# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2016



art gallery of alberta



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## 2016: STORIES OF THE AGA

As a champion of Alberta art and artists, the Art Gallery of Alberta plays a role in sharing the stories from all corners of the province of Alberta, and on a national and international stage. These shared stories provoke, engage and connect. They provide different perspectives, question the status quo, and paint a picture of what it is like to be a part of our community.

Reflecting on a successful 2016, we want to share some stories from the AGA—snapshots of the many faces and helpful hands that contribute to our successes. From our dedicated staff and volunteers, to our guests, members, artist patrons, donors, sponsors, and countless others, the success of the AGA would not be possible without the considerable support we receive from the communities that surround us. As we move forward into a new year, may these stories provide a reminder of the AGA's commitment to connecting people with art, ideas and each other.

Image: Institution for Canadian Citizenship event

## VISION

We envision a future in which the AGA is the creative hub of Alberta, inspiring imaginations, engaging generations and transforming people's lives through art.



### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

## I am very pleased to report that 2016 was another successful year at your Art Gallery of Alberta.

Throughout the year, we continued to fulfill AGA's commitment to present original exhibitions of historical and contemporary art from Alberta, Canada and across the world and to provide a full complement of art education and public programs. Exhibitions of historical works included 7: Professional Native Indian Artists Inc.; The Edge: The Abstract and the Avant-Garde in Canada; Season to Season; Coast to Coast: A Celebration of the Canadian Landscape; Out of the Woods: Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven; and Beauty's Awakening: Drawings by the Pre-Raphaelites and their Contemporaries from the Lanigan Collection. From a contemporary perspective, the AGA featured exhibitions that included The Blur in Between; Allora and Calzadilla: Echo to Artifact and Damian Moppett + Ron Moppett (Every Story Has *Two Sides*). In addition, the AGA also displayed several solo/ duo contemporary exhibitions by such artists as **Dana Holst**, Sean Caulfield, Brittney Bear Hat and Richelle Bear Hat, Duane Linklater and Tanya Lukin Linklater and Hannah Doerksen. Whatever your interests, there was something at the AGA for you in 2016!

The AGA continues to engage Edmonton and Alberta as the premier art gallery in the province. In 2016, the AGA welcomed more than **51,193 visitors** to the Gallery and, through the Alberta Travelling Exhibition Program (TREX), we welcomed another **100,265 people** to our touring exhibitions across North Central Alberta.

From a Board perspective, I am pleased to advise that in 2016 we welcomed three outstanding new members to the Board: **Allen Ball**, **John Elford** and **Peggy Garritty**. All AGA Board members are volunteers and give up much personal time attending Board and Committee meetings, fundraising, assisting with AGA special events, etc. On behalf of the AGA, I do want to thank all our great Board members for their efforts and engagement. It is a pleasure to work with you.

In 2016, the AGA continued to move forward with our 2016–2020 Strategic Plan. Underpinning this plan are three transformational objectives:

- Create generations of Edmontonians and Albertans who know, learn and care about art, and how it holds meaning in their lives;
- Recognize every Edmontonian and Albertan as a member, and exponentially increase engagement with the AGA; and
- Expand the AGA's presence, relevance and engagement in the City of Edmonton and across Alberta.

Throughout the year, we made very good progress on a number of initiatives outlined in the Strategic Plan. In fall, we received a two-year grant from the City of Edmonton that enables the AGA to proceed with one of our key initiatives—removing cost as a barrier to visiting the AGA. We appreciate this support from the City, and we will be rolling out a variety of free admission models in 2017.



The Art Gallery of Alberta relies on patrons, members and donors for a large portion of our operating revenue. Thanks to each of you for your continued support.

Corporate sponsorship is a major source of revenue for the AGA and, in 2016, the AGA achieved a new record level of corporate support! This support affirms the importance our corporate community bestows on the AGA and, on behalf of the AGA, I extend a sincere thank you to all the great companies who have supported us throughout the year.

I also want to thank our major government partners for their steadfast support that enables your AGA to bring new exhibitions and education programs to Alberta: the **City of Edmonton** (through the Edmonton Arts Council), the **Province of Alberta** (through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts) and the **Government of Canada** (through the Canada Council for the Arts).

