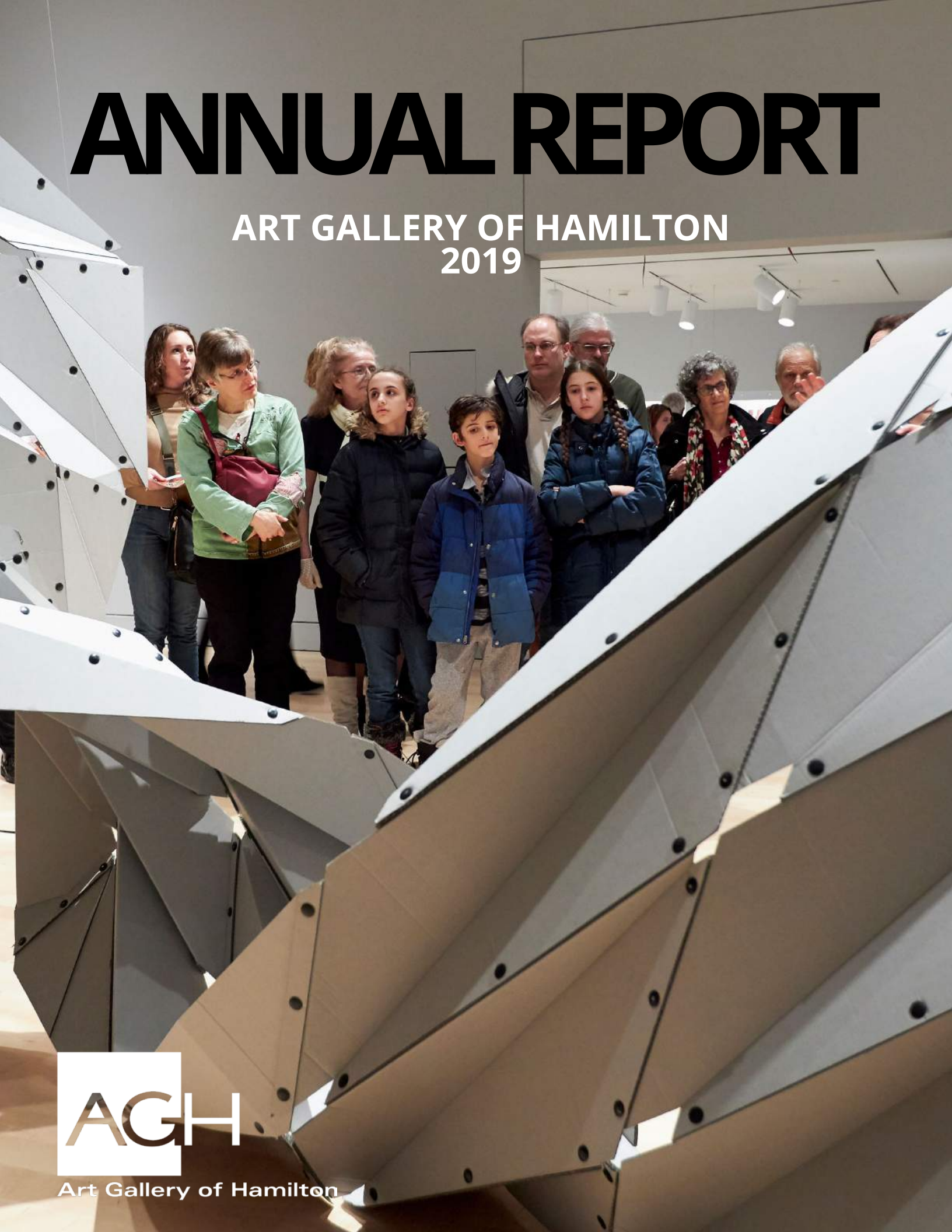


ANNUAL REPORT

ART GALLERY OF HAMILTON
2019



AGH

Art Gallery of Hamilton

PRESIDENT & CEO

Shelley Falconer

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Front Cover image credit: Installation view of *Above the Fold: New Expressions in Origami*, 2019, featuring work by Jiangmei Wu. Photo: Mike Lalich

Back Cover image credit: Installation view of *The Collection*, 2019, featuring works by Lawren Harris. Photo: Robert McNair

Message from the Chair and President & CEO

A banner year for the AGH, 2019 saw the Gallery collaborating on an unprecedented number of projects, working across disciplinary boundaries and culminating in 22 exhibitions, over 20 public talks and panels, and over 190 public programs. Our exhibitions featured 331 artists, collaborated with over 20 partners, and welcomed in over 250,000 visitors. We provided innovative education and outreach programs to over 14,000 students from junior kindergarten through post-secondary schools.



Gary Graham
Chair, Board of Directors

A year full of incredible exhibitions featured a two-fold approach to engaging our visitors – responding to calls to see more of our permanent collection, and presenting oft-overlooked modes of contemporary art representation. Our 252,359 visitors in 2019 enjoyed a wide selection of our collection through *Norval Morrisseau, The Collection Continues: A Quarter Century of Collecting*, and the expansion of our Gallery Level 2 exhibition *The Collection*. These exhibitions brought the work of such artists as Alex Colville, Meryl McMaster, Auguste Rodin, Jean-Paul Riopelle, Gustave Doré, Norval Morrisseau, and many more out of our vaults and on to our walls. Meanwhile, the stunning, expansive group shows *Above the Fold: New Expressions in Origami* and *THIS IS SERIOUS: Canadian Indie Comics* brought together world-renowned artists working in two artistic forms underrepresented on museum walls – presenting the internationally-practiced art of origami and the beloved world of Canadian indie comic art.



Shelley Falconer
AGH President & CEO

While *The Collection* exhibition continued to expand, so too did our permanent collection of over 10,500 works. Among our generous donations this year were six sculptures by Canadian contemporary artist Tim Whiten, one painting each by Canadian legends William Kurelek and T.R. MacDonald, and ten works on paper by the late Ojibwe artist Carl Beam. We were also fortunate to purchase notable works by Canadian and Indigenous artists, including two panel-mounted prints from Cree artist Meryl McMaster's widely-acclaimed *As Immense as the Sky* series, works on paper by AGH favourites Liss Platt and Divya Mehra, and several prints from the Hamilton-based recent exhibition artist duo, Cees and Annerie van Gernerden.

