

**FOR RELEASE**  
**May 4, 2005**

## **Art Gallery of Hamilton Re-opens after Major Renovation Project**

Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> signals the day the newly-renovated Art Gallery of Hamilton re-opens to the public. Located in downtown Hamilton at 123 King Street West, the day's activities include:

- 12 noon – 5 pm      Gallery open to the public  
Admission to the Gallery free, courtesy of Orlick Industries  
Ticketed admission to banner exhibition, *Heaven and Earth Unveiled*; tickets available at the door or on line at [artgalleryofhamilton.com](http://artgalleryofhamilton.com).
- 6:30 pm – 1 am      The Taste of Art Celebration  
Tickets available on-line at [artgalleryofhamilton.com](http://artgalleryofhamilton.com).

Beginning with the groundbreaking in October of 2003, the \$18 million project designed by Hamilton-born architect Bruce Kuwabara of Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects has resulted in a gold exterior recladding, a welcoming and visible entrance, an increase of 20% in exhibition space, and several unique rental spaces.

The AGH renovation project is funded by the Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Program, (through the Governments of Canada and Ontario), the City of Hamilton, Dofasco Inc., and the generous support of corporations, foundations and individuals.

From 12 noon to 5:00 pm on Opening Day, members of the public can enjoy a variety of children's and family activities, including hands-on fun in the new Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life Art Site area and a performance by children's entertainers, Turkey Rhubarb. In the evening, the fundraising event *The Taste of Art* will bring together the best in food, music and art in true celebration of the AGH's re-opening.

May 28<sup>th</sup> also signals the opening day of two major exhibitions. *Heaven and Earth Unveiled: European Treasures from the Tanenbaum Collection*, the banner exhibition of over 200 stunning pieces of European art, examines the poignancy of the human condition. *Lasting Impressions: Celebrated Works from the Art Gallery of Hamilton* boasts over 80 pieces from the AGH's renowned collection and speaks eloquently of the various artistic movements that defined Canadian art over several decades.

Louise Dompierre, the AGH's President and CEO, said, "We are reveling in the new: a new building with wonderful new spaces housing new exhibitions, new rental and customer service facilities, a new gallery shop and new exciting, relevant programming".

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In addition, the thought-provoking exhibitions *A Lasting Legacy: A.Y. Jackson, Collection Builder*, and *The Company We Keep: Exploring Kinship in William Kurelek's The Polish Canadians* along with the Women's Art Association 109<sup>th</sup> Juried Exhibition will also be on display. Contemporary installations by artists Kim Adams, An Whitlock, Richard Serra, John Massey, and Arnaud Maggs will engage and challenge viewers.

"We are dedicated to developing new programming for the AGH's diverse audiences", continues Ms. Dompierre. "In June, *The Art of the Chase: AGH Collectors Series* will bring seasoned authorities such as collector Joey Tanenbaum and Sotheby's President David Silcox together in a discussion of the principles and investment possibilities of art collecting and our *Cultivated Spaces: Inspired Gardening for the Creative Soul* with coordinator Kathy Renwald will brings artists, garden experts and friends together for a series of inspiring workshops".

For more information about the Gallery's re-opening events and exhibitions, members of the public may contact (905) 527-6610, [info@artgalleryofhamilton.com](mailto:info@artgalleryofhamilton.com) or visit [www.artgalleryofhamilton.com](http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com).

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