Lastly, on behalf of the Board, I want to acknowledge and thank **Catherine Crowston**, AGA Executive Director/Chief Curator, and her entire team for making Your AGA the special place that it is. We are so fortunate to have such a professional and hard working group of talented staff.

I look forward to another great year in 2017.

Darcy Trufyn Chair, Board of Directors, Art Gallery of Alberta Society

Throughout the year, we continued to fulfill AGA's commitment to present original exhibitions of historical and contemporary art from Alberta, Canada and across the world.



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2016, the AGA focused on the goals set out in the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. We catalyzed our thinking about new strategies and initiatives for building audience engagement, increasing access, enhancing the visitor experience and ensuring our future sustainability. We made significant steps towards achieving many of the key program initiatives set out in the Strategic Plan: Here are a few highlights:

- Access prototypes to test modified admission hours
- New access programs for Syrian refugees and new citizen groups
- New youth focused programming and the establishment of an AGA Youth Council
- Exhibition initiatives with Indigenous artists and collectives
- The *Showcase* community exhibition initiative
- Building strategic exhibition partnerships (locally, nationally and internationally)

In 2016, we continued to implement our twofold programming objective of showing Alberta art and artists to the world, and bringing the world, through exhibitions of international historical and contemporary art, to Alberta. Our programs continue to be thoughtful, interrelated and thematically connected so audiences can build rich connections and meaning across all of our activities.

We opened the year with a major international exhibition presented as part of the **Poole Centre of Design**. Entitled *The Blur in Between*, the exhibition addressed the practices that occur between those historically demarcated as art or design: the blurry areas between fields of contemporary art, architecture, industrial design, craft, digital art, fashion, publishing and typography. As well, the final component, of *Charrette Roulette— Fabric* ran until mid-April. Beginning in March, the AGA presented a series of three exhibitions that featured the work of some of Canada's indigenous artists. The exhibition 7: Professional Native Indian Artists Inc. featured the work of one of Canada's most important early artists' alliances. A groundbreaking cultural and political entity wryly known as the "Indian Group of Seven," the PNIAI members included Jackson Beardy, Eddy Cobiness, Alex Janvier, Norval Morrisseau, Daphne Odjig, Carl Ray and Joseph Sanchez. The exhibition included more than 80 paintings and drawings from the 1970s, the crucial decade during which the seven artists were active as a group. At the same time, we presented new work by Calgary artists Brittney Bear Hat and Richelle Bear Hat. Their exhibition, Little Cree Women (Sisters, Secrets & Stories), presented elements such as willow bark, charred wood, white flowers and mint leavesquiet mementos and indicators of knowledge received. Later in the spring, the AGA supported the Ociciwan Contemporary Art Collective for the presentation of new works by internationally renowned artists **Duane** Linklater and Tanya Lukin Linklater in the exhibition, A Parallel Excavation. The exhibition explored notions of excavation in relation to the intellectual, environmental and cultural resources immediate to the artists. Considering the complex relationships of Indigenous peoples and artists to institutions, they excavated the AGA's archival records and collection to address this constructed cultural history.

In June 2016, we featured a new exhibition by **Jennifer Allora** and **Guillermo Calzadilla**. Entitled *Echo to Artifact*, this was the first major exhibition in Canada of the work of these internationally recognized artists. The exhibition featured film, sculpture, sound pieces and performances, and new work based on the artists' research into western Canada's prehistoric past. As part of the AGA's ongoing commitment to providing major exhibition opportunities for Alberta artists, in the fall of 2016, the AGA produced a new exhibition that featured the work of renowned Alberta artists **Ron Moppett** and **Damian Moppett**. Throughout the year, we also continued to present the work of contemporary artists from across Alberta. In 2016, the RBC New Works Gallery and Manning Hall exhibitions featured **Sean Caulfield**, **Dana Holst**, **Richelle Bear Hat** and **Brittney Bear Hat**, **Jason de Haan**, and **Hannah Doerksen**.