With a commitment to the power of wellness and the arts, this year also saw the mounting of our first public exhibition of original artworks produced by participants of our Artful Moments program for persons with dementia. Displayed next door to the AGH at the David Braley Health

Sciences Centre, the exhibition featured over 30 works from 12 program participants, celebrating the ability of art to foster self-esteem, wellness, and creativity. The Artful Moments program was also the recipient of the Ontario Association of Art Galleries' 2019 Education Award.

Among the AGH permanent collection works travelling the globe this year, we were very excited to contribute works to the *Canada and Impressionism: New Horizons* exhibition organized by the National Gallery of Canada, on view at the Kunsthalle München in Germany before traveling to Switzerland, France, and returning to Ottawa. Present for the Munich opening, Senior Curator Tobi Bruce noted the presence of William Blair Bruce's works at the show's entrance, an exciting placement for Canada's first Impressionist painter and our founding artist.

Connecting to the youth in our community, our Educational Outreach Manager, Sara Dickinson, cultivated the Community Corridor project, in which Hamilton Wentworth District School Board students created art to cover expropriated buildings along the former proposed LRT line – buildings that have been sitting vacated and empty for a year. Their work reflected on student expressions of community, unity, and strength, and is still visible on Main St. West between Paisley Ave. and Bond St., as well as at 696 King St. East.

The 11th annual AGH Film Festival marked the start of a new decade for the event with the launching of several new programs. A new addition for the Festival was the Short Films Program, which featured a range of works and filmmakers, from first-time Hamilton directors to the Oscar-nominated Yorgos Lanthimos. In addition, the Exhibition Connections program offered an array of films and events connected to Gallery exhibitions, including a theatrical staging of work by *THIS IS SERIOUS* artist Seth, a rare 16mm film screening of collection artist Joyce Wieland's *Reason Over Passion*, and a celebration of the 50th anniversary of 2020 exhibition artist Michael Snow's *Back and Forth*, *Dripping Water*, and *One Second in Montreal*. Along with the stellar program of over 100 films, these new additions made the Festival a tremendous success, even reaching gender parity with women directing over 53% of the films – an achievement very few film festivals can boast.

Amidst these efforts, the Marketing and Communications department connected our exhibitions and programs to the communities surrounding us. Over 40 editorial features highlighted AGH initiatives, presenting our work across North America in publications such as *The Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Life Magazine*, *The Hamilton Spectator*, *CBC News*, *ArtDaily*, *Drawn & Quarterly*, and *Fashion Magazine*. The team also set up a booth at the annual Art Toronto convention, reaching a Toronto-based audience with our banner exhibition, *THIS IS SERIOUS: Canadian Indie Comics*.

At the administrative level, our leadership team committed themselves to prudent fiscal management with outstanding results. The commercial team, including Development, Wedding and Events, Retail and Art Sales & Services achieved record earned revenues in 2019 while management controlled expenses and continued to invest in the Gallery's long-term sustainability. Ever an equal contributor outside our walls as within, the AGH was demonstrated to be a powerful economic force in Hamilton and the Region by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport's independent model with an economic impact of over 20 million.

None of this would have been possible without all the generous philanthropic and government support helping us to strengthen our existing programs and launch new initiatives. Of course, we also owe a great deal of gratitude towards both the leadership of our AGH Board Directors and Governors, as well as the immeasurable contributions of our staff, volunteers, donors, and sponsors.

Thank you all for your continued support on this journey.



Shelley Falconer, AGH President & CEO



Gary Graham, Chair, Board of Directors

Exhibition Highlights



Above the Fold: New Expressions in Origami

*Organized and circulated by
International Art and Artists*

Presented By RBC Royal Bank

Origami—the Japanese art of paper folding—has become so popular that it is now practiced all around the world. In the hands of some extraordinary artists, this art form has recently evolved in remarkable new directions, including sculpture, large-scale installations, and conceptual works that express contemporary social, political, and aesthetic ideas.

Above the Fold presented the work of nine renowned artists from four different continents, working in six different countries. These artists—Yuko Nishimura (Japan), Erik DeMaine and Martin DeMaine (Canada/USA), Vincent Floderer (France), Miri Golan (Israel), Paul Jackson (UK/Israel), Robert J. Lang (USA), Richard Sweeney (UK), and Jiangmei Wu (China/USA)—have been pushing the boundaries of origami to elevate what was once considered a children’s craft into a sophisticated global art form.

Image credits: [Pg 6] Richard Sweeney (British b. 1984), *Air*, 2014, paper, wood, metal fixings, cotton cord. Photo: Robert McNair | [Pg 7] Installation view of Carmela Laganse (Canadian), *Debaser* (detail), 2016, reclaimed wood, various materials, digital projection, hardware, microcontrollers. Courtesy of the artist. . Photo: Robert McNair | Installation view of Laura Marotta (Canadian b. 1984), *Mountain Housing*, 2017, marine grade mahogany plywood, pine, house paint, acrylic, 3d printed resin, stainless steel bolts, nuts, washers and screw, wheels. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Robert McNair | Installation view of *In Residence: REITZENSTEIN*, 2019. Photo: Robert McNair | Installation view of *In Residence: REITZENSTEIN*, 2019. Audience engagement during Free Friday

Hamilton Now: Object

As a statement on the incredible number of artists working in Hamilton, including many who are newly arrived, the *Hamilton Now* exhibition was organized in two parts. The second phase, called Object, focused mainly on sculptors. This large group exhibition offered fresh experiences of various material and conceptual approaches to the medium. Works included architectural explorations of place, hybridized clay sculptures, textile works and an interactive digital video project that incorporates a sculptural map of Hamilton. Artists included were: Donna Akrey, Christopher Reid Flock, Destiny Grimm, Hamilton Perambulatory Unit (HPU), Svava Thordis Juliusson, Carmela Laganse, Laura Marotta, Taien Ng-Chan, and PERSONS.



In Residence: REITZENSTEIN

The AGH was thrilled to have REITZENSTEIN usher in our inaugural year-long residency program within the David Braley and Nancy Gordon Sculpture Atrium with several ambitious and extraordinary works. In his art practice, he explores the relationship between technology and the natural world. An ongoing communal drawing of a tree including the word “maple” (or “tree”) in 87 languages spoken locally was both a poetic and poignant process-driven work. It was mirrored by a horizontally suspended tree whose ongoing felting resulted in a dramatically altered ‘species.’ As a highly engaging residency, REITZENSTEIN conducted workshops and interactive tours through which participants examined the collaboration between our non-physical consciousness and the inverted tree as a symbol of curiosity and exploration.



