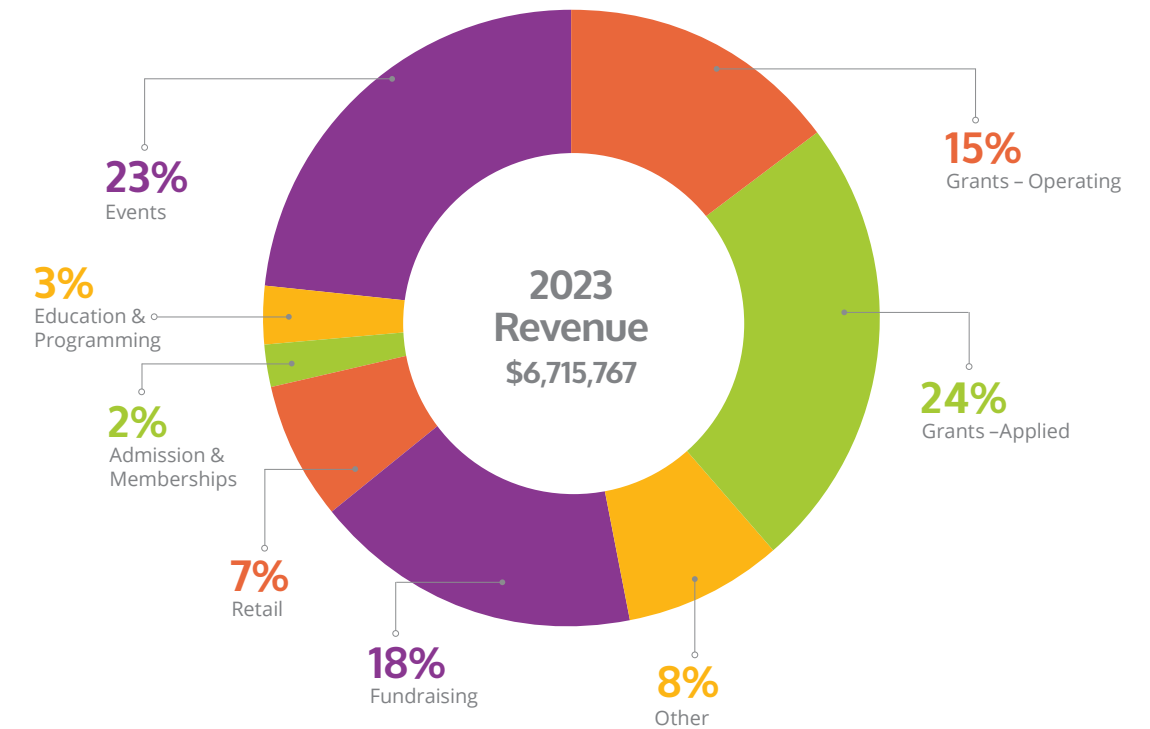
## VOLUNTEER HOURS LOGGED OVER THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS



## 2023 BY THE NUMBERS



## OPERATING ACTUALS





## DONOR SUPPORT, SPONSORSHIP & PARTNERSHIPS

With mandated closures behind us, the AGH saw the full return to pre-COVID activities. This somewhat challenging year financially was offset with support from new donors and sponsors, no doubt drawn to the Gallery because of our superb offering of award-winning exhibitions and programs, and the provision of exceptional spaces for the community to gather and celebrate.

We offered several exclusive Member-only events that were well received including a popular Holiday Reception which included a 2024 Sneak Peek. This event is now on the schedule as an annual event in early December and we anticipate creating additional events and incentives for our Members.

*With relationships at the core of everything that we do, we are sincerely grateful to our major supporters in 2023:*

**Duane Linklater: they have piled the stone / as they promised / without syrup** exhibition, sponsored by Partners in Art.

