

# The Journey is extended by popular demand! Helen McNicoll: An Impressionist Journey now running at the AGH until August 31, 2025

This must-see exhibition is making history in Hamilton



Installation view of Helen McNicoll: An Impressionist Journey, 2025. Photo: Donna Waxman

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<u>Helen McNicoll: An Impressionist Journey</u> will now be on show at the Art Gallery of Hamilton until the end of August, allowing visitors to experience this stunning exhibition throughout the summer months.

"We've been overwhelmed by the positive response to *Helen McNicoll: An Impressionist Journey*," says Shelley Falconer, President and CEO at the Art Gallery of Hamilton. "This exhibition is a tribute to one of Canada's most important historical artists, and we're delighted to extend the closing date so more people can experience the magic of her work first-hand."

An Impressionist Journey provides a unique opportunity for audiences to experience the most comprehensive solo exhibition of McNicoll's work since 1925. More than 60 works are featured, many of which have not been widely showcased until this exhibition, which was originally created and organized by the MNBAQ, and is now presented and adapted by the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

"We are proud to be the only venue in Ontario featuring this exhibition," says Shelley Falconer. "Many of the works on display were generously lent to us from private collectors, so we encourage everyone to visit the AGH and see these paintings while they are on display for the public to enjoy."

One painting in particular is garnering well-deserved attention at the exhibition: McNicoll's *The Bean Harvest* – a work that was lost for more than 100 years before being rediscovered and featured on the BBC's *Fake or Fortune?* television program, where the painting's authenticity was confirmed. This is the first time *The Bean Harvest* has been exhibited in Canada since 1913.



Helen McNicoll (1879-1915), *The Bean Harvest*, 1911-1912, oil on canvas. Pierre Lassonde Collection.

Since the exhibition opened in February, visitors of all ages have experienced the power and beauty of McNicoll's work – which must be seen in person to be fully appreciated.

As an early adopter of Impressionism, she carved an individual and avant-garde path in Canada and abroad, making a name for herself on the world stage. McNicoll's art was widely celebrated during her lifetime. Critics praised the masterful treatment of light in her paintings and the immersive nature of her subjects, and she greatly increased the recognition of Québec and Canadian art on both sides of the Atlantic.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to see *Helen McNicoll: An Impressionist Journey* at the Art Gallery of Hamilton, which now runs until August 31.

#### **Media Kit**

Helen McNicoll: An Impressionist Journey

### Acknowledgements

Helen McNicoll: An Impressionist Journey was created and organized by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec and adapted by the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

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The exhibition at the AGH is presented by Cowley Abbott, Canada's Art Auctioneers.



We also acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, and the City of Hamilton.









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Helen Galloway McNicoll, *Sunny September*, 1913, oil on canvas. Pierre Lassonde Collection. Photo: MNBAQ, Idra Labrie

#### **About Helen McNicoll**

Helen McNicoll was born in Toronto in 1879 and grew up in Montreal. Scarlet fever rendered her deaf when she was two years old and her parents encouraged her to develop her artistic and musical creativity. She began her artistic training in the late 1890s with William Brymner at the Art Association of Montreal, then moved to England on his advice. She settled in London in 1902 and took courses at the Slade School of Fine Art. McNicoll began to exhibit her work at the Art Association in 1906 and received the first Jessie Dow Prize there in 1908. Elected to the Royal Society of British Artists in 1913, then to the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 1914, McNicoll died in 1915 at the age of 35 following complications from diabetes.

### **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, International, and Contemporary art, numbers more than 11,000 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, interview requests and images please contact:

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