

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The history, influence and power of photography on view this fall at the Art Gallery of Hamilton

The Art Gallery of Hamilton's Fall 2009 exhibition season is an exploration of photography – its formative period in the first half of the 20th century, its influence and inspiration on other media in the last half of the 20th century, and its recording of 21st-century Hamilton.

On view from October 10, 2009 to January 3, 2010, ***Modernist Photographs from the National Gallery of Canada***, organized by the National Gallery of Canada, brings together over ninety groundbreaking images created by over sixty-five international artists offering a unique time capsule of the making of photography in the modern era.

At the turn of the 20th century and well into its first decades, debates were waged concerning photography's purpose and status in the art world. It was a fascinating and formative period for the medium. This exhibition chronicles the origins of modern photography and includes many of the movement's most transformative and iconic images.

Photographers working during the first half of the 20th century — including Man Ray, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Lisette Model, Margaret Bourke-White, Alexander Rodchenko, and André Kertész, to name only a few included in this exhibition — thrived on experimentation. Creating their images within the context of such art movements as Cubism, Futurism, Surrealism, Expressionism, and Constructivism, the artists introduced a range of new techniques and subject matter while seeking to redefine the role of art in a world transformed by industrialization and war. As such, modern photography reflected an exciting change that was occurring generally in the art world; indeed, it was during this period that photography defined itself as an independent artistic form. Exhibition Partner: Food and Drink Fest. Media Partner: The Globe and Mail.

On view September 26, 2009 to January 17, 2010, ***Jesse Boles: Crude Landscapes*** is an ongoing series of large-scale photographs that depict industrial sites.

A graduate of Ryerson University in Photographic Studies, Boles approaches these industrial scenes as contemporary landscape, without judgment or agenda. By photographing many of his scenes at night or dawn, when natural light is dwindling or gone, Boles also calls to mind cinematic scenes. The lengthy exposures needed to make the photographs in these conditions record the movement of light over the image, and evoke the experience of watching them over time.

Boles has been working in the Hamilton area to expand his *Crude Landscapes* series with new photographs shot through the spring and summer of 2009. The resulting new work is shown for the first time at the AGH. In light of the recent developments at the steel factories in Hamilton, this exhibition offers a chance to reflect on the way that these landscapes contribute to the history and mythology of the city, and how their loss or diminishment will affect Hamilton's rapidly changing identity.

On view October 10, 2009 to January 3, 2010, ***Photography into Painting*** provides a colourful and fun look at the artists of the 1970s and 1980s who were inspired to mimic on a large scale in painting or other media the exact overall detail offered by the photograph. Variousy called Photorealism, Super Realism, or Hyper Realism, this intensely and unabashedly photographic approach originated in the United States in the 1960s. On view at the AGH will be large graphics by major heroes of Pop art (Richard Hamilton, Roy Lichtenstein, James Rosenquist, and Andy Warhol), the larger movement from which Photorealism sprung as an offshoot. Original Photorealists shared Pop's embrace of commercial photographic imagery and techniques, and its detached replication of mass-produced objects.

Turning the spotlight to painting and the AGH's Permanent Collection, ***Nature Observed: Dutch Painting at the Art Gallery of Hamilton***, on view from September 26, 2009 to January 17, 2010, highlights the AGH's collection of Dutch paintings, which for many years have constituted a modestly-sized yet excellent component of the institution's European holdings. The Dutch collection at the AGH splits into a broad balance between paintings from the two most celebrated periods and schools of Dutch art — the great Golden Age of the 17th century, and the later 19th century dominated by the Hague school. Both eras of Dutch art exhibit a distinctive naturalist sensibility and attention to everyday subject matter.

The above exhibitions are located on Gallery Level One. Admission to these exhibitions is \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors, \$4 for children ages 6 to 17 years. Children under the age of 5 years receive free admission. Family admission (consisting of two adults and up to four children) is \$25. AGH Members receive free admission.

Full-time students of Mohawk College, McMaster University, Redeemer College, Columbia College and the Canadian Institute for Dental Hygiene are student e-Members at the AGH and receive free exhibition admission courtesy of the Gallery's Audience Development partner, RBC.

The following exhibitions are free admission, courtesy of Orlick Industries.

The emphasis on photography continues in the AGH's Jean and Ross Fischer Gallery with the exhibition ***Hamilton 365***, featuring the portrait work of Hamilton photographer Larry Strung. On view from September 12 to November 8, 2009, this epic photographic project is a celebration of the people of Hamilton. For an entire year, Strung shot a new portrait each day, capturing the beauty and diversity of this great city. The AGH is delighted to show the entire project in print for the first time.

On view November 14, 2009 to January 24, 2010, *Integration: The Society of Canadian Artists* is the Society's Elected Members' Show. A national, not-for-profit organization committed to the promotion of the visual arts, the Society of Canadian Artists (SCA) began in 1957 when a group of Toronto artists formed the Society of Co-operative Artists. In 1972 the organization expanded its vision to a national level, receiving its charter and non-profit status and becoming the Society of Canadian Artists.

The Art Gallery of Hamilton's programming activities are assisted by the City of Hamilton, Ontario Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Art Gallery of Hamilton is located at 123 King Street West in downtown Hamilton, 905-527-6610. Gallery hours: Tuesday and Wednesday Noon to 7 pm, Thursday and Friday Noon to 9 pm, Saturday and Sunday Noon to 5 pm. Closed Mondays. The AGH is open from Noon to 5 pm on statutory holidays, including Thanksgiving Day (Monday, October 12). The AGH is closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

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To access high-resolution images of AGH exhibitions, please e-mail:
steve@artgalleryofhamilton.com

For further information on the Art Gallery of Hamilton, its exhibitions and programming, please contact:

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