**WONDER: the real, the surreal, and the fantastic** exhibition, sponsored by incite Foundation for the Arts.

**Shelley Niro: 500 Year Itch** exhibition, sponsored by Terra Foundation for the Arts and PACART, PIA

**Gallery Level 2 Free Admission** sponsored by Orlick Industries Ltd.

**Collection Acquisitions** supported by the Elizabeth L. Gordon Art Program, a program of the Gordon Foundation and administered by the Ontario Arts Foundation.

**Exhibition and Program** support generously provided by the Mary S. Gilmour Fund, Garda World, Studio Mined Inc, Lord Booty Family, Ward 2 Grants, Bob & Maggie Carr, Howard Brull, Takao Tanabe & Anona Thorne, Maryella Leggat, Betty Carlyle, Don & Sheila Pether, John & Liz Heersink, Filomena Frisina, John & Eileen Hutton, Brent & Sally Foreman, Thomas & Margaret Hayes, Doug & June Barber and the Red Cross Community Services and Recovery Fund.

**RBC Artist in Residence** supported by RBC Royal Bank.

**AGH Free Thursdays** supported by incite Foundation for the Arts, and RBC Royal Bank.

**AGH Learn & Education programs** supported by the incite Foundation for the Arts, Hamilton Community Foundation, The Fedorovitch Family Foundation, The Dougher Community Fund, the Edith H. Turner Foundation Fund, The McGrath Milne Fund and the Taylor Family, and the Government of Canada Young Canada Works program.

**Public Library Pass Program** supported by incite Foundation for the Arts.

**Beyond the Frame** supported by the incite Foundation for the Arts.

**AGH Festival** presented by BMO Financial Group, the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, the City of Hamilton, the incite Foundation for the Arts, and many more community sponsors and partners.

**Artful Moments** presented by the TD Bank Group, the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario.

**Digitization Project** supported by the Government of Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage MAP- Digital Access to Heritage program, and the HG Bertram Foundation.

**Gala** presented by RBC Royal Bank, supported by Platinum Sponsors Effort Trust, Fox Harb'r Resort and LiUNA, Silver and Bronze Sponsors DPAI, Arctic Experience McNaught Gallery, incite Foundation for the Arts, Aon Reed Stenhouse, and McMaster University.

**Operating Support** provided by Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, and the City of Hamilton.

### Donor List

Paul and Rose Allison  
 Anonymous  
 AON Reed Stenhouse Inc.  
 Arctic Experience McNaught Gallery  
 Salah Bachir  
 Douglas and June Barber  
 BMO Bank of Montreal  
 Lord Booty Family  
 David Braley Foundation  
 International Village BIA  
 Irwin and Freda Browns  
 Jane Burns  
 Betty Carlyle  
 Bob and Maggie Carr  
 CCXIT Computer Services  
 Linda Tuck Chapman and Tom Ashbourne  
 Larissa and W. Gregory Ciupka  
 Marlies and Alan Clark Fund  
 Collective Arts Brewing Ltd.  
 Collyer Benson Capital Inc.  
 Copley Apparel Group  
 Cowan Insurance Group  
 Marlene Creates  
 Glen Cumming  
 Design Partners in Architecture & Interiors  
 Lori Dessau  
 Martin and Sheelah Dooley  
 Dougher Community Fund  
 Hamilton BIA  
 Downtown Hamilton BIA  
 Dyer and Duman Design  
 Earls Court Gallery  
 The Effort Trust Company  
 Carole Fabris-Mackie and Bill Mackie  
 The Fedorovitch Family Foundation

