

The Art Gallery of Hamilton wins in three categories for best exhibition, publication, and curatorial writing

Galleries Ontario / Ontario Galleries (GOG) recognizes the AGH for the exhibition *Shelley Niro: 500 Year Itch* and its accompanying publication



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The Art Gallery of Hamilton was recognized for excellence in three categories at the 47th Annual GOG Awards ceremony, which was held at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto on December 3, 2024. The GOG Awards were created to highlight the continued excellence, innovation, and importance of public art galleries, art museums, art centres, and art organizations. This year, 23 art galleries from 18 cities throughout the province submitted 125 nominations for awards consideration. As the only annual juried awards of its kind, the iconic GOG Awards celebrate the outstanding achievement, artistic merit, and excellence of arts institutions and professionals in the public art gallery sector.

The AGH won in the following categories:

Exhibition of the Year

[*Shelley Niro: 500 Year Itch*](#)

Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2024

Melissa Bennett, Greg Hill, David W. Penney, Curators

Art Publication Award

[Shelley Niro: 500 Year Itch Catalogue](#)

Art Gallery of Hamilton

Major Curatorial Writing Award

Melissa Bennett *"It Starts with a Whisper"*

Art Gallery of Hamilton

"We are extremely honoured to be the recipient of three 2024 GOG Awards," says Shelley Falconer, President and CEO at the Art Gallery of Hamilton. "Thank you to Galleries Ontario / Ontario Galleries for the recognition. I also give my heartfelt thanks to Melissa Bennett, Greg Hill, David W. Penney, and the rest of the team at the Gallery for their hard work and commitment to excellence. And I extend my immense gratitude to Shelley Niro for her important work, which continues to push boundaries as she explores Indigenous identity and history. Thank you, Shelley, for making this all possible."

Spanning four decades of Shelley Niro's photography, film, painting, installation, beadwork, sculpture, and mixed media practice, ***Shelley Niro: 500 Year Itch*** is a compelling exhibition that highlights themes she constantly returns to: Matriarchy, Past is Present, Actors, and Family Relations. She uses parody, feminism, and spirituality to examine identity, and in turn, brings political power to the realm of the personal.

Seven years in the making, ***Shelley Niro: 500 Year Itch*** was organized and circulated by the Art Gallery of Hamilton with the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, with curatorial support from the National Gallery of Canada.

The touring exhibition, which is currently on show at the Vancouver Art Gallery until February 17, 2025, also had stops at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in New York City, the Art Gallery of Hamilton, and the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. The exhibition's next stop will be Remai Modern in Saskatoon, where it will run from April 4 to August 31, 2025.

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About the Art Gallery of Hamilton

Founded in 1914, the Art Gallery of Hamilton is the oldest and largest public art gallery in southwestern Ontario. Its permanent collection, which is focused on historical Canadian, International, and Contemporary art, numbers more than 11,000 works and is recognized

as one of Canada's finest. The AGH is a vital creative hub and centre of lifelong learning that enables people of all ages to enrich their lives by gaining a deeper understanding of art.

About the Galeries Ontario / Ontario Galleries

GOG was established in 1968 to encourage the development of public art galleries, art museums, community galleries and related visual arts organizations in Ontario. A registered charitable organization, GOG plays an instrumental role in educating the public about the importance of public art galleries as essential cultural resources and institutions. The GOG Awards, which were established in 1977, help to promote the integral role of galleries and art museums in Ontario's visual arts sector and economy.

awards.galleries-ontario-galleries.ca

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