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## Art Gallery of Hamilton joins in creation of new interactive digital media institute

The **Art Gallery of Hamilton** (AGH), along with partners **Silicon Knights** (leading independent game developers), **McMaster University**, and **Mohawk College**, signed a Memorandum of Understanding, the first step that will launch a bold initiative in the eighth art—digital media—with the creation of Eight: The Hamilton Institute for Interactive Digital Media.

This new research institute dedicated to interactive digital media will pioneer and shape cutting-edge advances in the interactive entertainment arena, bringing together the skills and expertise to research, teach and create digital media technologies. Eight is expected to open in 2011.

“A multi-disciplinary partnership like Eight offers exciting possibilities for the AGH,” says AGH President and CEO Louise Dompierre. “Many innovative art forms today already incorporate practices and techniques from other disciplines. One of the key differences here is that the partnership extends to the entire process from research, production, dissemination, training and marketing of the end product. It will be most enriching for artists, students and the community to have the opportunity to work closely with world-renowned researchers in science and technology, and for the AGH to present the Institute’s artistic accomplishments in exhibitions.”

Founded in 1914, the Art Gallery of Hamilton (AGH) is Ontario’s third largest public art gallery and owns one of the finest art collections in the country. Its collecting strengths are Canadian historical, European historical, and Canadian and international contemporary art. As part of its year-round programme of contemporary art, the AGH has been presenting new media-based exhibitions such as *Sublime Embrace: Experiencing Consciousness in Contemporary Art*, David Rokeby’s *Cheap Imitation, Taken and Shock Absorber, Zones* (featuring work by Aernout Mik, Hirsch Perlman, Emmanuelle Antille, and Kika Thorne); *Valeska Soares: Walk on by, The Gift: Generous Offerings, Threatening Hospitality* (including work by Marina Abramovic, Vito Acconci, Neil Cummings and Marysia Lewandowska, Felix Gonzalez-Torres); and *Jean-Pierre Gauthier: Machines at Play*.

Partner websites:

[www.siliconknights.com](http://www.siliconknights.com)

[www.mcmaster.ca](http://www.mcmaster.ca)

[www.mohawkcollege.ca](http://www.mohawkcollege.ca)

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