

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Vista Italia – Art Gallery of Hamilton’s Summer 2009 celebration of Italian art and culture

The Art Gallery of Hamilton’s **Vista Italia** Summer 2009 exhibition season is a celebration of Italian art and culture, from Renaissance masterpieces to the cutting-edge of contemporary Italian art. **Vista Italia** is presented by TD Bank Financial Group.

On view from May 16 to September 27, ***New Dawn: Italian Renaissance Art from Canadian Collections*** provides AGH visitors with the unique opportunity to enjoy major Italian Renaissance works housed in leading Canadian collections. Emanating from the grand Italian tradition, ***New Dawn*** focuses principally on art from the early Renaissance through Mannerism, yet includes some later works demonstrating the evolution of the grand tradition. Embracing painting, sculpture, drawings and prints, as well as Italian ceramic maiolica, the varied treasures on view include a fine oil portrait of an unknown man by Tintoretto, the most prolific Venetian painter of the late 16th century (from the National Gallery of Canada); a masterful and lively red chalk drawing of Venus and Cupid by Giulio Cesare Procaccini (Bologna, 1574–Milan, 1625) (from the Art Gallery of Ontario); and religious works such as the oil on panel *Adoration of the Shepherds* attributed to Florentine painter Tommaso di Stefano (1495–1564) (AGO). Curated by Dr. Patrick Shaw Cable. Exhibition Partners: The Frisina Group and Charles Criminisi, Partner – Agro Zaffiro LLP.

On view May 16 to September 27, ***On the Edge of Your Seat: Italian Chairs from the Collection of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts***, focuses on a selection of MMFA’s exceptional examples of post-1960s Italian-designed chairs. This exhibition, a collaboration between the AGH and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, will bring together work by renowned Italian-born designers such as Jonathan de Pas, Alessandro Mendini and Gaetano Pesce with pieces by international artists such as Louise Campbell (Denmark), Roberto Matta (Chile) and Masanori Umeda (Japan), who have each created pieces exclusively for Italian design companies. Co-curated by Diane Charbonneau, Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and Sara Knelman, Curator of Contemporary Art, Art Gallery of Hamilton. Exhibition Partners: The Hutton Family and Mark A. Rizzo, CIBC Wood Gundy.

Also on view from May 17 to September 27 as a complement to *New Dawn*, the ***Great Masters Series*** spotlights the late nineteenth-century Italian sculptor Cesare Lapini’s ***Psyche with a Butterfly***, an exquisite white crystalline marble statue on loan from the Art Gallery of Ontario. A Florentine born in 1848 and exhibiting in Rome in the last years of the nineteenth century, Lapini celebrated feminine beauty in sculptures of mythological figures such as Cupid’s famous lover *Psyche*. Curated by Dr. Patrick Shaw Cable. Exhibition Partner: Dr. Michael and Mary Romeo.

On view June 4 to September 13, 2009, ***TURN ON: Contemporary Italian Art*** invites three of Italy’s most dynamic contemporary artists to engage viewers in Hamilton. Massimo Grimaldi’s evocative texts, Adrian Paci’s poetic films and Patrick Tuttofuoco’s vibrant sculptures are connected by a desire to activate urban environments. With suggestive language, electric currents and vivid colour, they harness the power of their subjects as a way of turning on their viewers. This will be the first exhibition in Canada of all of the work on view, and the first show ever for Grimaldi and Tuttofuoco. Curated by Sara Knelman.

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The above exhibitions are located on the AGH's 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 AGH's Vista Italia celebration continues on Gallery Level Two, with free admission courtesy of Orlick Industries:*

On view until **October 12**, ***Il bellissimo panorama: Views of Italy*** features a fresh and poetic assortment of approximately forty Italian views from the AGH holdings - created by diverse European, Canadian, and American artists - and ranging in time from the seventeenth to the twentieth century. Subjects include scenic sketches of named and unnamed Italian hill and mountain towns and views of figures outdoors, ranging from ancient Roman gods and goddesses to Italian peasants. Curated by Dr. Patrick Shaw Cable. Exhibition Partner: The Frisina Family, in memory of Alfonso E. Frisina.

On view until February 14, 2010 in the David Braley and Nancy Gordon Sculpture Atrium, ***Scultori Italiani*** presents a dozen bronze sculptures primarily culled from the AGH's Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Collection that highlight the expressive artistry and technical skill of six nineteenth- and twentieth-century Italian sculptors. ***Scultore Italiani*** also features two bronzes from the mid-twentieth century that are part of the Gallery's European holdings. Curated by Dr. Patrick Shaw Cable.

On view until December 13, ***Giovanni Battista Piranesi: Vedute E Capricci*** highlights the work of the most acclaimed printmaker of eighteenth-century Italy. An architect, designer, theorist, and archaeologist, he is best known, however, for his etched *vedute* (It.: "views") and *capricci* (It.: "caprices" or "fantasies"). While the former reveal the artist's profound knowledge of ancient Roman architecture and technology, the latter — particularly the views of cavernous, multi-level *carceri*, or prisons, he began in 1749 — express his remarkably fantastical creativity. Curated by Dr. Patrick Shaw Cable.

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. Exclusive Hotel Partner: Sheraton Hamilton Hotel. Media Partner: Telelatino Network.

The Art Gallery of Hamilton has organized an engaging lineup of film, performance, children's, family and adult programming to complement its **Vista Italia** celebration. Please visit [www.artgalleryofhamilton.com](http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com) for complete exhibition and programming information,

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 Victoria Day (Monday, May 18), Canada Day (Wednesday, July 1), Civic Holiday (Monday, August 3) and Labour Day (Monday, September 7).

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To **access high-resolution images of AGH exhibitions**, please e-mail:  
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**For further information on the Art Gallery of Hamilton, its exhibitions and programming,**  
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