The Collection Continues: A Quarter Century of Collecting

Supported by AGH Friends and Supporters including Filomena Frisina, Don & Sheila Pether

This exhibition brought together outstanding works acquired over the last twenty-five years by the Art Gallery of Hamilton for its permanent collection. Featuring local, national, and international artists from the past and present, this exhibition considered the remarkable growth of the permanent collection and the intimate connections between its many strengths

The works in this exhibition demonstrated how the AGH continues to build its permanent collection with a view to capturing significant moments in the careers of artists, in major art movements, and in local and wider histories. Generating new questions, narratives, and dialogues, these works have enhanced and helped transform the quality and breadth of the permanent collection.

Work in a range of media—painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, and sculpture—and from the hands of both historical and contemporary artists reflects on the last twenty-five years of collecting. The work of over seventy artists is presented, including: Alex Colville, Meryl McMaster, Attila Richard Lukacs, BGL, Tim Whiten, Barbara Steinman, David Milne, Divya Mehra, Auguste Rodin, Robert Houle, Jean-Paul Riopelle, Kathleen Munn, Geneviève Cadieux, André Derain, and Gustave Doré, to name just a few.



Milli: A Celebration of Style

Guest Curated by Nolan Bryant, in Partnership with Milli

Supported by the Gould Family, Graham Stephenson LLP, Effort Trust and many the friends and business associates of the late fashion icon Milli Gould.

In *Milli: A Celebration of Style*, ensembles that span trailblazing fashion retailer Milli Gould's first half-century in business were exhibited in conversation with works from the Art Gallery of Hamilton's permanent collection. This was the first comprehensive exhibition focused on Milli and the first exhibition at the AGH to put fashion in dialogue with art.

The thematic show featured nearly 50 ensembles of couture and ready-to-wear on-loan from the wardrobes of Milli's devoted clients, some dating as far back as 1964 when Mrs. Gould founded her eponymous Hamilton shop. These, along with photographs, ephemera and a recreation of the Milli atelier, highlighted the business and artistry of retailing, an often overlooked aspect of the fashion industry.



Subtle evening ensembles and bold flashes of extravagance stood together as nuanced expressions of the Milli aesthetic. However it is the stories which accompanied them, that help illustrate fashion as a force for change and Mrs. Gould as a quiet activist and champion of beauty who outfitted women as they took on new spaces in society.



THIS IS SERIOUS: Canadian Indie Comics

*Supported by Stresscrete Group,
Michael and Jane Schwenger*

THIS IS SERIOUS: Canadian Indie Comics presented a survey of contemporary Canadian artists working in the expansive genre of cartooning and indie comics. On the international stage, the comic arts are highly regarded, but in Canada, it is arguable that cartoonists don't receive the same level of art world recognition. Despite this, Canadians make considerable contributions to the greater field of international comics, and Toronto, Montreal, and Hamilton are all significant

centres of comic art production. In response to this void in the Canadian museum context, *THIS IS SERIOUS* took the energy of underground artistic production and indie publishing as its impetus to make visible the breadth of activity by a diverse range of artists working in this genre, throughout Canada.

Co-curated by award-winning graphic novelist Joe Ollmann and Alana Traficante, the exhibition was national in scope and featured the work of 47 artists. *THIS IS SERIOUS* presented the recent arc of production that has helped shaped the current state of graphic storytelling, here and now on home soil.



Image credits: [Pg 8] Installation view of *The Collection Continues*, 2019. Photo: Mike Lalich | Installation view of *Milli: A Celebration of Style*, 2019. Photo: Robert McNair | Installation view of *Milli: A Celebration of Style*, 2019. Photo: Robert McNair | [Pg 9] Installation view of *This Is Serious: Canadian Indie Comics*, 2019. Photo: Robert McNair | Installation view of *This Is Serious: Canadian Indie Comics*, 2019. Photo: Robert McNair

Exhibitions

Speaking for Herself

March 10, 2018 - March 17, 2019

Curated by Tobi Bruce

Rosemary Kilbourn: A Singular Place

October 13, 2018 -

March 17, 2019

Guest curated by Zoë Lepiano

Norval Morrisseau

October 13, 2018 -

March 17, 2019

Guest curated by Tara Ng and made possible through the support of an Ontario Arts Council Culturally Diverse Curatorial Project grant

The Living Room: unfolding...

November 17, 2018 -

May 12, 2019

Curated by Tor Lukasik-Foss

Women's Art Association of Hamilton: 125th Anniversary Exhibition: Celebrations!

December 14, 2018 -

March 3, 2019

Organized by the Women's Art Association of Hamilton

Hamilton Now: Object

December 8, 2018 -

May 20, 2019

Curated by Melissa Bennett

Above the Fold: New Expressions in Origami

February 2 - May 26, 2019

Curated by Meher McArthur. Tour organized by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.

Presented By RBC Royal Bank

Around the Bay Road Race: 125 Years Strong

March 9 - May 5, 2019

Organized in partnership with Around the Bay Road Race

Artful Moments: An Exhibition

March 24 - April 26, 2020

Presented in partnership with the Department of Family Medicine, McMaster University. Sponsored by Ontario Trillium Foundation and TD Financial Group.

Milli: A Celebration of Style

April 13, 2019 - February 9, 2020

Guest curated by Nolan Bryant Supported by the Gould Family, Graham Stephenson LLP, Effort Trust and many the friends and business associates of the late fashion icon Milli Gould.

Navigating Progress: Hind vs. Hind

April 20 - September 29, 2019

Guest curated by Simon Frank

In Residence: REITZENSTEIN

April 20, 2019 - August 03, 2020

Curated by Tara Ng

The Collection

April 20, 2019 - ongoing

Curated by Tobi Bruce, Tara Bursey, Laurie Kilgour Walsh and Tor Lukasik-Foss

Supported by incite Foundation for the Arts, and Gallery Friends, Bob & Maggie Carr

Declaration: HWDSB Annual Grade 12 Graduating Exhibition

June 7 - June 23, 2019

Organized by AGH Youth in collaboration with Hamilton Wentworth District Secondary Schools

THIS IS SERIOUS: Canadian Indie Comics

June 21, 2019 - January 5, 2020

Co-curated by Joe Ollmann and Alana Traficante Supported by Stresscrete Group, Michael and Jane Schwenger

**This is Moving:
Illustration on Screen**

June 21 - September 8, 2019

Curated by Ryan Ferguson

**My Back Pages: The Art
of Zines and Indie
Publishing**

June 21 - November 10, 2019

Curated by Tara Bursey

**The Collection
Continues: A Quarter
Century of Collecting**

June 21, 2019 – January 05, 2020

Curated by Christine Braun, Tobi
Bruce, and Tara Ng

Supported by AGH Friends and
Supporters including Filomena
Frisina, Don & Sheila Pether

**Cootes Paradise Marsh:
A Place Above All Others**

September 6 - December 1, 2019

Organized by Hamilton

Naturalists Club and the Royal
Botanical Gardens

**Alootook Ipellie: Walking
Both Sides of an
Invisible Border**

September 28, 2019 -

January 5, 2020

Curated by Sandra Dyck, Heather
Igloliorte and Christine Lalonde.