In addition to exhibitions of contemporary art, the AGA offered a unique program of historical exhibitions, designed to provide Alberta audiences with access to the world of art history. The exhibition The Unvarnished Truth: Exploring the Material History of Painting brought together discoveries made by an international team of nearly 30 researchers-scholars of applied radiation sciences, anthropology, art history, biomedical engineering, as well as conservators, conservation scientists, forensic art historians and curators-who worked together to examine nine masterworks paintings from the collections of the McMaster Museum of Art. As part of the NGC@AGA exhibition series, the AGA presented *Beauty's Awakening*: Drawings by the Pre-Raphaelites and their Contemporaries from the Lanigan Collection. Alongside these feature exhibitions, the AGA developed several new initiatives that highlighted our own permanent collection of Canadian art. Out of the Woods: Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven; The Edge: The Abstract and The Avant-Garde in Canada; and Season to Season, Coast to Coast: A Celebration of the Canadian Landscape, all curated by AGA Exhibitions Manager Laura Ritchie, brought the collection to the fore.

The AGA also made a splash on the international stage, as the Canadian Commissioner for Canada's official representation in the 2016 Venice Biennale of Architecture, presented in Venice from May 27 to November 27, 2016. The project, entitled *EXTRACTION*, featured the work of landscape and urban architect **Pierre Belanger** and his firm **OPSYS**. Belanger's *EXTRACTION* was a response to Canada's contemporary culture and global economy of resource extraction. Through the agency of landscape architecture, the landscape of resource extraction—from exploration, to mining, to processing, to construction, to reclamation—was explored in a multi-media installation that consisted of gold ore and a 17-minute film, installed into the earth itself.

In addition to this diversity of exhibitions, in 2016 the AGA offered another full year of education activities. These included our unique trilingual *school tour program* for grades K-12;

two exhibitions in the BMO World of Creativity; art camps and weekend art classes for children, youth and adults; family programming such as *Tours for Tots* and *All Day Sunday* activities; as well as the free Art for Lunch program. These ran alongside a diverse schedule of public programs that ranged from lectures, reading groups and film screenings to artists' talks, performances and Refinery, the AGA's late-night art party. In 2016, the AGA also launched *Vibe*, a monthly after-work drop-in social event that features local Edmonton musicians and artists.

New programs specifically developed by and for youth (13–17) were a highlight of 2016. Under the guidance of the new AGA Youth Advisory Council, self-titled HIVE, activities included SWARM teen nights, which provide young people with free access to the gallery as well as drop-in art classes. As well, the AGA initiated a new community partnership program with **WEAC** and **E4C** to offer monthly art-making workshops for women at risk.

Finally, in 2016, with the support of the **Canada Council for the Arts**, the AGA commenced a free admission program for Syrian Refugees. This focus on newcomers to Edmonton increased in November and December, with special events for new citizens. On November 20, in cooperation with the **Ahlan Canada Program** and the **Canadian Cultural Access Pass** the AGA hosted a special exhibition tour and reception for Edmonton's newcomers.

In looking forward to 2017, we are focusing our priorities on increasing engagement and access; sustaining our resources and continuing our commitment to a program of artistic excellence, integrity and value; making the AGA the creative hub of our city and province.

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Catherine Crowston Executive Director and Chief Curator, Art Gallery of Alberta

## EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMMING

### **EXHIBITIONS**

### The Blur in Between

### January 23, 2016-May 8, 2016

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta and curated by Kristy Trinier. Presented as a part of the Poole Centre of Design.

TALK—Panel, January 24

TOUR—Curator's Walkthrough, April 20

FILM—*Coast Modern* (2012), April 20

### **Poole Centre of Design**

This exciting series of design-centred programs was made possible by a generous donation from the John and Barbara Poole Family Fund, through the Edmonton Community Foundation.

### Sean Caulfield: The Flood

#### February 6, 2016-August 14, 2016

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta and curated by Kristy Trinier.

TALK—Conversation with the Artist, April 10

### Out of the Woods: Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven

### February 13, 2016-April 17, 2016

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta and curated by Laura Ritchie. Presented with the support of Capital Powered Art, an exhibition series sponsored by Capital Power Corporation.

WALKTHROUGH—Curator's Walkthrough, March 23

FILM—*The Far Shore* (1976), April 6

### 7: Professional Native Indian Artists Inc.

### March 5-July 3, 2016

Organized by the MacKenzie Art Gallery and curated by Michelle LaVallee. This project was made possible through a contribution from the Museums Assistance Program, Department of Canadian Heritage. Presented by Syncrude.

