

**ART GALLERY OF HAMILTON LAUNCHES CENTENNIAL YEAR
WITH TWO CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITIONS**

Kim Adams: One for the Road and Terrors of the Breakfast Table



Kim Adams *Gift Machine* 1988
scooters, wheelbarrows, ladders, tennis balls, umbrellas, bags
Courtesy of the artist and Diaz Contemporary
Photo: Mike Lalich

February 6, 2014 – The Art Gallery of Hamilton is kicking off its centennial celebrations and opening its 2014 winter season by mounting two extraordinary contemporary exhibitions: *Kim Adams: One for the Road and Terrors of the Breakfast Table*, a video installation by emerging Hamilton-based artist, Tyler Tekatch.

“We are very excited to present the works of Kim Adams, one of Canada’s most outstanding contemporary artists internationally renowned for his inventive sculptures, and the debut of a video installation by Tyler Tekatch that is both highly original in its concept and in its exploration of technology,” said Louise Dompierre, President and CEO of the AGH. “As we begin our

centennial celebrations and honour our past, it is most apt that we look to the future with these two extraordinary contemporary exhibitions.”

“The *Bruegel-Bosch Bus* is likely the most popular contemporary work in the AGH collection, and is closely related, both visually and conceptually, to the many exceptional pieces that comprise *Kim Adams: One for the Road*,” said Melissa Bennett, Curator of Contemporary Art at the AGH. “Adams’ incisive use of models and toys is expanded in the exhibition, in the more than 60 works that make up the show. Visitors will continue to enjoy the many pop culture references he makes, while witnessing his sense of humour and brilliant imagination. It has been a great honour and privilege to welcome Kim Adams in an artist residency here at the Gallery that has focused on adding toys and models to the *Bruegel-Bosch Bus*, while he is here installing the extensive *One for the Road* exhibition.”

***Kim Adams: One for the Road* -- On view from February 8 to May 4, 2014**

Kim Adams: One for the Road, surveys Adams’ 30-year career as an inventor of strange new worlds. An enthusiastic assembler of sculptures made from model parts, bikes, trucks, old appliances and equipment, Adams has exhibited throughout Canada and around the world. The exhibition, which is organized and circulated by Museum London, includes 7 sculptures, 33 models and 24 works on paper that frequently are expressive starting points for his sculptural works. The size and range of the works vary, from miniatures and small models to huge sculptures that re-envision ideas of home, vehicles, and other machines gone humorously awry.

“It’s very special to have the works in this exhibition here at the Art Gallery of Hamilton along with the *Bruegel-Bosch Bus*,” said Kim Adams. “They are all interconnected and part of the culture of my work. For example, *Artists’ Colony (Gardens)* is micro and about the world; and, the *Bruegel-Bosch Bus* is macroscopic, yet also about the world. The models, which took the place of a lot of the drawings as my process evolved, have the same play as the larger sculptures. I’m amazed to see how *Surfer Shack*, which was created in 1986, and *Travels Through the Belly of the Whale*, one of my most recent works, are so comfortable together. They both play off one another.”

Travels Through the Belly of the Whale and *Artists’ Colony (Gardens)*, both commissioned in 2012 by the Gershon Iskowitz Prize at the AGO, each vividly portrays a fastidiously constructed narrative. A commentary on the food industry and ethanol farming, *Travels Through the Belly of the Whale* draws viewers to peer through the windows and openings installed in a tilted repurposed grain silo to see a farming community and grain processing plant. In recognition of the opening of the exhibition at the AGH, Adams re-worked the electric train that continuously travels around and through the work to be from the Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo Railway (TH&B), which will be fondly recognized by many Hamiltonians.

In *Artists’ Colony (Gardens)* Adams creates an intense miniature world crowded with everyday activities, including people enjoying themselves at a beer garden, car races, a giraffe escaping from a zoo, people waiting in line for a phone booth, and sunbathers relaxing at a waterfront.

Gift Machine, originally created for public display outside the gallery context as a spectacle in the city street, is an example of how the content and context of Adams’ works challenge conventional ways of thinking about our values, lifestyles and sense of community.

The presentation of *Surfer Shack*, which was created in 1987 and is part of the AGH permanent collection, marks the first time that this work has been shown at the Gallery.

Adams won the 2012 Gershon Iskowitz Prize at the AGO, in recognition of the national and international significance of his body of work. The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive publication on Adams' work.