Organized and circulated by Car-
leton University Art Gallery

**Building Cultural
Legacies**

November 23, 2019 -

August 30, 2020

Organized by Hamilton Arts
Council

**Women's Art Associa-
tion of Hamilton: 124th
Juried Exhibition**

December 8, 2019 -

March 7, 2020

Juried exhibition

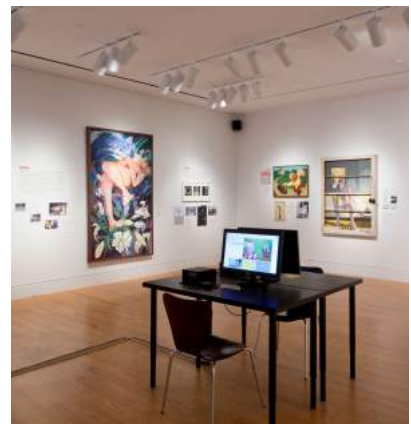
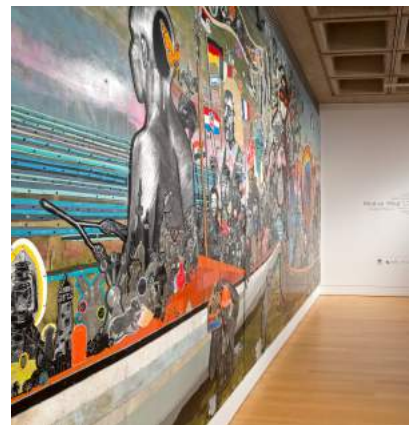


Image credits: [Pg 11] Jaime Angelopoulos (Canadian b. 1982), *Stand Up for Yourself*, 2012, painted papier maché on plaster. Gift of the artist, 2017. © Jaime Angelopolous | Norval Morrisseau (Anishinaabe 1931-2007), *Shaman and Apprentice*, ca. 1980-85, acrylic on canvas. Gift of Mr. Nicholas John Pustina, Mr. Robert Edward Zelinski, and Mr. Kenny Alwyn Whent, 1985 | Installation view of *Hind Vs. Hind: Navigating Progress*, 2019. Photo: Robert McNair | Installation view of *My Back Pages: The Art of Zines and Publishing*, 2019. Photo: Robert McNair | Installation view of *Alootook Ipellie: Walking Both Sides of an Invisible Border*, 2019 | Installation view of *Building Cultural Legacies*, 2019. Photo: Robert McNair

Acquisitions

Donations

Charlotte Schreiber (British 1834-1922)

The Oldest House in England
before 1875
mixed media on paper
16.5 x 24 cm (sight)

untitled (three figures)
before 1875
mixed media on paper
15 x 17.5 cm (sight)

Franz Johnston (Canadian 1888-1949)

untitled (landscape)
gouache on paper
22 x 11 cm
Gifts of Mr. James Leach, 2019

John Lyman (Canadian b. USA 1886-1967)

The Beach, Saint Jean de Luz
mixed media on paper
40.6 x 47 cm (sight)
signed RLRC "Lyman"

Hill Farm (St. Jovite) 1935
oil on board
38 x 46 cm
signed RLRC "Lyman"
Gifts of Dr. Richard Renlund,
2019

Francis Robert Halliday (Canadian 1884-1976)

untitled (logging image)
before 1930
etching on paper
12.7 x 19 cm
signed RLRC "F.R. Halliday"

John Taylor Arms (American 1887-1953)

Bourges or The Cathedral of St. Étienne 1925
etching on paper, first state
35.5 x 23 cm
signed RLRC "John Taylor Arms 1925"

Percy James Westwood (British 1878-1958)

St. Pauls
etching on paper
25 x 9.5 cm
inscribed RLLC "St Pauls;"
signed RLRC "Percy J. Westwood"
Gifts of Terry West and Mark Defend, 2019

Elisabeth Frink (British 1930-1993)

Carapace II 1963
bronze, ed. 3/6
30.5 x 61 x 12.7 cm
signed on underside 'Frink 3/6'
Anonymous gift, 2019

Tim Whiten (Canadian b. USA 1941)

Magic Sticks 1970
leather, wood
2.5 x 89 x 2.5 cm (each stick)
Gift of the artist, in memory of Anne Brodsky, 2019

Ouroboros 1976
adobe, dried snake, pillow
24.1 x 28 x 28 cm
Gift of the artist, in memory of Tom and Mary E. Whiten, 2019

Tabernacle 1980
chewing gum over plywood, vitrine
26.7 x 28 x 38.1 cm
Gift of the artist, in memory of Tom and Mary E. Whiten, 2019

Awk 1989
leather, shark jaw
90.2 x 52.1 x 17.1 cm
Gift of the artist, in honour of Laura Moore, 2019

Mary's Permeating Sign 2006
cast, sandblasted glass, pillow
ed of 2
20.3 x 61 x 38.1 cm (rolling pin:
11.4 x 61 x 11.4 cm)
Gift of the artist, in memory of Tom and Mary E. Whiten, 2019

Reliquaire (II) 2014-2015
handcrafted crystal clear glass, mirror, human skull, gold leaf
45.7 x 30.5 x 30.5 cm
Gift of the artist, in memory of Tom and Mary E. Whiten, 2019

An Whitlock (Canadian b. 1944)

Report on Business 2000-2007
Installation comprising 84 pairs of papier maché painted shoe forms, (newsprint, flour, water, glue, gesso and black paint), selected digital photographs various dimensions
Gift of the artist, 2019

Liss Platt (Canadian b. USA 1965)

Fourteen photographs from the series Silent Treatments and Talking Cures 1991
fiber-based black and white prints, archivally mounted various dimensions
Gift of the artist, 2019

William Kurelek (Canadian 1927-1977)