PERFORMANCE—Jackson Beardy III and Byron Beardy, March 4 and 5

TALK—Curator and Artists' Lecture, March 5 BMO ALL DAY SUNDAY— *Front Runners* with guest artist **Joseph Sanchez**, March 6

FILM—*The Colours of Pride* (1973) with talk by **Carmen Robertson**, March 30

### Brittney Bear Hat & Richelle Bear Hat: Little Cree Women (Sisters, Secrets & Stories)

March 5-July 3, 2016

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta and curated by Kristy Trinier. Presented with the support of the RBC Emerging Artists Project.

TALK—Artists in Conversation, March 4

TALK—AGA/ACAD Artists Series, April 7

### The Unvarnished Truth: Exploring the Material History of Paintings

### April 30-September 18, 2016

Organized and circulated by the McMaster Museum of Art with support of the Museums Assistance Program, Canadian Heritage and the Ontario Arts Council. Presented by Capital Powered Art, an exhibition series sponsored by Capital Power Corporation.

TALK—Guest Lecture with Brandi Lee MacDonald, April 29

TOUR—Art for Lunch, May 19

TALK—On the Hunt: Tracking Fakes and Forgeries in Modern Painting with **Dr. Sarah Parsons**, June 8

FILM—Beltracchi: The Art of Forgery (2014), July 27

### A Parallel Excavation: Duane Linklater & Tanya Lukin Linklater

#### April 30-September 18

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta and curated by Ociciwan Contemporary Art Collective.

TALK— Artist and Curator's Talk, April 30

TOUR—Art for Lunch, July 2

### EXTRACTION at the Venice Biennale Architettura 2016

May 27-November 27

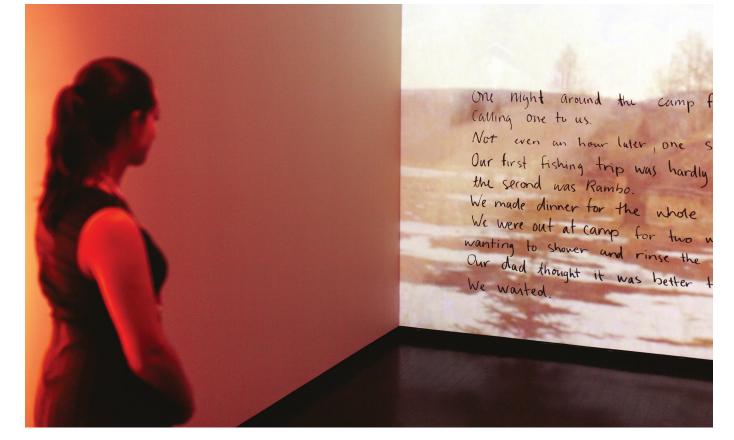
As the official commissioner for Canada, Catherine Crowston and the Art Gallery of Alberta supported the exhibition presentation in Venice.

### Allora and Calzadilla: Echo to Artifact

#### June 3-August 28

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta. Curated by Catherine Crowston. Presented by Enbridge and the Consulate General of the United States of America.

TALK—Artists' Talk, June 2





Top Image: A visitor at Brittney Bear Hat & Richelle Bear Hat: Little Cree Women (Sisters, Secrets & Stories).

Bottom Image: Live performance at the opening of *Allora and Calzadilla: Echo to Artifact.* 

### Beauty's Awakening: Drawings by the Pre-Raphaelites and Their Contemporaries from the Lanigan Collection

#### July 23-November 13

Organized by the National Gallery of Canada and presented as a part of the NGC@AGA exhibition series. Presented by Simons.

TALK— **Sonia Del Re** and **Dr. Dennis Lanigan** in Conversation, July 30

TOUR—Art for Lunch, August 18

FILM—*Possession* (2002), August 31

READING CLUB—with **Dr. Deanna Mason**, October 6

### Jason de Haan: Grey to Pink

July 23-November 13, 2016

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta and curated by Kristy Trinier. Presented with support of the RBC Emerging Artists Project.

TALK—Artist in Conversation, July 29

TALK—AGA/ACAD Artists Series, October 28

### Touch Lab: Leave your Mark!

July 24-April 9, 2017

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta and curated by Dara Armsden. The *BMO World of Creativity* is an interactive, hands-on space where children and their grown-ups can explore their creativity.

