

## Exploring the convergence of past and present through artistic creation at the Art Gallery of Hamilton

*Metamorphoses: Visions of Antiquity in the Modern Era*  
opens at the AGH on September 27, 2025



John Martin (British 1789-1854), *Marcus Curtius*, n.d., oil on canvas. The Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Collection, 2002.

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Journey through time as ancient, modern, and contemporary art come together in conversation. Inspired by the legendary *Metamorphoses* – an epic poem by the Roman poet Ovid – [\*Metamorphoses: Visions of Antiquity in the Modern Era\*](#) explores how artists have reimagined classical traditions over centuries.

This exhibition – which will be on view at the AGH from September 27, 2025 to January 4, 2026 – features works by leading contemporary artists such as Shary Boyle, Dianne Bos, Cassils, General Idea, Esmaa Mohamoud, and Kent Monkman, who critique the legacies of classical antiquity in bold ways.

These groundbreaking works are displayed alongside highlights from the 1800s and 1900s, drawn from the Art Gallery of Hamilton's collection and major public and private loans. As part of the exhibition, visitors will enjoy the rare opportunity to experience Marc Chagall's *Daphnis & Chloé* – a series of 42 colour lithograph prints – in its entirety.

The works in the exhibition respond to the stories in Ovid's epic poem and the classical world that shaped these ancient tales. Some works draw directly from Ovid's poetry and Greco-Roman mythology, while others reinterpret classical ideals and forms – speaking to contemporary notions of gender, identity, power, and memory.

**"We invite you to experience *Metamorphoses* and explore how these wonderful artists interpret and transform traditions of the past through their own unique perspectives," says Shelley Falconer, President and CEO at the Art Gallery of Hamilton. "This exhibition provides an opportunity to see remarkable contemporary works alongside Greco-Roman art through a lens of inspiration, interpretation, and evolution."**

*Metamorphoses: Visions of Antiquity in the Modern Era* brings together art spanning millennia to present transformation as an enduring artistic impulse and theory of artistic creation. Visit the Art Gallery of Hamilton for this exciting new exhibition – truly one for the ages!



Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux (French 1827-1875), *Bacchante with Grapes and Vine Leaves*, 1868, bronze with synthetic base, The Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Collection, 2002, Art Gallery of Hamilton

The AGH also invites everyone to attend the Fall Opening Celebration on Sunday, September 28 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, where the Gallery will be celebrating the openings of *Metamorphoses: Visions of Antiquity in the Modern Era* and *Taking Root: Recent Acquisitions*, which has been on view at the AGH since June 26. Opening remarks by AGH President & CEO Shelley Falconer and special guest speakers begin at 3:00 pm.

In attendance will be artists who have work featured in the exhibitions, as well as Dr. Amy Wallace, the guest curator of *Metamorphoses*. After the Fall Opening Celebration, visitors are invited to enjoy *Metamorphoses* and the AGH's other amazing exhibitions.

A preview of *Metamorphoses* is available to media on Friday, September 26 by request. Please contact Aaron Lam at [alam@artgalleryofhamilton.com](mailto:alam@artgalleryofhamilton.com) to book your preview.

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

### **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, or to book your preview, please contact:**

Aaron Lam, Coordinator of Communications  
Art Gallery of Hamilton  
905.527.6610, ext. 247  
[alam@artgalleryofhamilton.com](mailto:alam@artgalleryofhamilton.com)