My Brother Defending a Bird 1972
mixed media on board
53.3 x 22.2 cm
Gift of Lorna Earl, 2019

T.R. MacDonald (Canadian 1908-1978)

Portrait of a McMaster Student 1948
oil on canvas
63.50 x 48.3 cm
Gift of Lewis P. Stolman, M.D., 2019

Edna Taçon (Canadian b. USA 1905-1980)

Composition 1940
collage on paper
22.2 x 15.2 cm

Blue Nocturne July 1943
watercolour on paper on board
53.3 x 66 cm

Percy Henry Taçon (Canadian b. England 1902-1983)

series of small sketches 1937-1940
pencil on paper
17.4 x 11.3 cm

untitled 1942
watercolour on paper
17.7 x 10.6 cm

untitled c. 1940
watercolour and pencil on paper
16 x 10.5 cm

Edna Taçon (Canadian b. USA 1905-1980) OR Percy Henry Taçon (Canadian b. England 1902-1983)

four untitled drawings
mixed media
various dimensions
Gifts of Eva Oram, former student of Professor Percy Taçon, (College of Education, University of Toronto, 1966), 2019

Sol LeWitt (American 1928-2007)

eight original silk screens in four colours, fifteen inches square 1972

1. Red grid, blue circles, black and yellow arcs from opposite corners.
2. Blue grid, red circles, black and yellow arcs from opposite sides.
3. Yellow grid, black circles, red and blue arcs from opposite corners.
4. Black grid, yellow circles, red and blue arcs from opposite sides.
5. Red grid, blue circles, black

and yellow arcs from adjacent corners.

6. Blue grid, red circles, black and yellow arcs from adjacent sides.

7. Yellow grid, black circles, red and blue arcs from adjacent corners.

8. Black grid, yellow circles, red and blue arcs from adjacent sides.

15 x 15 "; 38.1 x 38.1 cm each

Blueprints for first Canadian wall drawing by LeWitt, 1981
Various cards/correspondence related to above
Gifts of Michael Davey, 2019

Marian Dale Scott (Canadian 1906-1993)

Jazz Session
ink on paper
18.1 x 12.7 cm
Gift of Molly Ungar in memory of her sister Vicky Bach, 2019

Rae Hendershot (Canadian 1921-1988)

Portrait of Helen Baillie
oil on canvas
81.3 x 66 cm
Gift of John A. Baillie, 2019

Carl Beam (Ojibwe 1943-2005)

5 mixed media works on Arches Paper
Gathering
From Annet
From Annet II
Friends of the Indians
Black Box
76.2 x 58.4 each
Gifts of Dr. Izchak Barzilay, 2019

Acquisitions

Purchases

**Meryl McMaster (Cree/
Euro-Canadian b. 1988)**

From a Still Unquiet Place 2019
from the series *As Immense as
the Sky*
chromogenic print flush
mounted to Aluminum Com-
posite Panel
ed. 4/5
101.60 x 152.40 cm

*What Will I Say to the Sky and the
Earth II* 2019
from the series *As Immense as
the Sky*
chromogenic print flush
mounted to Aluminum Com-
posite Panel
ed. 2/5
101.60 x 152.40 cm
Purchased with funds provided
by the Women's Art Association
of Hamilton, 2019

**Liss Platt (Canadian b.
USA 1965)**

Constant 5 x 5 E 2017
chromogenic print on paper
76.2 x 101.6 cm
Purchased with funds provided
by the Women's Art Association
of Hamilton, 2019

**Divya Mehra (Canadian
b. 1981)**

Currently Fashionable 2009/17
screenprint on watercolour
paper
ed. 4/4
paper: 96.5 x 147.3 cm
Purchased with funds provided
through the Susan and Alfred
Wavell Peene Memorial, 2019

**Rosalie Favell (Métis b.
1958)**

*The Collector/The Artist in Her
Museum* 2005
inkjet print on rag paper
91.4 x 91.4 cm
Purchase, Permanent Collection
Fund, 2019

**Cees van Gernerden (Ca-
nadian b. Netherlands
1940)**

Mapletree Vs Battery Cases
1989
from the series *Trespassing –
More Power Anyone?*
gelatin silver print
47 x 31.5 cm
Purchase, Permanent Collection
Fund, 2019

**Cees and Annerie van
Gernerden (Canadian b.
Netherlands 1940; Dutch
b. 1941)**

untitled (women in front of tank)
untitled (men under umbrella)
*untitled (woman outside fruit
stand)*
from the series *On and Around
James Street* 1984-85
gelatin silver prints
printed 2018 by Marco Buona-
core
20.3 x 30.5 cm each
Purchase, Permanent Collection
Fund, 2019

Image credits: [Pg 15] [Top] Meryl McMaster (Plains Cree/Euro-Canadian b. 1988), *What Will I Say to the Sky and the Earth II* (from the series *As Immense as the Sky*), 2019, chromogenic print flush mounted to Aluminum Composite Panel. Gift of the Women's Art Association of Hamilton, 2019 | [Bottom Left] William Kurelek (Canadian 1927-1977), *My Brother Defending a Bird*, 1972, mixed media on board. Gift of Lorna Earl, 2019 | [Bottom Right] T.R. MacDonald (Canadian 1908-1978), *Portrait of a McMaster Student*, 1948, oil on canvas. Gift of Lewis P. Stolman, M.D., 2019



Programs & Education Highlights

Programs and Education enjoyed a vigorous year in 2019; relying on strong community partnerships as a means to facilitate rich cultural exchanges and engagements, underlining the majority of our successes.

Our **Public Program** was anchored by over twenty public talks and panels, nearly double what we've traditionally organized, thanks to partnered programs with the Royal Botanical Garden (RBG), the Hamilton Artists Inc, the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, each of whom collaborated on joint talk and tour events throughout the year.

Free Fridays is a monthly event that extends free access to AGH visitors and which has steadily grown to become one of the Gallery's most popular recurring initiatives. In 2018, the AGH began to invest further in Free Fridays, extending its hours (it is currently offered on the first Friday of each month, from noon until 8 pm), and using it to showcase a wide array of AGH activities including free tours, hands-on workshops, informal talks and a variety of performances. As a result, public support for the program doubled in 2018, and then doubled again in 2019. Last year Free Friday served almost 5000 patrons; in 2020 we expect this success to continue.

