

The Mess Makers and their Associates **with Hamilton artist Gord Bond**

A new exhibition presented by Art Sales + Services at the AGH explores the absurdity, playfulness, and sentimentality of life



Gord Bond (Canadian), *It's hard to brush her hair while she's running away*,
60x48 inches, acrylic and flashe on canvas.

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[Gord Bond: The Mess Makers and their Associates](#), a new exhibition that opens July 10 at the AGH, is a celebration of vibrancy, family and painterly traditions.

With *The Mess Makers and Their Associates*, Bond draws directly from his life as a father and partner, embracing sentimentality. He encourages viewers to explore his work and find their own stories in the mess of it all. And what a glorious mess it is.

"We are extremely proud to be hosting this exhibition of work by the remarkable Gord Bond," says Jasmine Lazdins, Art Consultant at the AGH. "He is inspiring in the most laid back and unassuming of ways. His work is playful and vibrant, but for me personally, it's a reminder of the raw power of imagination and humor – all wrapped in beautiful painterly compositions."

Raised in a creatively rich environment, Bond grew up watching his mother – an accomplished muralist and landscape painter – navigate the world with a brush in hand. He accompanied her to job sites and absorbed her love for plein air painting during cottage trips near Parry Sound. Despite his artistic pedigree, Bond decided to study science at McMaster University. It wasn't until later that he pivoted and completed his MFA at York University – with the full support of his family.

Bond's current work merges formal discipline with expressive play. Though trained in classical portraiture and landscape, he resists staying within a genre. His compositions often begin with observation – family moments, friendly anecdotes, children's toys and stories – but are transformed through layers of drawing, painting, erasure, and redirection.



Gord Bond (Canadian), *The craft table, dinner table, and I don't know where it goes table*, acrylic and flashe on canvas.

He constructs each image using a set of recurring motifs that function both symbolically and compositionally. Insects, flowers, and cartoon limbs emerge – not only for their narrative potential – but for their ability to anchor space, redirect the eye, or create formal balance. He describes his process as both intuitive and architectural – deciding where an image “needs weight,” then finding the right element to provide it. The result is work that is visually dense, emotionally open, and structurally sound.

Bond grounds his artistic practice in his love of painting. Despite the outwardly figurative and representational appearance of his works, Bond considers his practice as predominantly abstract.

Through a responsive approach, the forms in Bond’s works become the product of compositional decisions made intuitively throughout the painting process, while their surfaces reflect his dedication to creating interesting textures and playing with colour. Through intentional playfulness and humour, Bond wishes to create animated paintings that connect with a wide breadth of viewers.

“We invite everyone to attend the opening reception for *The Mess Makers and Their Associates*, which will be held at the AGH Art Sales + Services showroom on Thursday, July 10 from 5 to 8 pm,” says Lazdins. “Gord Bond will be present, and he will be happy to discuss his work and creative process.”

The Mess Makers and Their Associates is on view at the AGH from July 10 to 27, 2025.

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Photographs for use by the media can be downloaded [here](#).

About Gord Bond

Bond holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from McMaster University, Hamilton, and a Masters of Fine Art from York University, Toronto. His work is found in the public collection of McMaster University and private collections across Canada and internationally in the United States and United Kingdom.

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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