BMO ALL DAY SUNDAY— Touch Lab, July 24

### Damian Moppett + Ron Moppett (Every Story Has Two Sides)

September 17-January 8, 2017

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta and curated by Catherine Crowston. Presented by ATB Financial, with the support of the following Artist Patrons: Morris and Ann Dancyger; Margo Helper and Gregory Forrest; Anne McKenzie; Dell Pohlman and Lauren Raymore Pohlman; Trepanier Baer Gallery

TOUR—Art for Lunch in Manning Hall, September 15

TALK—Artists' Talk: **Damian Moppett** and **Ron Moppett** with writer/curator **Nancy Tousley**, September 16

BMO ALL DAY SUNDAY— Patchwork and Pieces, September 18

TALK—AGA/ACAD Artists Series: **Damian Moppett** and **Ron Moppett** with writer/curator **Nancy Tousley**, September 23

### The Edge: The Abstract and the Avant-Garde in Canada

October 8-January 29, 2017

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta and curated by Laura Ritchie. Presented by Enbridge.

TOUR—Curator's Walkthrough, October 12

TOUR—Art for Lunch, November 17

READING CLUB with **Alliance Française d'Edmonton**, December 8

BMO ALL DAY SUNDAY— Artist Innovators, December 18

### David Altmejd: The Vessel

October 8—January 29, 2017

Organized by the National Gallery of Canada as a part of the NGC@AGA exhibition series. Presented by TD Bank Group with the support of Artist Patron Marie Gordon.

TOUR—Art for Lunch, October 20

BMO ALL DAY SUNDAY— Swan Song, November 20

### **Collection Connections**

October 8—January 29, 2017

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta and co-curated by Catherine Crowston and Laura Ritchie.

### Season to Season, Coast to Coast: A Celebration of the Canadian Landscape

December 3, 2016-February 20, 2017

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta and curated by Laura Ritchie. Presented by Capital Powered Art, an exhibition series sponsored by Capital Power Corporation.

BMO ALL DAY SUNDAY— Coast to Coast, January 15

TOUR—Curator's Walkthrough, January 18

### Hannah Doerksen: A Story We Tell Ourselves about Ourselves

December 3-February 20, 2017

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta and curated by Kristy Trinier. Presented with the support of the RBC Emerging Artists Project.

TALK—*Artist in Conversation*, December 2

### STORIES OF THE AGA: SEAN CAULFIELD

### ARTIST

Sean Caulfield works in print, drawing, artist's books and installation, often exploring the impact of industry/ technology on nature, and the intersection of art and science. He is a Centennial Professor at the University of Alberta where he teaches printmaking, and is a past president of the Society of Northern Alberta Print-Artists.

Sean credits the AGA with transforming his outlook on art when he was studying at the University of Alberta. "I can remember several wonderful exhibitions that really affected my thinking about art and my place in the world, and helped shaped my path as an artist. I think it is important to underscore this, as the impact of an institution like the AGA often happens over the long term." Speaking as a professor, he explains that the AGA plays "a vital educational role, exposing students to artists both within and outside this community. The AGA brings in outstanding exhibitions, both historic and contemporary." Through these exhibitions, he can research and consider "alternative creative methodologies" and see important trends in contemporary visual art. "It is absolutely essential for students to see the subtle nuances of a work in person, rather than to just view reproductions of artworks.

"I believe a vibrant arts community ensures that a city is culturally rich, diverse and innovative, as well as contributing to the economic strength to the region. The AGA plays a central role in defining and strengthening the province's—and more broadly Western Canada's—artistic and cultural identity. I choose to get involved with the AGA because I would like to help further this development in any way I can."



### ABOUT AGA PROGRAMMING

Exhibition-affiliated programming accompanies the exhibition listings on pages 8-10.

### Talks

The AGA presents artist talks, curator walkthroughs, panel discussions and guest lectures in conjunction with current exhibitions, offering a chance to hear about the work on view from the participants themselves.

RBC New Works exhibitions have their own series of talks, entitled "Artists in Conversation". Also in 2016, the AGA and Calgary's Alberta College of Art and Design (ACAD) collaborated to host Calgary-located talks with artists whose work was on display at the AGA.