Kareem-Anthony Ferreira  
 First Real Properties Limited  
 Kim Adams and Barbara Fischer  
 Peter Fischer and Virginia Turini  
 Alan Flint  
 Brent and Sally Foreman  
 Filomena Frisina Professional Corporation  
 Garda World Security Corp  
 Andrew Garrett  
 Gilmour Fund  
 Dov Goldstein and Deborah Fulsang  
 Gary Graham and Sandra Stephenson  
 Hilary Enlow Haggan  
 Halcyon International Limited  
 Hamilton & Burlington Society of Architects  
 Hamilton Community Foundation  
 Hamilton Tiger Cats  
 Margaret and Thomas Hayes  
 John and Elizabeth Heersink  
 Lisa Hepfner  
 Herzig Eye Institute  
 HG Bertram Foundation  
 John and Eileen Hutton  
 HWAD Federal Liberal Association  
 incite Foundation for the Arts  
 Joanna Kafarowski  
 Pamela and Zygmunt Kafarowski Foundation  
 Mima Kapches  
 Labourers' International Union of North America  
 James and Lizanne Lefebvre  
 Maryella and Doug Leggat  
 Lynn Lightfoot  
 MakeWay Foundation - Harbinger Foundation on behalf of Joan VanDuzer

Ann Manson  
 Milne McGrath Fund  
 McMaster University  
 Joseph Mercanti  
 Nicole Meriano & Paul Panaich  
 Karen and David Mills  
 Barbara Mitchell  
 Esmaa Mohamoud  
 Kenneth Montague  
 Susan Murray  
 MYROB Holdings Inc.  
 Orlick Industries Ltd.  
 Partners in Art  
 Donald and Sheila Pether  
 Paul Petro  
 Phamous Characters  
 Joseph and Roseli Pietrantonio  
 John Purdy  
 RBC Foundation  
 RBC Royal Bank  
 RME Capital Corp.  
 Michael and Mary Romeo  
 E. Robert Ross and Wendy Bell  
 Simpson Wigle Law LLP  
 Smokestack Studios  
 Studio Mined Inc.  
 Takao Tanabe and Anona Thorne  
 Dr. Michael and Pam Taylor  
 Robin Taylor  
 TD Bank Group  
 Richard and Janice Thode  
 Alex R.M. Thompson  
 Edith H Turner Foundation  
 Gary and Donna Waxman  
 Weisz Family Foundation  
 Shawna White  
 Tom Wilson and Margot Burnell  
 Milton Winberg



## Masterpiece Circle Members

### WILLIAM BLAIR BRUCE

Carole Fabris-Mackie and Bill Mackie  
Peter Macdonald and Jennifer Osborne  
Michael and Jane Schwenger

### EMILY CARR

Bob and Maggie Carr  
D.J. Crockett  
The Honourable Justice George Gage  
and Deborah Finn  
Hillary Enlow Haggan  
Joseph and Enza Mancinelli  
Steven McCarthy and Cathie Ellis-McCarthy  
Donald and Sheila Pether  
Waldemar Pieczonka  
The Herb and Cece Schreiber Family Foundation  
Marnie and Karen Schreiber  
Virginia and John Soule  
Leonard Waverman and Eva Klein  
Women's Art Association of Hamilton (WAAH)

### TOM THOMSON

Sara Angelucci  
Elizabeth Beckett  
Patrick Bennett and Allison Sekuler  
Paul Berton and Teresa Evans  
Solana and Michael Clail  
Michael V. and Dianne Collins  
Robert D. Crockford  
Jeffery Donaldson and Annette Abma  
Fiona M. T. Ellis  
David Fowler and Natalie Ethier  
John F. Evans  
Shelley Falconer  
Brent and Sally Foreman  
Hugo and Nadia Gatsby  
Matthijs van Gaalen and Sandra Cobena  
Mary Gilmour

Matt Grande and Willow Watson  
Peter and Paula Hampson  
Sheila Harms and Warren Trimble  
John and Elizabeth Heersink  
Diana Hogarth  
Sandra and Elliott Lapointe  
James and Lizanne Lefebvre  
Maryella and Douglas Leggat  
Eleanor McMahon  
Jeffrey Milligan  
Susan Murray  
Kathlyn Pearse and Steve Bast  
Bruce Quinn  
Clayton Rochemont  
Michael and Mary Romeo  
Bryan Samis and Mackenzie Bowning  
Thomas and Laura Sterns  
Elle Surgent and Monty Sawalha  
Shawna White  
Barry and Alma Yellin  
Robert and Barbara Young

## Government Funders

Canada Council for the Arts  
City of Hamilton  
Government of Canada  
Government of Ontario  
Ontario Arts Council  
Ontario Arts Foundation

## Special Acknowledgement

### Janis Humphrey

In memory of Janis Humphrey, a passionate volunteer in our Artful Moments program which provides meaningful and individualized activities for people with dementia and their families using our collections and exhibitions.