Family and Youth programs included a successful and innovative Youth Pride Launch, an annual picnic that served over 600 community lunches and brought together multiple community partners such as the Hamilton Public Library, the RBG, Environment Hamilton, and more. Storytime offered monthly programs for new mothers, and by the fall was offered in both French and English. Summer



Camp offered six weeks of full-day programming, including a week of subsidized camp, and a dedicated week for young teenagers; it ran at full capacity for the entire summer.

School Programs have been diversifying rapidly over the last few years; AGH On-Site which facilitates full and half-day visits, have been balanced by AGH In-Class, which puts artist educators in school classrooms to deliver multiweek projects. In 2019 specifically, there were many special initiatives enriching this mix, including the expansion of our Alternative Education program to Winston Churchill and Bernie Custis Secondary Schools, our annual Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Symposia which served 140 students, two AGH In-Class community mural projects in partnership with Metrolinx, and a new annual exhibition of Grade 12 student art, *Declaration*, launched in our Community Gallery in June.

The AGH enjoyed a very rewarding year of **Wellness** programs, led by Artful Moments, a studio program designed for adults with dementia and their caregivers, which offered four 6-week sessions throughout the year. We marked the conclusion of that Trillium Seed Grant developed program by installing a spring exhibition of participant work on the main floor of the David Braley Health Sciences Centre. This exhibition also coincided with the announcement of significant financial support from TD Bank Financial Group, which subsequently allowed for preparations to extend wellness work to autism, high-risk prenatal parents, schizophrenia, and other communities, and has led to partnerships with McMaster University, Autism Ontario, and a number of researchers and clinicians.

The freshly re-branded **AGH Film Festival** enjoyed its 11th edition with fresh partnerships with both Westdale and Playhouse Cinemas, a move that not only extended the Festival's geographic reach, but which also boosted both the capacity and quality of the screenings on view. The Festival enjoyed an audience of 8500, a sold-out educational screening of the documentary *Willie*, and paid tribute to celebrated Canadian Indigenous actor Gary Farmer.

Finally Programming and Education helmed the development of community based and interactive exhibitions for two gallery spaces, the Living Room, and the upper Fischer or Community Gallery. Highlights included this fall's *Cootes Paradise: A Place Above All Others*; in partnership with the RBG, Hamilton Naturalists Club, HPL's Local History and Archives, and Dundas Historical Museum, and *Building Cultural Legacies*, a survey of Hamilton arts from 1950 to 2000, coordinated by the Hamilton Arts Council. Other exhibitions marked the 125th anniversaries for both the Women's Art Association and Hamilton's Around the Bay Race.



Volunteer Committee Report



The Art Gallery of Hamilton in conjunction with a strong team of volunteers completed another successful year of providing outstanding exhibitions, school programs and films to the Hamilton community. In 2019 the volunteer team continued to support the following: school, public and Family Fun Day tours; the AGH Film Series and the AGH Film Festival; retail activities in the Shop at AGH; special events such as the gala, weddings, exhibition openings etc; admission to the Gallery.

The Gallery has over 120 dynamic engaged volunteers who are dedicated ambassadors welcoming visitors to the Gallery on a daily basis for all the activities happening throughout the year.

In 2019 the volunteers contributed 6,257 hours of their time to the Gallery representing a 650 hour increase over 2018. This was accomplished in spite of reduced school tours in the fall due to rotating teachers strikes. The hours were broken down as follows:

- Education – 2,399 hours
- Visitor Services – 1,219 hours
- Kids Camp – 815 hours
- Film – 615 hours
- Ad HOC – 538 hours
- Special Events – 236 hours
- Volunteer Executive Committee – 206 hours
- Retail – 136 hours
- Recruitment – 93 hours

The Education Department ran another very successful docent training program in the fall which introduced a new and very enthusiastic group of docents for tours in the Gallery. We added 11 docents to the team and now have a compliment of 32 active docents. Docents offer a wide range of tours including Discovery tours to students from elementary and high schools, PA Day Camps and Summer Camps in addition to adult tours on weekends and Free Fridays.

The 2019 Volunteer Executive Committee (VCE) meets monthly and is made up of the following members: Cam Theroux (Chair), Margaret Fong (Vice Chair), Hanno Weinberger (Past Chair), Lynn Tomasek (Secretary/Archiving), Kay Steel (Recruitment Chair). Our Volunteer Liaisons include: Larissa Ciupka (Docent/Library), Jennifer Powell-Fralick (Film), Ashmita Chopra (Retail), Christi Marks (AGH Staff), Mary MacDougall (Visitor Services).

In 2019 the following changes occurred at the Executive level:

Margaret Fong moved from Retail to assume the Vice Chair position. Replacing Margaret in retail we were pleased to welcome Ashmita Chopra to the executive. In addition, we were also pleased to welcome Larissa Ciupka to the education position (now Docent/Library) replacing Diana Gordon who resigned from the committee after serving for more than five years in Education.

In 2019 the role of Education Liaison was changed to Docent/Library to include activities from the Archive Project and Library to the role of the liaison. The Archive Project consists of 5 volunteers working on consolidating cataloging and organizing historical documents related to the VCE. These include minute binders and 16 scrapbooks documenting AGH/VCE media coverage from the 50's through the 70's. The AGH Library benefits from the support of 3 dedicated, long term volunteers having logged over 78 years of total service to the library. The library volunteers work closely with administrative, curatorial and education staff.

In June the Recruitment team added a new responsibility to their role. They were requested by the Education Department to provide the initial interviews for high school students applying for the position of Camp Assistant. Throughout the year the Recruitment Team could also do interviews for PA Day Camps, Winter Break Camp and the March Break Camp.

In 2019 two members of the executive received volunteer awards:

The Ruth McCuaig Volunteer of the Year Award - outstanding contribution over the past year to Hanno Weinberger. Hanno completed his term as chair of the VCE, is an active member of the docent committee and also sits on the Acquisitions Committee.

The Irving Zucker Lifetime Dedication Award – Margaret Fong for over 34 years of service to the Gallery. Margaret has volunteered primarily with the retail team and brings considerable experience to the role of Vice Chair. In 2021 Margaret will assume the role of Chair and continue to provide her experience and guidance to the VCE. Congratulations to both for their achievements.

In 2019 we recognized the following volunteers completing 5 years of service with the gallery: Marilyn Adams, Christina Anderson, Anne Cutler, Helen Freeland, Michael Parante, Louise Savocchia, Cam Theroux.

Staff oversight of volunteers rests with Christi Marks – Director, People & Operations. Christi is an invaluable resource to the VCE and we are grateful for her contributions, guidance, and support.