### Art for Lunch

Skilled gallery attendants offered insightful perspectives on AGA exhibitions and works in these 40-minute tours offered over the noon hour. Art for Lunch attracted **241 visitors** to its **12 monthly offerings**.

### **Movie Nights**

As a component of ongoing programming, the AGA presented free, art-focused film screenings Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Ledcor Theatre. **567 movie-goers** viewed these films (in addition to those listed with their exhibitions), for a total of **12 films**:

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (2007)

Design Matters Film Series—Part 2

Basquiat (1996)

Amiskwaciy History Series National Aboriginal Day Film Screening

Art & Copy (2009)

Neon (2014)

Souvenir of Canada (2005)

Art in the 21st Century-Boundaries (2012)

### **Reading Club**

New in 2016, AGA's Reading Club connected current exhibitions with readings for group discussion.

Top Left Image: Artists in Conversation: Hannah Doerksen and Kristy Trinier.

Top Right Image: Yoga in the gallery instructor Tori Lunden.

Bottom Image: Drawing Night.



### 2016 Programming Highlights

14 talks with 21 artists 3 Artists in Conversation talks with 4 artists

2 AGA/ACAD talks with 3 artists





### Yoga in the Gallery

**147 participants** enjoyed yoga within the calming and ethereal spaces of the AGA. Class themes drew on exhibitions for a unique blend of movement and visual inspiration. This AGA program won The Yards Magazine's 2016 "Best Unconventional Spot for Stretching." Three 6-week sessions ran beginning February 4, April 7 and September 30.

### **Special Programming**

TALK—*Western Medicine: Social justice, universal meaning and the role of art* with Shary Boyle. Presented in partnership with MacEwan University, January 20

PERFORMANCE + BUS TOUR—Do It Yourself: Creativity and Collaboration in Edmonton, February 6

VIEWING + PRESENTATION—St. Mary's University *St. John's Bible*, October 7

ACTIVITY—Drawing Night, November 22

### **Community Outreach**

AGA partnered with various organizations and community groups in 2016.

POPFIT Fundraiser, April 4

UrbanYEG Instameet, April 10

Podium Choral Conference and Festival, May 20 and May 21

**Media Architecture Design Edmonton (MADE)** architecture and design lecture series, September 29, October 27, November 16, November 24

Alberta Culture Days, October 1-2

LitFest Ross King Lecture and Book Launch, October 21

**Institute for Canadian Citizenship** (ICC) *Ahlan* newcomer event, November 20

**ICC** and **Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers** community newcomer welcome event, December 2

### **Community Exhibitions**

The AGA works with community groups to provide exhibition space on the lower level. Three community exhibitions were supported in 2016.

### 5 Artists, 1 Love

### February 6-March 1

5 Artists 1 Love is an annual Black History Month event that provides Edmonton residents the opportunity to celebrate the cultural mosaic within the City's black Community. It explores the rich history of the African diaspora through art, music, dance and poetry.

### 35

### June 8-June 28

An exhibition from Leduc Composite High School Film & Media 35 (FM35) students Ariss Beaton, Emma Kern and Lucas Paterson. FM35 is an advanced level of course of photography, video and sound, focusing on exhibiting high school students' work.

### Zsolnay Porcelain— Canadian Hungarian Heritage Centre

### October 22-30

Presented by The Canadian Hungarian Heritage Inc. along with the Hungarian Ministry of Human Capacities and the Janus Pannonius Museum of the Hungarian city of Pecs.



### SHOWCASE: BIG IDEAS; SMALL SPACES

2016 saw the launch of a new program featuring a constellation of 26 mini-exhibition spaces, bookable for 1- or 2-month terms by artists of any age or ability. The first *Showcase* opened January 22 and continues into 2017.





Image: *Showcase* exhibition spaces on the first level.

### THE ALBERTA FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS TRAVELLING EXHIBITION PROGRAM (TREX)

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta

The Travelling Exhibition Program (TREX) was established in 1981 by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts with the vision that every Albertan would have the opportunity to experience visual art exhibitions in their own communities. The TREX program is a coordinated effort between the **Alberta Foundation for the Arts** (AFA) and the **Art Gallery of Grande Prairie**, Grande Prairie (TREX Region 1); the **Art Gallery of Alberta**, Edmonton (TREX Region 2); The **Alberta Society of Artists**, Calgary (TREX Region 3); and the **Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre**, Medicine Hat (TREX Region 4).

