



Art Gallery of Hamilton
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ART GALLERY OF HAMILTON | CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

**NEW EXHIBITION EXPLORES ONE OF TODAY'S MOST PRESSING CHALLENGES:
THE UNPRECEDENTED INFORMATION EXPLOSION AND THE RETRIEVAL OF DATA**

***Jenn E. Norton: Dredging a Wake* premières
at the Art Gallery of Hamilton**



Jenn E. Norton
Precipice (2014)
video still
interactive digital media work

July 8, 2014 – The Art Gallery of Hamilton is continuing its centennial celebrations with the opening of the highly innovative interactive video installation, *Jenn E. Norton: Dredging a Wake*. The work was commissioned by the AGH through the Interactive Digital Media Incubator program. It will remain on view until January 4, 2015.

Curated by Melissa Bennett, AGH Curator of Contemporary Art, *Dredging a Wake* includes three installation works made up of video art, projection and sculpture. Each piece invites immersion, whether through the physical space of the installation or the projections that surround the viewer.

“Through the commission and presentation of *Jenn E. Norton: Dredging a Wake*, the Art Gallery of Hamilton is once again demonstrating its commitment to nurturing and advancing new art,” said Louise Dompierre, AGH President and CEO. “We are especially pleased to mount this exhibition during the Gallery’s centennial celebration.”

At the heart of the exhibition is the notion that information is increasingly unwieldy, as we have stored our important data, documents and pictures on so many different media throughout the past century. From filing cabinets to cloud computing, we have been saving our precious materials in immaterial ways. Playful yet ominous, the artworks refer to a dark abyss, referencing cyclones, sinkholes, and black holes, as metaphors for the unknowns of changing archival processes.

“Jenn E. Norton provides us with a magical exploration of this issue of morphing archives,” said Melissa Bennett, AGH Curator of Contemporary Art. “The manner of her exploration, which is manifest in disorienting wizardly displays of lights, sounds and images, directly reflects the issues of contemporary archives, which are also mystifying.”

Precipice is a circular room that visitors can enter to become surrounded by projections of swirling water and a virtual swimmer, who navigates a vitreous chasm, seemingly in search of something. *Doline* is a sculptural installation of office fixtures seemingly submerged in the floor, which slowly rotate to the soundtrack of people remembering their dreams about falling. *Doldrums* uses 3D glasses, multiple projections and mirrors, furthering a sense of disorientation while exploring the role we all play in this era of the digital abyss.

“In many ways, information represents a translated self, a trail of actions, and an archive of events,” said Jenn E. Norton. “As information is archived, as its physical body decays, it morphs into invisible matter to be stored, housed and moved in a conduit. How do we hold onto the intangible, how do we see the invisible? This exhibition aims to explore these questions.”

Jenn E. Norton is an early career artist based in Guelph. This is her first major exhibition in a public gallery. The Interactive Digital Media Incubator program at the Art Gallery of Hamilton 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.

A public reception for this exhibition, with the artist in attendance, will be held on Sunday November 2, as part of the opening of the Fall exhibition season.

About the Art Gallery of Hamilton

The Art Gallery of Hamilton is the largest independent public gallery in Ontario, Canada. The AGH is regarded as a leader in contemporary art and digital media and presents acclaimed contemporary exhibition programmes. The Gallery’s permanent collection of contemporary works numbers more than 2,000 objects. Also renowned for its programming of 19th-century European and historic Canadian art, its total permanent collection exceeds 10,000 works. The AGH is dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of art and is celebrated for its exceptional exhibitions and outstanding programming that engage people of all ages.

AGH Centennial Exhibitions

The AGH is celebrating its centennial in 2014 with a year of landmark exhibitions. Upcoming exhibitions include the first comprehensive exhibition of still lifes by Paul Cézanne and *Painting Hamilton*, a survey of 10 artists from the Greater Hamilton area, many of whom are not well-

known. The exhibition showcases the diverse subject matter, techniques and materials that are of the moment in contemporary painting practices.

March 1 2014 to February 22, 2015: *Art for a Century: 100 for the 100th* FREE ADMISSION
http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/ex_upcoming.php#6

May 24 to October 5, 2014: *Into the Light: The Paintings of William Blair Bruce (1859–1906)*
http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/ex_upcoming.php#3

June 28, 2014 to January 4, 2015: *Jenn E. Norton: Dredging a Wake*
http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/ex_upcoming.php#4

November 1, 2014 to February 8, 2015: *The World is an Apple: The Still Lifes of Paul Cézanne*
http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/ex_upcoming.php#5

November 1, 2014 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.

Tours:

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

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

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