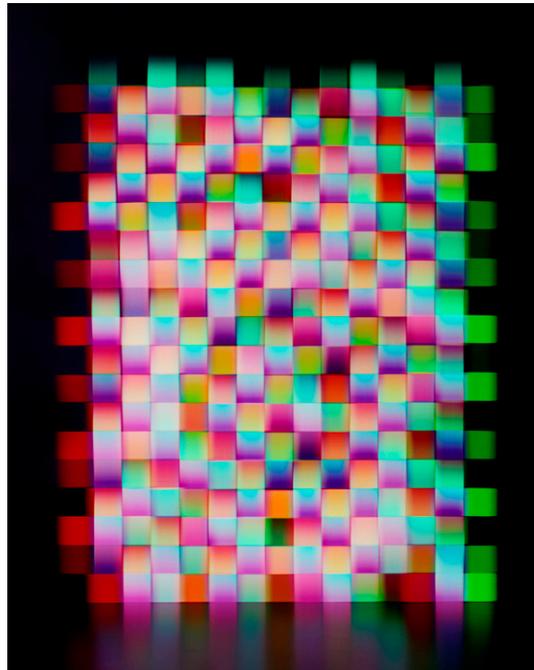


Massive contemporary art exhibition opens Friday, June 26

are you experienced?

Engaging. Meaningful. Refreshing.

6 renowned international artists take over Art Gallery of Hamilton



Jessica Eaton, *mb RGB Weave 01*, 2012, archival pigment print, 81 x 102 cm
courtesy of the artist and Jessica Bradley Gallery

June 24, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blending abstraction, figuration, photography and video, ***are you experienced?, on view at the Art Gallery of Hamilton (AGH) from Friday, June 26, 2015***, features the contemporary art of Nadia Belerique (Toronto), Jessica Eaton (Montreal), Olafur Eliasson (Berlin, Danish-Icelandic), Dorian FitzGerald (Toronto), Hadley+Maxwell (Berlin, Canadian) and famed Korean artist Do Ho Suh. Spread out over 8,000 sq. feet of exhibition space this groundbreaking exhibition is accessible, often familiar, and sometimes boldly outrageous.

Shape changing videos. Hanging sculptures lit by psychedelic lights. The AGH is breaking with museum tradition and is encouraging visitors to take *selfies* in the gallery space. These are works that will engage audiences, young and old alike, on several levels.

The show title is based on a famous Jimi Hendrix song. And while in that Hippy Era classic song Jimi tells us to hold hands and “watch the sun rise from the bottom of the sea”, at the AGH exhibition, visitors are told to be open-minded about how they interpret what they see intellectually, emotionally, and physically.

“are you experienced?” is the largest contemporary art show we’ve done at the AGH in over a decade,” said Melissa Bennett, AGH Curator of Contemporary Art and curator of the exhibition. “Culled from the world’s leading artists, the works are extraordinary for the ways in which they can move visitors emotionally. Walk through the gallery spaces to see yourself seeing. The artists strive to create subconscious reactions to their materials and ideas.”

Many of the pieces on display in the exhibition are very large; one of the canvases is even hung on an angle to fit inside the exhibit space. Artist **Dorian FitzGerald’s** *Hacker-Pschorr Beerhall, Oktoberfest, Munich* fills the wall of one large gallery within the show. Seen from the entrance, the Toronto-based artist’s massive painting appears to be hyper-realistic. But stepping into the space, the *Beerhall’s* interior quickly blurs into abstraction, becoming a wall of splashes of paint.

Korean artist **Do Ho Suh** is famously nomadic. He currently lives and works in London, New York, and Seoul. Since the mid-1990s Suh has questioned the conventional notion of personal space. He explores the variable dimension and mobility of this idea in both its physical and metaphorical manifestations. When the public enters **are you experienced?**, they will see elements of Suh’s full-scale “homes” of semitransparent cloth, including his apartment in New York.

The UK’s *Guardian* newspaper calls 37-year old Regina-born **Jessica Eaton** the “hottest photographic artist to come out of Canada.” In Hamilton a photographic series of larger-than-life geometric cubes will be on show. This work is “a dramatically beautiful response to the ongoing debate about photography’s meaning in our age of relentless digital distraction.”

Last spring the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival in Toronto awarded Canadian artist **Nadia Belerique** with the BMW Exhibition Prize for **Have You Seen This Man?**, a photography-based installation show at Daniel Faria Gallery. The *Toronto Star* called it a mysterious and unstable show, giving gallery goers a sense “of impending doom.” Now in 2015 the Toronto artist is back with a companion exhibition. **I Hate You Don’t Leave Me** premières in Hamilton and investigates how the photograph is both the object of the observer and the observed!

“It is not just about decorating the world... but about taking responsibility,” **Olafur Eliasson** said of his art in a popular TED Talk video. The artist uses natural elements (like light, water, fog) and makeshift technical devices to transform museum galleries and public areas into immersive environments. In Hamilton his **Triple Ripple** installation consists of mechanical mechanisms producing complex visual effects. Light projects onto disks that will spin around the gallery.

Canadian, but currently Berlin-based, Hadley+Maxwell are two artists who have jointly exhibited their work in cities all over the world, including Amsterdam, Taipei, Seattle, and Rotterdam. They are currently in Ontario completing an outdoor installation in Toronto's Harbourfront district. In ***are you experienced?*** visitors will get a sensory bombardment response to the question from Hadley+Maxwell. Video. Sculpture. Lights. The Hamilton exhibit might be best described as a Phantasmagorical Be In!

A fully illustrated 192-page catalogue accompanies the ***are you experienced?*** exhibition, with essays by AGH Curator of Contemporary Art Melissa Bennett and invited scholars: Jennifer Fisher and Jim Drobnick, Sally McKay, Gabrielle Moser, Alana Traficante, as well as artist interviews. Published by Black Dog Publishing, London UK.

About the Art Gallery of Hamilton

Founded in 1914, the Art Gallery of Hamilton is the oldest and largest public art gallery in southwestern Ontario. Its permanent collection, which is focused on historical Canadian, 19th-century European and Contemporary art, now numbers more than 10,000 works and is recognized as one of the finest in Canada. The AGH is a vital creative hub and centre of lifelong learning that enables people of all ages to enrich their lives by gaining a deeper understanding of art. Visit www.artgalleryofhamilton.com for more information.

On view at the AGH are:

Art for a Century: 100 for the 100th: On view now
http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/ex_current.php

are you experienced?: June 26, 2015 to January 3, 2016:
http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/ex_upcoming.php

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.

Gallery 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

GROUP TOURS

To arrange for a Group Tour, please contact: Laurie Kilgour-Walsh, Educator

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