



Art Gallery of Hamilton

**The Art Gallery of Hamilton celebrates 105 years
and launches 2019 Summer Exhibitions!**

FREE Summer Opening Celebration on Thursday, June 20 at 6:00 p.m.



Doug Wright, *Nipper and the cat and mouse*, 1973, pen and ink with applies tone laminate on wove paper. Courtesy Library and Archives Canada, © Estate of Douglas Wright.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 6, 2019

Hamilton, Ontario - With profound respect for the 105-year history of the AGH and a nod to the future, the Gallery is pleased to open a series of new exhibitions which honour our past and celebrate the present at the **Summer Opening on June 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.**

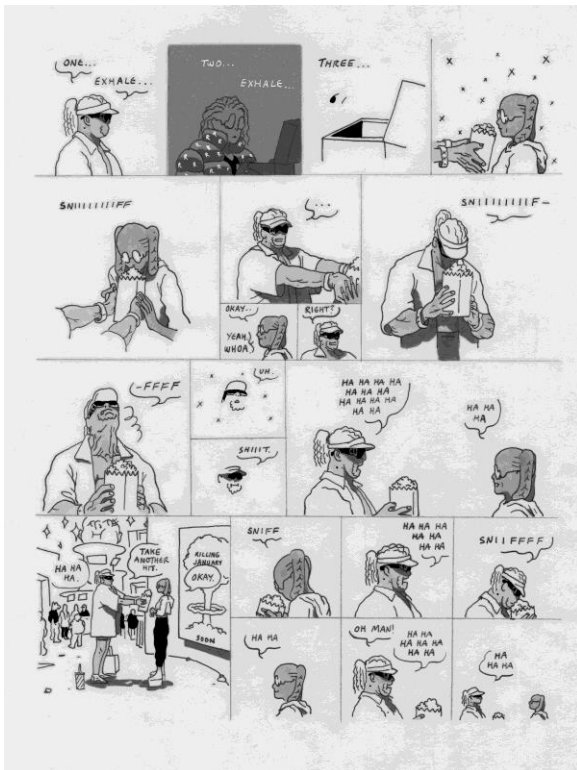
Leading with the first retrospective of Canadian indie comics and viewed through a macroscopic lens, [THIS IS SERIOUS: Canadian Indie Comics](#) provides thoughtful insight into the genre's visual and narrative aspects. While our newest permanent collection exhibition, [The Collection Continues: A Quarter Century of Collecting](#) draws from the AGH vaults and highlights the past twenty-five years of collecting, providing a survey of significant historical Canadian, international and contemporary works.

“What better way to honour our past and reflect on the present than with these important exhibitions,” said AGH President and CEO Shelley Falconer. “*THIS IS SERIOUS: Canadian Indie Comics* is a milestone exhibition, the first comic survey to trace what has become a dominating genre. And with our 105th year before us, we are proud to showcase this collection's history, legacy, and breadth with our permanent collection exhibitions highlighting our well-loved treasures and rarer seen works.”

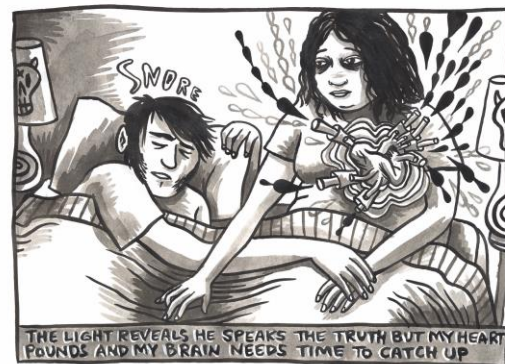
Co-curated by award-winning graphic novelist Joe Ollmann and Adjunct Curator of Contemporary Art Alana Traficante, *THIS IS SERIOUS* presents the recent arc of production that has helped shaped the current state of graphic storytelling, here and now on home soil. It explores themes from feminism, class, gender, labour and gentrification to decolonization and personal experience through a rich visual installation. The exhibition runs from June 21, 2019, through January 5, 2020.

“This exhibition presents work by forty-seven Canadian cartoonists, working in different material practices, and across the country,” said Joe Ollmann. “Comics were once dismissed as a form of low art, but are in fact a legitimate adult art form.”

“Canadian cartoonists have long been at the forefront of the comic arts – some of the most well known, most influential indie cartoonists happen to be from Canada,” said Alana Traficante. “While comics as a medium are meant to be experienced in book form, the beauty of the original artwork is something that we wanted people to see in person, and in the context of an art museum.”



Connor Willumsen, *Excerpt from Anti-Gone (page 64)*, 2016, Ink and marker on vellum. Courtesy of the artist.



Fiona Smyth, *Excerpt from Pavor Nocturnus*, 2006, ink and wash, gouache. Courtesy of the artist.

THIS IS SERIOUS will be presented alongside two complementary projects: [This is Moving: Illustration on Screen](#) will introduce a selection of artists working in contemporary Canadian animation, while [My Back Pages: The Art of Zines and Indie Publishing](#) will provide space for the public to learn about zine culture, try their hand at creating a zine of their own, and be home to three artist residencies (The Centre[3] Zine Club, Billy Mavreas, and Fiona Smyth).

The FREE [2019 Summer Opening on Thursday, June 20, 2019](#) at 6:00 p.m. will celebrate the launch of [The Collection](#), [Navigating Progress: Hind vs. Hind](#), [In Residence: REITZENSTEIN](#), [Milli: A Celebration of Style](#) as well as our Special Exhibitions [THIS IS SERIOUS: Canadian Indie Comics](#), [This is Moving: Illustration on Screen](#), and [My Back Pages: The Art of Zines and Indie Publishing](#), and [The Collection Continues: A Quarter Century of Collecting](#).

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[THIS IS SERIOUS: Canadian Indie Comics](#)

On view June 21, 2019 – January 5, 2020
#AGHComics

[My Back Pages: The Art of Zines and Indie Publishing](#)

On view June 21 – November 10, 2019
#AGHZines

[This is Moving: Illustration on Screen](#)

On view June 21 – September 8, 2019
#AGHMoving

[The Collection Continues: A Quarter Century of Collecting](#)

On view June 21, 2019 – January 5, 2020
#AGHCollection

[The Collection](#)

Permanent Installation
#AGHCollection

[Navigating Progress: Hind vs. Hind](#)

On view April 20 – September 29, 2019
#AGHHind

[In Residence: REITZENSTEIN](#)

On view April 20, 2019 – March 29, 2020
#AGHReitzenstein

[Milli: A Celebration of Style](#)

On view April 13, 2019 – February 9, 2020
#AGHMilli

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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. The Gallery is supported by the City of Hamilton, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council.

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