

## **Artful Moments launches an exhibition of participant artwork**

On view March 24 to April 26 at the David Braley Health Sciences Centre



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 19, 2019**

The Art Gallery of Hamilton is pleased to announce the first public exhibition of original artworks produced by participants of its Artful Moments program. Presented in partnership with the Department of Family Medicine, McMaster University, ***Artful Moments: An Exhibition***, will be on view from **Sunday, March 24 to Friday, April 26** at the David Braley Health Sciences Centre in the Community Garden and David R. Lee Model Railroad Room on the 1st floor.

**Artful Moments: An Exhibition** brings together over 30 works from 12 program participants and celebrates the ability of art to foster self-esteem, wellness and creativity. With the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and TD Financial Group, **Artful Moments: An Exhibition** shares the personal perspectives and intimate reflections of each participant as expressed through their time at the AGH.

**Opening Reception:** Sunday, March 24, 2 – 4 pm  
Remarks at 3 pm

David Braley Health Sciences Centre, McMaster University  
Community Garden and David R. Lee Model Railroad (1st Floor)  
100 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON L8P 1H6

Initially introduced in 2013 as part of a pilot study in partnership with St. Peter's Hospital, Artful Moments officially launched its first on-site participant session in 2017 at the Art Gallery of Hamilton as a specially designed, interactive experience aiming to make art more accessible and enjoyable for people with dementia and their caregivers. Guided by a team of AGH Educators, participants spend time in the AGH galleries learning about various themes, artists, and specific works on display and then express their ideas through various hands-on activities in the AGH Studio. Held four times each year, as six-week sessions, the program provides a framework and avenue for non-verbal and symbolic self-expression, creating a sense of accomplishment and purpose for individuals with compromised communication skills. Often isolated and under-stimulated, creative expression offers participants an effective way to alleviate emotional and psychological distress by establishing new routines and building positive relationships within the community.

"Art provides powerful opportunities for effecting change and enhancing overall well-being," says Shelley Falconer, President and CEO, Art Gallery of Hamilton. "Through the Artful Moments program we have witnessed tremendous breakthroughs in our ability to impact the lives of others and look forward to broadening our overall community care strategy. We strive to provide accessible and nurturing spaces for everyone to enjoy and benefit from."

"The AGH has declared accessible education as one of its core priorities, one of its central and most important functions as a public institution," says Tor Lukasik-Foss, AGH Director of Programs & Education. "Artful Moments is the very embodiment of this commitment; a means to build a learning experience that is tactile, social, and resonant. It proves that art is an essential part of the human experience."

"Our collective agenda is to ensure that high-quality programs and services that respond to Canada's aging population are developed to provide seniors with a better quality of life," says Filomena Tassi, Ontario Minister of Seniors. "The Artful Moments program at the Art Gallery of Hamilton is an excellent example of this."

"Music, art, and craft have always been an integral part of my mom's life," says Jan Wolf, Artful Moments participant caregiver. "Sadly, she can no longer remember any of the sequences involved in expressing herself artistically and producing her art. Artful Moments, in its format and in the personalities of the people who deliver it, has been a wonderful artistic intervention for my mom. I recommend Artful Moments with my whole heart."

"We are extremely proud to support programs and exhibitions that demonstrate the intrinsic value of art and the powerful impact it can have upon the health and wellness of seniors and their caregivers," says Scott Galbraith District Vice President, TD Commercial Banking.

**Registration for Artful Moments**

If you or someone you know is interested in registering for the Artful Moments program or looking for more information, please contact: [access@artgalleryofhamilton.com](mailto:access@artgalleryofhamilton.com) or (905) 527-6610 ext. 272

Funding for the Artful Moments program is provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and TD Financial Group. Research supported by GERAS Centre.

.....

**About the Art Gallery of Hamilton:**

Founded in 1914, the Art Gallery of Hamilton is the oldest and largest public art gallery in southern 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. The Gallery is supported by the City of Hamilton, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council. For more information, please visit [www.artgalleryofhamilton.com](http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com).

**Connect with us:**

Instagram [@at\\_theagh](#)

Twitter [@TheAGH](#)

Facebook [@artgalleryofhamilton](#)

—end—

**For more information and images, please contact:**

Sarah Power, Media Relations, Art Gallery of Hamilton  
123 King Street West, Hamilton ON L8P 4S8  
905.527.6610, ext. 255 [spower@artgalleryofhamilton.com](mailto:spower@artgalleryofhamilton.com)



Art Gallery of Hamilton