

## AGH Announces New Winter 2023 Exhibitions

*Radical Stitch* is one of the most significant exhibitions of contemporary Indigenous beading ever presented across North America



Installation view, *Radical Stitch*, MacKenzie Art Gallery, 2022. Photo by: Don Hall, courtesy of the MacKenzie Art Gallery.

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The Art Gallery of Hamilton (AGH) launches its 2023 season with an exhibition that is one of the most significant exhibitions of contemporary Indigenous beading ever presented across North America. Coming to the AGH from The MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina, Saskatchewan, *Radical Stitch* brings together works from 35 contemporary Indigenous beaders, including Ruth Cuthland, Christi Belcourt, Shelley Niro, and more. The works invite viewers to immerse themselves in the political, creative, and aesthetic dimensions of beadwork.

Included in the exhibition will be *The Beading Room* - a space for conversation, reflection and sharing. Guest Beaders will join us to share their practice, and traditional beading techniques, alongside visual, audio, and literary resources that will inspire visitors to develop a deeper understanding of the rich history and artistry of beading. Please check the [exhibition website](#) for updates on the guest beaders' in-house schedule.

*Radical Stitch* will be accompanied by *Duane Linklater: they have piled the stone / as they promised / without syrup*. This exhibition of new installation work by Duane Linklater (Omaskêko Cree) explores the architecture of the Bishop Fauquier Memorial Chapel in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, a small Gothic and Tudor-style sandstone chapel built in 1881. The chapel is the last remaining original structure on the site of the former Shingwauk Residential School for boys. It was built by hand, in part, by the children who were forced to attend residential school there.

"The AGH is deeply honoured and excited to announce our new season of exhibitions featuring two important Indigenous-led projects, *Radical Stitch* and *Duane Linklater: they have piled the stone / as they promised / without syrup*," says Shelley Falconer, AGH President & CEO. "Featuring 35 contemporary beading artists and Linklater's new installation, these exhibitions underscore how Indigenous artists are both excavating and reconciling with the past while exploring new forms of expression through traditional beadwork and pre-colonial design materials."

Also new this season, *Pigment to Pixel: Digitizing the Permanent Collection* combines a documentation lab and an exhibition space to highlight the central methods of the AGH's permanent collection digitization project by bringing "back of house" activity to the front. Visitors will catch a glimpse into some key practices related to collections management including how artworks are photographed, scanned and documented, and learn the many steps involved in making the physical digital.

*Edward Burtynsky's Chai Portfolio* is on view in our Community Gallery in the Jean and Ross Fischer Gallery. In October 2014, Edward Burtynsky began a photographic journey that took him 4,000 kilometres across Eastern Europe to capture the scarred landscapes of Holocaust sites. While there were an unthinkable number of victims in these places, there are also survivors. Their experiences then and since must guide our remembrance and learning. Nearly 80 years later, these sites still bear witness to human loss perpetrated on an unprecedented scale. This portfolio is titled Chai – the Hebrew word for 'life'.

On view in our lower lobby inside our King Street entrance visitors will find four banners hung as part of Syrus Marcus Ware's *In Movement: Training Sessions for Freedom Fighters* installation. To make these banners, Ware invited 36 participants (heroes) to work with phrases that would guide their journey towards anti-supremacy and the abolition of racism within our culture. Together, they created a 4-piece banner with the phrases: "We Will Win", "Take Root Amongst the Stars", "Afraid of the Dark", "But What if We Don't". The final idea is that these four phrases individually convey hope, fear, confidence, and uncertainty, and together they tell a broader story.

**Join us Friday, February 10, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm for our Winter Exhibitions Opening Celebration** with free admission and remarks at 5:30 pm. Meet the artists and curators and be the first to see the new exhibitions before we re-open our doors Saturday, February 11 with all new extended hours!

After an extended closure following the winter holidays, the AGH is thrilled to be reopening with newly extended hours:

**Thursdays 11:00 am - 9:00 pm,  
Fridays 11:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturdays and Sundays 11:00 am - 5:00 pm**

We have been working on improvements to our lobby, AGH Shop, and café, and while the renovations are still in progress, we are very excited to have a more accessible and user-friendly main entrance in the near future. We thank you for your patience as we finish everything up!

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**Exhibition Media Kits:**

- [Radical Stitch](#) - Organized and circulated by The [MacKenzie Art Gallery](#)
- [Duane Linklater: they have piled the stone / as they promised / without syrup](#) - Presented by Partners in Art
- [Pigment to Pixel: Digitizing the Permanent Collection](#) - Funded by the Government of Canada
- [In Movement: Training Sessions for Freedom Fighters](#)

### **About the Art Gallery of Hamilton**

Founded in 1914, the Art Gallery of Hamilton is the oldest and largest public art gallery in the region. 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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### **For more information, interview requests, and images please contact:**

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