Kim Adams: One for the Road by the Numbers:

- 7 large sculptures
- 33 models
- 24 works on paper
- 64 works in total.

Terrors of the Breakfast Table

Terrors of the Breakfast Table is an experimental video that invites participation. The exhibition is the first major art installation by Tyler Tekatch and the première of the work.

“Dream sequences in film have always fascinated me because they seem to be a stylistic meeting point of narrative and avant-garde conventions,” said Tyler Tekatch. “I’ve long wanted to create a film that captured the peculiar logic of dreams and the uncanny feelings that they evoke. This project has allowed me to pursue that goal, with an aim to introduce an element of interactivity.”

In a confounding exploration of life and death, Tekatch designed the video installation so that the visitor’s breath causes changes to the visuals and sound. On a table in the gallery, subtle technologies sense the viewer’s breath, triggering thought-provoking interactive elements. These include a dream montage, the pace of a scene, the ambient sound, and the brightness of the visuals.

The story follows a boy on a contemplative journey about life and death. Heavily symbolic, the video unfolds in an impressionistic way, with interludes of brilliant cinematography and atmospheric sound. The story is also a dreamscape, as the boy weaves in and out of consciousness, visualizing memories, familiar landscapes, and symbolic environments. The piece ruminates on the elusiveness of the mind and body, and the functions of the body—such as breathing—that seem to be invisible.

Terrors of the Breakfast Table was commissioned within the Interactive Digital Media Incubator program at the Art Gallery of Hamilton, which was made possible with the generous support of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and the Museums and Technology Fund. The exhibition is sponsored by 270 Sherman.

PUBLIC EVENTS:

AGH Winter Exhibition Season Opening
Sunday February 9, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p. m.
Kim Adams and Tyler Tekatch in attendance.
Free admission.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING: AGH TALKS

Tyler Tekatch in Conversation with Melissa Bennett, Curator of Contemporary Art, AGH

Thursday, February 6

7:00 p.m.

Tyler Tekatch will discuss the ideas behind *Terrors of the Breakfast Table*.

Kim Adams: Beyond the Bus

Thursday, February 20

7:00 p.m.

Art Gallery of Hamilton

Kim Adams, creator of one of the most beloved works at the AGH, *Bruegel-Bosch Bus*, will speak about *One for the Road*.

TOURS

Docent guided tours of the exhibition:

Every Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Free with admission.

About the Art Gallery of Hamilton

The Art Gallery of Hamilton, the largest independent public art gallery in Ontario, will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2014. Its permanent collection, which is focused on historical Canadian, 19th century European and Canadian Contemporary art, now numbers more than 10,000 works and is recognized as one of the finest in Canada. The AGH is regarded as a vital centre of creative development and artistic engagement that brings art and people of all ages together. To find out more about what's happening at the AGH visit www.artgalleryofhamilton.com

The AGH is celebrating its centennial with a year of landmark exhibitions. Upcoming exhibitions include the first major retrospective of the work of William Blair Bruce, Canada's first Impressionist painter, and the first comprehensive exhibition of still lifes by Paul Cézanne.

March 1 to February 22, 2015: Art for a Century: 100 for the 100th

http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/ex_upcoming.php#6

May 24 to October 5, 2014: Into the Light: The Paintings of William Blair Bruce

http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/ex_upcoming.php#3

June 28 to January 4, 2015: Jenn E. Norton: Dredging a Wake

http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/ex_upcoming.php#4

November 1 to January 31, 2015: The World is an Apple: The Still Lifes of Paul Cézanne

http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/ex_upcoming.php#5

November 1 to February 8, 2015: Painting Hamilton

http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/ex_upcoming.php#5

Visitor Information

Admission:

AGH Members: Free; Adults, \$10; Students/Seniors, \$8; Children (6-17), \$4; under 5 years, Free.

Friday Free Night: Free admission on the first Friday of the month.

Museum Hours:

Tuesday & Wednesday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m.–8 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.;
Saturday–Sunday, 12 noon–5 p.m.

The Art Gallery of Hamilton is located at 123 King Street West, downtown Hamilton, Ontario,
L8P 4S8.

[T] 905.527.6610

[E] info@artgalleryofhamilton.com

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For publicity images go to: <http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/imagebank>

For more information, please contact:

Steve Denyes, Manager, Communications

[T] 905.527.6610, ext. 255

[E] steve@artgalleryofhamilton.com