The VCE would also like to recognize all AGH staff who consistently provide support and assistance to all the AGH volunteers.

Cam Theroux
Chair, Volunteer Committee Executive 2019

2019 By The Numbers

252,359

Visitors in 2019

22

Exhibitions

331

Artists Featured

190+

Public
Programs

20+

Public Talks
& Panels

53

Acquisitions

14,000+

students from JK through post-secondary

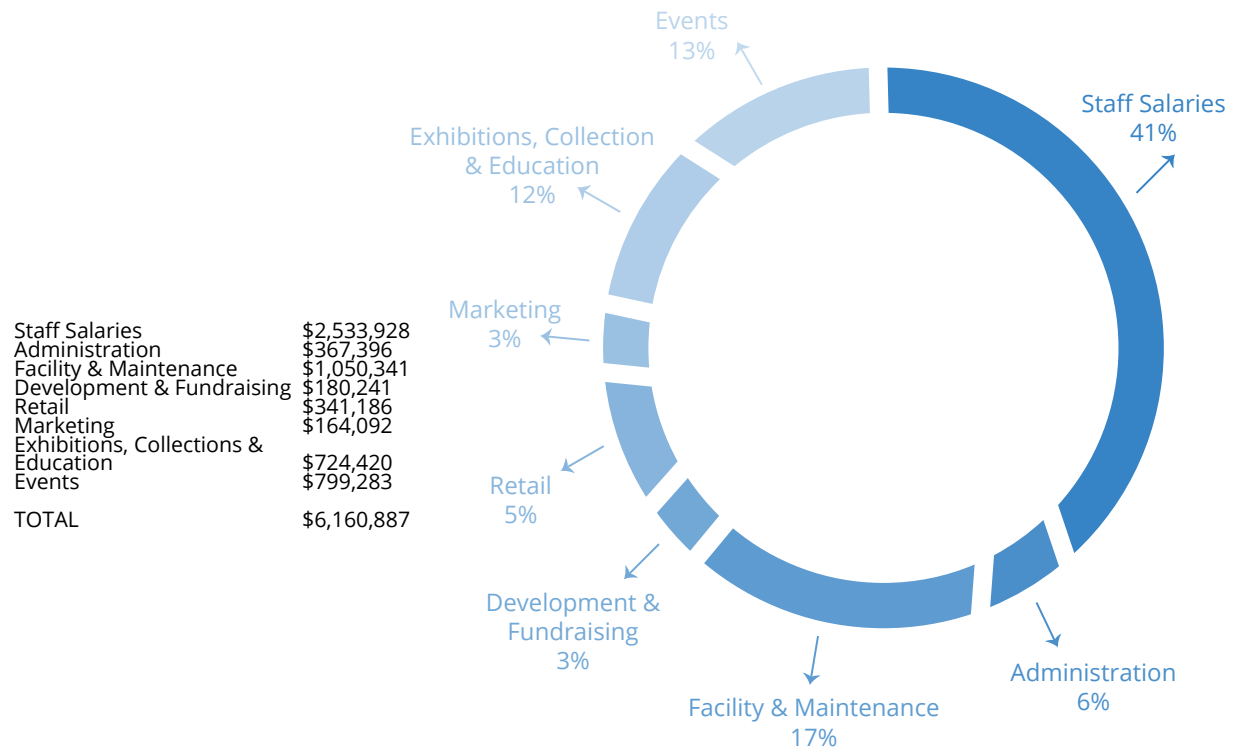
6,257

Logged Volunteer
Hours

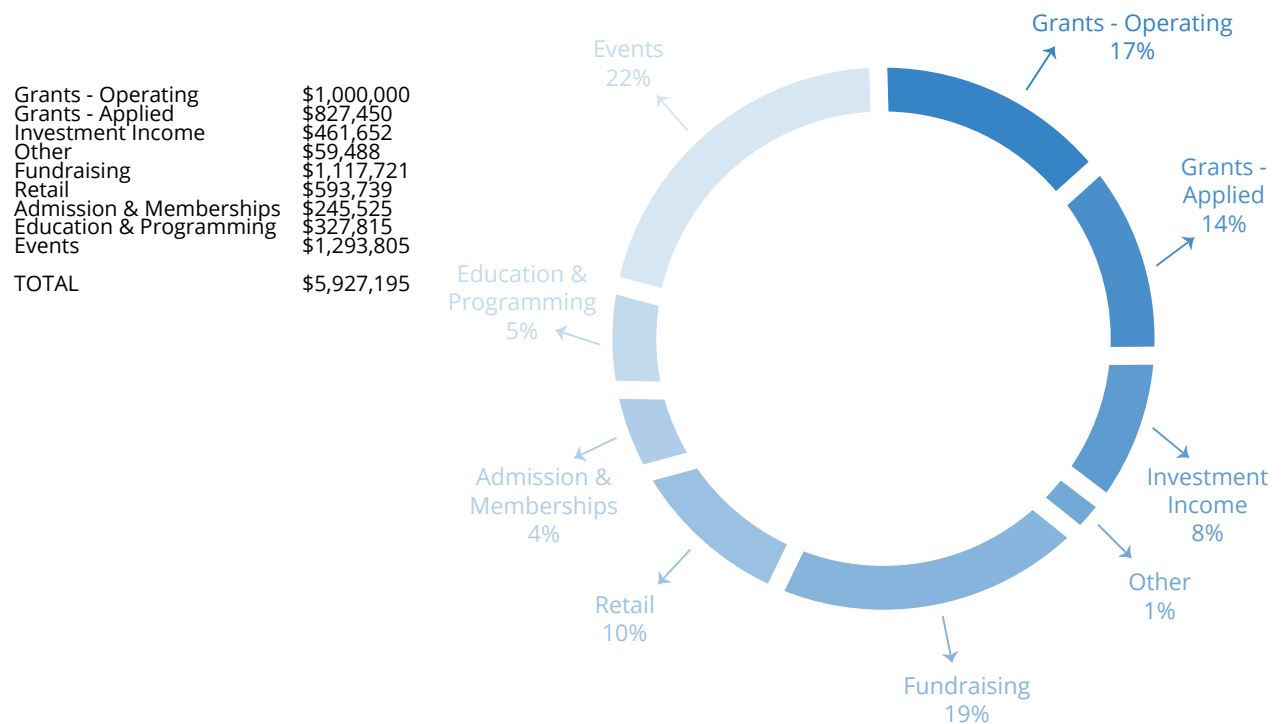
40+

Editorial
Features

Operating Expenses



Operating Revenues



Donor Support & Sponsorship

The team at the Art Gallery of Hamilton raised the bar tremendously – 2019 was a banner year in terms of financial performance. The earned revenues peaked over \$2.8 million while donations, Memberships and philanthropic support reached over \$900,000. The loyal and generous gifts from the AGH Board of Directors and the Council of Governors supported the Annual Exhibitions Campaigns. Membership support and the annual community fund initiative continued to support programming and education. We continued to engage major donors and sponsors in meaningful ways and explored conversations with the larger community regarding the future AGH and the strategic priorities with the support of Lord Cultural Services and KCI Ketchum.

