

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**French-language tour of Art Gallery of Hamilton exhibition offers rare opportunity to experience nineteenth-century artist's work with a visiting expert**

**Sylvie Le Gratiet**, co-founder of The Carrière Society, will conduct a **French-language tour** of the exhibition ***Eugène Carrière: Shadow and Substance*** on **Sunday, February 6th at 3 pm at the Art Gallery of Hamilton** located at 123 King Street West, downtown Hamilton. Admission to the tour is free.

Educated at La Sorbonne in Paris, Ms. Le Gratiet founded The Carrière Society in 1992 with the artist's grandson, Michel. In 1996, the Society opened a gallery dedicated to Carrière's life and work in Gournay sur Marne, France, the artist's birthplace. She has published several scholarly articles about the artist.

The exhibition, *Eugène Carrière: Shadow and Substance*, highlights key paintings from the most important private collection of works by the artist, assembled by Dr. Nick Vlachos in Bloomington, Illinois. (The world's largest public collection of work by Carrière is found in Paris's Musée d'Orsay.) An important French exponent of the late-nineteenth-century visionary Symbolist movement, Carrière founded the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts in 1890 with his close friend, the sculptor Auguste Rodin. Additionally, he was enthusiastic teacher, including Henri Matisse among his students, and taking an active part in the artistic life of Paris.

Complementing the Vlachos collection are a handful of Carrière paintings the AGH holds in its Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Collection, including the masterful allegory of the art of painting — *La Peinture* (c. 1899) — which the Gallery loaned in 2006 to Tokyo and Paris for a major exhibition devoted to the crossovers between Carrière and his friend Rodin.

The 3 pm French-language tour is part of the Gallery's Official Opening of its Winter Exhibition Season, which takes place from 2 to 4 pm on Sunday, February 6th. In addition to the Carrière exhibition, the Opening celebrates the exhibitions *Great Masters Series: Miserere – Rouault's Rhapsody to Suffering*; *Great Masters Series: The Colour of JAZZ* (featuring Henri Matisse's renowned print series); *VidéoStudio: New Work from France*; and *Diane Landry: The Defibrillators*.

In 2011, the Art Gallery of Hamilton hosts The French Connection, a year-long celebration of French and Francophone art and culture, presented by TD Bank Group.

For more information about the Gallery, its exhibitions and activities, please visit [www.artgalleryofhamilton.com](http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com).

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

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