

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Art Gallery of Hamilton celebrates record attendance figures

May 28, 2006 marked the first year anniversary of the reopening of the Art Gallery of Hamilton after extensive renovations.

In the twelve months since reopening, 176,771 visitors have enjoyed the AGH's exhibitions, programming and special events. Prior to this, the Gallery's best attendance for a twelve-month period was 74,000 in 2001.

During this time, the AGH produced the acclaimed exhibitions *Heaven and Earth Unveiled: European Treasures from the Tanenbaum Collection*, *Lasting Impressions: Celebrated Works from the Art Gallery of Hamilton*, *The Feast: Food in Art*, and *In the Shadow of the Midnight Sun: Sami and Inuit Art 2000-2005*. The AGH was also host to the exhibition *The Manchu Era (1644-1912) Arts of China's Last Imperial Dynasty*.

Over this twelve-month period, over 7,000 children and teens took part in Gallery tours and creative workshops.

Over 200 individuals, companies and not-for-profit organizations rented a variety of Gallery facility spaces for fundraising events, corporate launches, staff retreats and presentations, weddings and private parties.

The *Shop at AGH's* Art Rental and Sales represented 112 area artists and rented and/or sold 266 original works of art.

"The Art Gallery of Hamilton is thrilled with the response to our renovated Gallery and our exhibitions", said AGH President and CEO Louise Dompierre. "The Gallery has welcomed individuals from every postal code in the Hamilton area, scores of day-trippers from the GTA and Western New York, art lovers hailing from coast to coast, American tourists from 28 states and international travellers from Europe, South America, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and beyond."

The Art Gallery of Hamilton gratefully acknowledges the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, the City of Hamilton, Hamilton Future Fund and its many private, foundation, corporate and individual supporters.

Currently on view at the AGH are *Sublime Embrace: Experiencing Consciousness in Contemporary Art* (until September 4th) and *Great Masters Series: Vincent van Gogh* (until September 23rd).

For complete information on all Art Gallery of Hamilton exhibitions and activities, please visit www.artgalleryofhamilton.com

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For further information on the Art Gallery of Hamilton and its exhibitions, please contact:
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