

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AGH curator Sara Knelman wins prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship to renowned Courtauld Institute of Art in London

Sara Knelman, the Art Gallery of Hamilton's Curator of Contemporary Art, has won a Commonwealth Scholarship, allowing her to pursue doctoral studies at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, England, beginning this fall.

Offered by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission of the United Kingdom, the scholarship will allow Knelman to work towards her PhD full time for three years. An independent college of the University of London, the Courtauld Institute of Art is one of the world's leading centres for the study of the history and conservation of art and architecture. Its gallery houses one of Britain's best-loved collections, including famous Impressionist and Post-Impressionist masterpieces.

"Sara's departure is bittersweet for the Art Gallery of Hamilton," says AGH President and CEO Louise Dompierre. "As sorry as we are to lose a valued colleague, we're excited for the opportunities this scholarship represents for Sara. Besides, some of the Gallery's best ambassadors worldwide are our former staff members."

"It's been an amazing three years for me," says Knelman. "It's been a privilege to be part of the incredible team at the AGH, and to be involved in bringing contemporary art projects here. I have immense pride in the Gallery and in the city of Hamilton, and thank all my friends and colleagues for unfaltering support during my time here."

Knelman joined the AGH in June 2006 as Curator of Contemporary Art and has worked on such exhibitions as *Great New Wave: Contemporary Art from Japan* (Summer 2008) and *Pascal Grandmaison: Double Take* (Fall 2008). For the Gallery's year-long celebration of Italian arts and culture, Knelman has curated *Turn On: Italian Contemporary Art* (on view June 4 to September 13) featuring works by artists Patrick Tuttofuoco, Adrian Paci and Massimo Grimaldi, and *On the Edge of Your Seat: Italian Chairs from the Collection of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts* (on view from May 16 to September 27) with Diane Charbonneau, Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts, MMFA. She recently served as a Canadian jury member and co-curator for *Flash Forward*, a showcase for emerging Canadian, American and UK photographers presented by the Magenta Foundation.

Knelman holds an MA, awarded with Distinction, from the Courtauld Institute of Art, and an Honours BA from McGill University.

Founded in 1914, the Art Gallery of Hamilton is Canada's seventh largest public art gallery and Ontario's third. The owner of one of this country's finest collections, the Gallery's three collecting strengths are Canadian historical, European historical, and Canadian and international contemporary art.

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