

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Attila Richard Lukacs from the Collection of Salah J. Bachir
on view at the Art Gallery of Hamilton
until December 31, 2011**

Over 35 works by a fascinating artist from the personal collection of a Canadian philanthropist, entrepreneur and patron of the arts are showcased in the exhibition ***Attila Richard Lukacs from the Collection of Salah J. Bachir*** at the Art Gallery of Hamilton until December 31, 2011.

Unparalleled in scope, this exhibition includes grand portraits of decadent male nudes, mythological scenes, and works from the artist's military series, among others.

Lukacs began his practice as an artist in the early 1980s and since then, he has garnered much attention for his sensual treatment of the male nude. Working with a realistic style of representation, Lukacs's works also incorporate fantasy and myth. Groups of males are a recurring element in his works, whether the figures are seemingly linked as teams or displayed in aggressive poses. Lone figures also appear, often in a starkly beautiful and poetic manner. There are many cultural and historical references which point to Lukacs's formative period while living in Berlin in the late 1980s, and to his vast knowledge of art history.

Lukacs's works have been exhibited widely since the beginning of his career, upon graduating from the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in 1985. The artist's successes are also due to the very committed support of his collectors, and primarily, Salah J. Bachir. Bachir first met Lukacs in Berlin in the mid-1990s, when Michael Morris invited him to Lukacs's studio for a visit. Bachir has been collecting the artist's work, whether paintings, collages or Polaroid photographs since that time. Over the years, Bachir's astute selections have come to form a comprehensive collection of works by one of Canada's greatest contemporary painters.

The official celebration recognizing all the AGH's exhibitions this fall season takes place on Sunday, October 23 from 2 pm to 4 pm.

The Art Gallery of Hamilton offers a unique opportunity to hear personally from the artist when AGH *talks* presents *The Art of Attila Richard Lukacs* on Thursday, October 20th at 6:30 pm at the Art Gallery of Hamilton. In this panel discussion, Lukacs and his contemporaries Michael Morris and Andy Fabo trace Lukacs's development, aesthetic and political message through his work and in the exhibition currently on view. Tickets are \$6 for AGH Members, \$10 for Students and Seniors and \$12 for Non-Members. Pre-registration is strongly recommended, as seating is limited. Please pre-purchase your tickets online at

www.artgalleryofhamilton.com, in person at the AGH Front Desk during Gallery hours or by phone at 905-527-6610, ext. 241.

A publication on Lukacs's works in the collection of Salah J. Bachir will be released in late October. This 144-page full-colour catalogue is available in the Shop at AGH and can be ordered by email at shop@artgalleryofhamilton.com or by calling 905.527.6610, ext. 244.

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 12 noon to 7 pm, Thursday and Friday 12 noon to 9 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12 noon to 5 pm. Closed Mondays. The AGH is open from 12 noon to 5 pm on Christmas Eve (Saturday, December 24) and New Year's Eve (Saturday, December 31). The AGH will be closed Christmas Day (Sunday, December 25), Boxing Day (Monday, December 26) and New Year's Day (Sunday, January 1).

Please visit www.artgalleryofhamilton.com for complete exhibition and programming information.

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

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

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