



Art Gallery of Hamilton

engage your imagination

1920s Modernism and Twenty-First-Century Modern Angst: AGH Winter exhibitions explore the work of visionary artists

Hamilton, February 10, 2016 -- Two upcoming exhibitions at the Art Gallery of Hamilton highlight the works of artists who dared to offer a new vision.

1920s Modernism in Montreal: The Beaver Hall Group – on view from February 20 to May 8, 2016 -- explores the works of some of Canada's most avant-garde artists of the time, and stresses its unique role in developing women artists.

Fearful Symmetry: The Art of John Scott – on view from February 6 to May 15, 2016 – showcases three decades of powerful work by an artist who championed the plight of the worker as a human tool in the face of global industry.



[From left: Adrien Hébert (1890-1967) *Saint Catherine Street*, 1926, oil on canvas, 81.5 x 102.2 cm, Archambault family, Photo MMFA, Christine Guest | Lilius Torrance Newton (1896-1980), *Nude in the Studio*, 1933, oil on canvas, 203.2 x 91.5 cm, Collection A. K. Prakash, Estate of Lilius Torrance Newton © NGC Photo Thomas Moore | Prudence Heward (Canadian 1896-1947) *At the Theatre* 1928, oil on canvas, 101.6 x 101.6 cm, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, purchase, Horsley and Annie Townsend Bequest Photo: MMFA, Christine Guest

“1920s Modernism in Montreal: The Beaver Hall Group is the first comprehensive exhibition to examine the impact and complexity of one of Canada and Quebec’s most significant group of artists,” says AGH President and CEO Shelley Falconer. “A counterpart to Ontario’s Group of Seven, the more than 130 works by many of Canada’s leading artists represent a multiplicity of perspectives on Montreal modernism including portraits and urban landscapes. Representative of Montreal modernism in the 1920s and 30s, the influences of

Montreal and their fellow artists both in and outside the Beaver Hall Group shaped the art scene long after the group disbanded. And yet it's only now, almost a hundred years later, that we are better able to appreciate the depth of this impact."

1920s Modernism in Montreal: The Beaver Hall Group explores a group of artists whose production gave new impetus to artistic life in Montreal, Quebec, and Canada between the two wars. Named for the location where they shared studio and exhibition space, the Beaver Hall Group has been called Montreal's Group of Seven. In contrast to the Group of Seven's untamed landscapes devoid of people, the Beaver Hall Group focused on the portrait and humanized cityscapes and landscapes. The Group was also the first in Canada to bring together professional women artists, giving them a public forum for their work, a community of support, and a means to develop their art further. The Art Gallery of Hamilton is an important lender to this touring exhibition, which features paintings by such artists as Prudence Heward, Edwin Holgate, Anne Savage, Sarah Robertson, and A.Y. Jackson. Organized by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the exhibition is curated by Jacques Des Rochers and Brian Foss, and is funded, in part, by the Government of Canada.



John Scott (Canadian b. 1950) *Trans AM Apocalypse No. 3* 1998-2000
incised text on acrylic paint on a Pontiac Firebird Trans AM 1980, approx. 129 x 184 x 504 cm, 1496.9 kg
Collection Art Gallery of Ontario, Gift of Chris Poulsen, 2007, ©John Scott Photo: Art Gallery of Ontario

Fearful Symmetry: The Art of John Scott features nearly 30 works on paper as well as the rarely-exhibited *Trans AM Apocalypse No. 3*, a 1980 Pontiac Firebird Trans AM covered in matte black paint and inscribed with text from the Bible's Book of Revelations. Visitors will have an opportunity to see conservation work undertaken on the car during the exhibition period. Organized by Faulconer Gallery at Grinnell College, Iowa, this exhibition is curated by Daniel Strong and is the second in a two-part show. The first part was exhibited at the McMaster Museum of Art in Fall 2015.

"John Scott's artwork has great relevance for the region of southwestern Ontario, as his concepts are rooted in the values of working class people," says Melissa Bennet, AGH Curator of Contemporary Art. "Born in 1950, he grew up in Windsor and left high school to work in a factory. As a witness to the Detroit riots, and a protester of war, he has always had civilian rights at the front of his mind. "

The Opening Reception to celebrate both exhibitions takes place on Saturday, February 20 from 3 pm to 5 pm. Artist John Scott will be in attendance for *Fearful Symmetry*, as will *1920s Modernism in Montreal* curators Jacques Des Rochers and Brian Foss. Free admission. All are welcome.

Related programming for 1920s Modernism in Montreal: The Beaver Hall Group

Tour Days feature guided exhibition tours with specially trained Docents on **Saturday, Sundays and statutory holidays at 2 pm** (including Family Day on Monday, February 15th, March Break Monday on Monday, March 14th, and Good Friday on Friday, March 25th). Included with exhibition admission

Four-Talk Lecture Series: The Legacy of the Beaver Hall Group

Admission for four-talk series: \$24 AGH Members / \$40 Non-Members

Admission of individual talks: \$8 AGH Members / \$12 Non-Members

1. 1920s Modernism in Montreal on Thursday, February 18th at 7 pm

Exhibition curator Jacques Des Rochers provides insight into the Beaver Hall Group's significant impact on the landscape of Canadian art.

2. In Contemporary Terms: Responding to the Beaver Hall Group on Thursday, March 10th at 7 pm

Contemporary women artists Andrea Kastner, Katherine MacDonald, and Christina Sealey respond to the works in the exhibition and discuss how, either directly or more subtly, the Beaver Hall Group has shaped their work. Moderated by AGH Director, Exhibitions and Collections, Tobi Bruce, and AGH Curator of Contemporary Art, Melissa Bennett.

3. Shared Vision: A Conversation about Artist Collectives on Thursday, April 7th at 7 pm

Representatives of two artist collectives – Svava Thordis Juliusson and Margaret Flood (of the (F)NOR collective) and Liss Platt and Claudia Manley (of the Shake 'N Make collective – discuss the impact the idea of shared vision and production has on their work. Moderated by AGH Director of Programs and Education Tor Lukasik-Foss.

4. 'As Well As Men': Gender and the Beaver Hall Group on Thursday, April 28th at 7 pm

Dr. Kristina Huneault of the Concordia University Department of Art History explores the long-held perception of the Beaver Hall Group as exclusively a group of women painters and its impact on the history of women and art in Canada.

Related programming for *Fearful Symmetry: The Art of John Scott*

Contemporary Artist Talk: John Scott in Conversation with Robert Enright on Thursday, February 25th at 6:30 pm

John Scott joins art critic Robert Enright for a conversation about his art. A tour of the exhibition with the artist follows. Free admission.

Conserving the Apocalypse from Tuesday, February 23rd through Friday, February 26th, 11 am to 12 noon, and 1 pm to 4 pm.

Art Gallery of Ontario conservators Sherry Phillips and Sjoukje Van Der Lann will undertake conservation work on the outside of the *Trans Am Apocalypse No. 3* sculpture. Visitors are encouraged to meet the conservators and discuss their work with them. Included with exhibition admission.

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.

GROUP TOURS

To arrange for a Group Tour, please contact:

Laurie Kilgour-Walsh, Educator

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The Art Gallery of Hamilton is located at 123 King Street West, downtown Hamilton, Ontario,
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For publicity images go to: <http://www.artgalleryofhamilton/imagebank>

For more information, please contact:

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