We were particularly proud of the Gallery's entrepreneurial spirit in 2019 with all three revenue generation streams exceeding budget and setting record years of financial performance. Collectively these departments service corporate clients, individuals and numerous non-profit partners hosting audiences of diverse backgrounds and community and developing partnerships with many local business partners which serves to bolster the downtown core and is a strong economic driver to the City of Hamilton.

The Art Gallery of Hamilton is sincerely grateful to our major Sponsors of 2019:

- *Above the Fold: New Expressions in Origami* presented by RBC Royal Bank
- *This is Serious: Canadian Indie Comics* supported by Stresscrete Group, Michael and Jane Schwenger
- *The Collection* supported by incite Foundation for the Arts, and Gallery Friends, Bob & Maggie Carr
- *The Collection Continues* supported by AGH Friends and Supporters including Filomena Frisina, Don & Sheila Pether
- *Milli: A Celebration of Style* supported by the Gould Family, Graham Stephenson LLP, Effort Trust and many the friends and business associates of the late fashion icon Milli Gould.
- Gallery Level 2 free admission sponsored by Orlick Industries
- *AGH Unfolding: A Gala Experience* presented by LiUNA and RBC Royal Bank
- *AGH Learn & Education* programs supported by the incite Foundation for the Arts, Hamilton Community Foundation, The Fedorovitch Family Foundation, Canada Life, Redpoll Foundation, Grant Thornton LLP and the Taylor Family.
- *AGH Film Festival* presented by BMO
- *AGH Annual Summer Picnic* supported by Cogeco
- *AGH EMERGE, Youth Council* and *AGH Talks Series* sponsored by RBC Royal Bank
- *Artful Moments* presented by TD Bank Financial Group

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The Hamilton/Burlington
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Ontario Arts Council
Ontario Arts Foundation
Ontario Ministry of Tourism,
Culture and Sport
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Special Acknowledgement

Ike Ahmed

In honour of the memory of
his wife Shahnaz Ahmed and in
recognition and sincere
appreciation of his many years
of outstanding generosity and
support.

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Bill Mackie and Carole
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Carl and Kate Turkstra

Emily Carr

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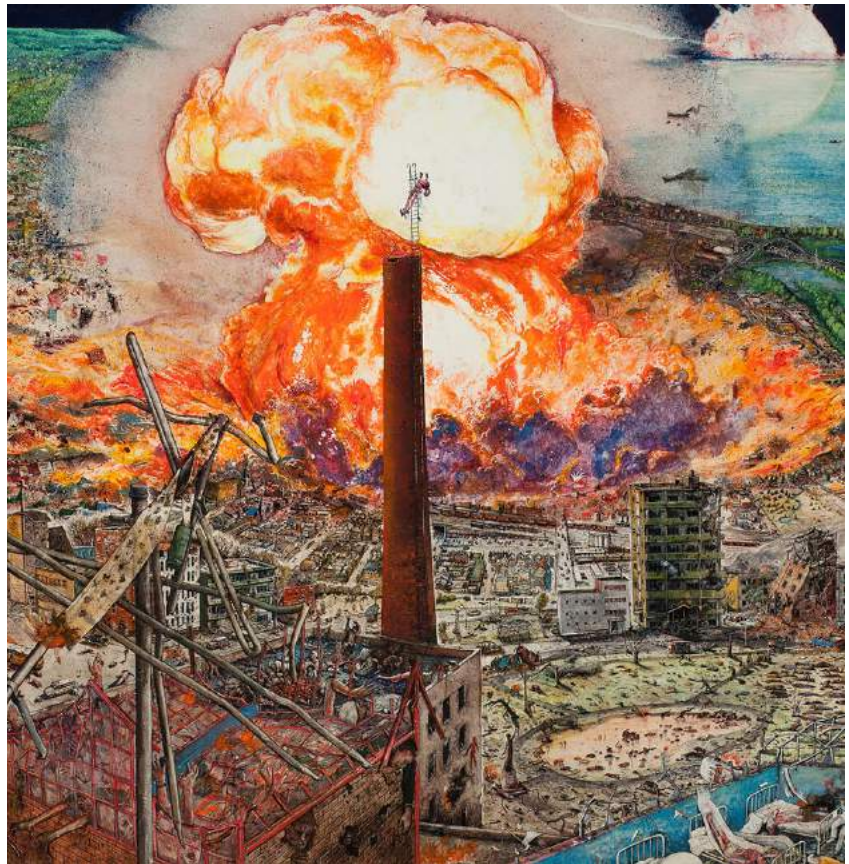


Image credits: [Pg 25] William Kurelek (Canadian 1927-1977), *This is the Nemesis*, 1965, mixed media on masonite. Gift of Mrs. J. A. McCuaig, 1966 © Estate of William Kurelek, Courtesy of the Wynick/Tuck Gallery, Toronto | Installation view of *The Collection*, 2019, featuring Emily Carr and Robert Houle. Photo: Robert McNair





Image credits: [Pg 26] Clockwise from top left: Visitor Services Desk | Yoga at the Gallery | Summer Camp | Installation view of *Hamilton Now: Object*, 2019. Photo: Mike Lulich | Installation view of *THIS IS SERIOUS: Canadian Indie Comics*, 2019. Photo: Mike Lulich | AGH Annual Summer Picnic | AGH Film Festival | Installation view of *The Collection Continues*, 2019. Photo: Mike Lulich

[Pg 27] Clockwise from top left: Storytime in the Gallery | Installation view of *Navigating Progress: Hind vs. Hind*, 2019. Photo: Mike Lulich | Performance led by Rod Nettagog | Installation view of *Above the Fold: New Expressions in Origami*, 2019. Photo: Mike Lulich | AGH Youth Council's Drag Show | Artful Moments



Small text block on the right side of the gallery wall, likely a label for the artwork.