



Art Gallery of Hamilton

[www.artgalleryofhamilton.com](http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com)

## Art Gallery of Hamilton Symposium helps high school students explore Canadian experiences of displacement and identity

November 21, 2017 – With two exhibitions providing context—*Shelley Niro: 1779* and *Abedar Kamgari: The Journey West*—high school students will challenge traditionally-held notions of Canada and what it means to be a citizen of this country at Current Conversations: Displacement and Reclaiming Identity, a day-long symposium on Tuesday, December 5 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Art Gallery of Hamilton (AGH), located at 123 King Street West in downtown Hamilton. TD Bank Financial Group is the Presenting Sponsor of the symposium and the two exhibitions that inspired it. The incite Foundation for the Arts has proudly supported education programs at the AGH since its inception in 2011.

“This symposium encourages participating secondary students to consider a more inclusive world view through interactive exhibition tours, hands-on activities, and special guests,” says Laurie Kilgour-Walsh, AGH Senior Manager, Education. “Students will learn from Indigenous guests and contemporary artists, helping them look more closely at their own ideas of identity and what it means to be Canadian.”

Educators interested in bringing their classes to the symposium should contact the AGH at 905.527.6610, ext. 272 or [schools@artgalleryofhamilton.com](mailto:schools@artgalleryofhamilton.com). Charge per student is \$16.

### About the Featured Artists and Exhibitions:

Shelley Niro is a member of the Six Nations Reserve, Bay of Quinte Kanien'kehaka (Mohawk) Nation, Turtle Clan. Her exhibition, ***Shelley Niro: 1779***, features new videos, mixed media sculpture with sound, prints and photography. Prompted by the 150th anniversary of Canadian confederation, she looks back further to 1779, the year that 5,000 Haudenosaunee people arrived in Fort Niagara, having fled impending decimation in the state now known as New York.

In late August 2004, Abedar Kamgari traveled with her mother by boat and train, leaving Iran for Turkey as a refugee; this was the start of the journey that eventually brought her to Toronto in 2006, and to Hamilton in 2012. Her exhibition, ***The Journey West***, features a durational performance-for-video and creative retelling of Kamgari's experience as a refugee and immigrant, shown alongside research materials that informed the artist's process, including historical artworks, and family archives.

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**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 International and Contemporary art, numbers more than 10,000 works and is recognized as one of Canada's finest. 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. For more information, please visit [www.artgalleryofhamilton.com](http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com).

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