### Rabbi Bernard Benjamin Baskin

In memory of former Board member, Rabbi Bernard Benjamin Baskin.

*This list reflects donations of \$500 + made between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023.*

*The AGH respects the Donor Bill of Rights and the privacy requests of all donations, therefore anonymous donations have not been reflected in this list.*





## IMAGE CREDITS:

### Cover:

Installation view of *WONDER: the real, the surreal, and the fantastic*, at Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023.

### Table of Contents:

Installation view of *Duane Linklater: they have piled the stone / as they promised / without syrup*, at Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023.

### Page 5:

Duane Linklater, *they have piled the stone / as they promised / without syrup 5* (detail), digital print on linen, cochineal, tea, sumac, tobacco, charcoal, 2023. Courtesy of the artist and Catriona Jeffries Vancouver.

Installation view of *Radical Stitch*, at Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023. Photo: Robert McNair

### Page 6:

Installation view of *Breathing in China: Art, Ethics, and Environment*, at Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023. Photo: Lisa Narduzzi.

Farheen Haq, *Folding Time*, video still, 2020, Courtesy of the artist.

Chun Hua Catherine Dong, *Out of the Blue—No.3* (detail), 2023 Letter W: Shary Boyle, *Atrium & Ventricle* (detail), 2022.

### Page 7: (Clockwise from top left)

Musical performance by Layla Staats and Logan Staats at the 2023 AGH Kaleidoscope Gala. Photo: Mike Lalich.

Dance performance by Naishi Wang during the Artist & Curator Talk for *Breathing in China: Art, Ethics, and Environment*, at Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023. Family Fun Day.

Installation view of *Radical Stitch*, at Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023.

Business After Business networking event hosted for the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce.

Radical Design Fashion Show collaboration with Woodland Cultural Centre.

Installation view of *WONDER: the real, the surreal, and the fantastic*, at Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023.

### Page 9:

Installation view of *Breathing in China: Art, Ethics, and Environment*, at Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023. Photo: Robert McNair.

### Page 13: (Clockwise from top left)

Kim Adams (Canadian b. 1951), *Every Which Way (he/he)*, 1997, pair of 12" John Deer boy's bicycles. Gift of the artist, 2023. Installation view of *WONDER*, at Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023. Photo: Robert McNair.

Kareem Anthony-Ferreira (Canadian, 1989), *Miss Rodney's Event*, 2022, acrylic, mixed media on canvas, diptych. Purchased with the assistance of an anonymous donor, members of the AGH community, and the Permanent Collection Fund, 2023. Installation view of *The Collection*, at Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023. Photo: Robert McNair.

Ora Markstein (Canadian b. Hungary 1924-2024), *Mermaid* n.d., Bird, 1975, *Spring*, 1988, and *Hand* n.d.. Installation view of *The Collection*, at Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023. Photo: Robert McNair.

### Page 25:

2023 Annual Art Sale.

Musical performance by Hamilton Children's Choir at the 2023 AGH Kaleidoscope Gala. Photo: Mike Lalich.

Storytime in the Gallery.

Installation view of *Duane Linklater: they have piled the stone / as they promised / without syrup*, at Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023.

Beading Room – an interactive space within the exhibition *Radical Stitch*.

Installation view of *WONDER: the real, the surreal, and the fantastic*, at Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023.

Chat & Chai talk with the Haq Family.

AGH

Art Gallery  
of Hamilton

123 King Street West  
Hamilton, ON, Canada L8P 4S8  
905.527.6610  
info@artgalleryofhamilton.com