

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, September 05, 2006



**Art Gallery of Hamilton V.P. and C.O.O. Shirley Madill
to head up Art Gallery of Greater Victoria in November**

Shirley Madill, the Art Gallery of Hamilton's Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, has been appointed the Director and C.E.O. of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia. She begins her new position on November 20, 2006.

"Shirley has been a great asset to the Art Gallery of Hamilton," said Louise Dompierre, AGH President and C.E.O. "She is tremendously respected as a curator worldwide and has been instrumental in helping the AGH grow its programmes and garner the reputation it now enjoys in the community, the province and beyond. We are very sorry that she will be leaving Hamilton, but know that her appointment means that the relationship between our two galleries will become even stronger, to the benefit of gallery goers in Ontario and British Columbia."

The AGH has hosted several exhibitions circulated by the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria to positive public response, including *Jade, The Ultimate Treasure from Ancient China* in 2001, and *The Manchu Era (1644-1912), Arts of China's Last Imperial Dynasty* earlier this year.

Madill joined the Art Gallery of Hamilton in 1999, as its Senior Curator. She was promoted to Chief Curator / Director of Programming in 2000, and has held the position of Vice President and C.O.O. since 2003. During her tenure at the Art Gallery of Hamilton, she introduced the Atelier Series, a programme devoted to showcasing contemporary art practice in the region and featuring work by Canadian artists from Hamilton. Atelier shows the work of both emerging and established artists, focusing on new directions in an artist's practice.

"Working with the AGH Board, President and C.E.O. staff and the arts community has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience that I will value for many years to come," said Madill. "It is a great gallery in a great city. As I engage in this new direction in my career with enthusiasm I take with me all that I have learned here and am confident that paths will cross between the AGH and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria in the future."

Madill curated major contemporary exhibitions at the AGH, including *Mask and Metamorphosis: Aspects of Surrealism in Contemporary Art* in 2002; *Future Cities*, an off-site exhibition during the Gallery's extensive renovations featuring works by over 40 artists in 2004; and most recently, *Sublime Embrace: Experiencing Consciousness in Contemporary Art*. Her winning submission to the São Paulo Biennial resulted in the Art Gallery of Hamilton and Canadian artist

David Rokeby representing Canada at the Biennial in 2004, one of the world's most significant art fairs. She was an important part of the senior management team that oversaw the major renovations and revitalization of the Art Gallery of Hamilton. Before moving to Hamilton, Madill was the Acting Chief Curator and Senior Curator at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, an organization she joined in 1979.

Founded in 1914, the Art Gallery of Hamilton is Ontario's third largest public art gallery and owns one of the finest collections in the country. Its collecting strengths include Canadian historical, Canadian contemporary and European historical art. The Gallery recently underwent an 18-month, \$18 million renovation.

-END-

MEDIA CONTACT:

For further information, please contact:
Steve Denyes, Manager, Communications
[T] 905-527-6610, ext. 255
[E] steve@artgalleryofhamilton.com