The Art Gallery of Alberta has managed the TREX program for north central and northern Alberta for more than fifteen years. In March 2013, the AFA awarded the AGA management of the TREX program for another five years (2013–2018). AGA TREX management is currently developing a proposal to manage the program for an additional five year (2018–2022).

### STORIES OF THE AGA: MADELEINE ARNETT

### SHOWCASE PARTICIPANT

An Edmonton artist, Madeleine Arnett "thought it was a wonderful opportunity" when she first heard about SHOWCASE: small spaces/big ideas. "I loved that it was designed to match the building, and that it was a constellation of small exhibition spaces open to all."

A frequent participant, Madeleine loves the eclecticism of each booking period. "You never know what to expect: paintings, sculptures, baskets, books or paper art. Since we pick our case and what we want to show, it's random. Yet, sometimes I see it, and it looks perfectly curated!"

Madeleine recalls her first participation in April 2016. "I posted on Facebook: 'At last! My work is on the walls of the AGA!' Showcase makes me feel validated as an artist in Alberta, by giving me and other artists an opportunity to showcase our art in one of the top galleries in the world."

## COLLECTION ACQUISITIONS

The AGA made the following acquisitions to the collection in 2016<sup>1</sup>:

### **Dean Drever**

Kodiak Male, 2008 Carved and painted flocked Styrofoam 110.0 x 57.0 x 56.0 cm Gift of Angela Anderson and Martin Anderson

Instructional Bat Series / I Need To Be Held, 2001 Engraved wood baseball bat 86.5 x 5.8 cm Gift of Monty James Cooper

Instructional Bat Series / The Cost of Failure, 2001 engraved wood baseball bat 86.5 x 5.8 cm Gift of Monty James Cooper

Black Metal, 2011 Linen, water lacquer, oil paint 254.0 x 198.0 cm, each (12 components) Purchased with funds from the John and Maggie Mitchell Acquisition Endowment and Canada Council for the Arts Acquisition Assistance program

### **Gordon Ferguson**

Tableaux, 2014 Mixed media; found objects (banquet tables) 100 x 114 x 220 cm Gift of the Artist

#### **Isabelle Hayeur**

Quaternary III, 2007 Edition 1/3 Inkjet print on polyester paper 79 cm X 373 cm Gift of the Artist Uprooted, 2012 Edition 1/3 HD video Duration: 10:45 Gift of the Artist

### **Douglas Haynes**

*Gold Rush*, 1987 Oil on canvas 167.6 x 231.0 cm Gift of Imperial Oil Limited

### Yousuf Karsh

Winston Churchill (1874-1965), 1941 (printed before 1972) Silver gelatin print 50.0 x 39.7 cm Gift of Nancy Tousley Cameron in memory of Duncan F. Cameron

### Toti Lewis

Gallery Gala, 1984 Edition 146 of 175 Ink on paper 27.2 x 33.1 cm Gift of Bobbie Patrick

### Arthur Lismer

Spruce and Birch Algoma, c. 1916-1920 Oil on panel 22.9 x 30.5 cm Gift of Dr. Donald W. MacDonald in memory of his mother the late Hazel A. MacDonald

### Liz Magor

Camping Portfolio, 2002 10 silver gelatin prints Edition 1 of 3 50.8 x 40.64 cm each Purchased with funds from the Dr. Stern Endowment

### **Janet Mitchell**

Untitled, 1964 Watercolour on paper 42.5 x 33.1 cm Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Lee; in memory of Mrs. Lee's mother and Janet Mitchell's close friend, Irene Lee

### Winter in the Park,

c. 1960-1965 Edition 11/15 Clay print 39.7 x 47.3 cm Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Lee; in memory of Mrs. Lee's mother and Janet Mitchell's close friend, Irene Lee

#### **Damian Moppett**

X, 2016 Oil on canvas 213.4 x 188.0 cm Purchased with funds from the John and Maggie Mitchell Acquisition Endowment

### Wil Murray

Die Welt in Farben 20 original collages, negatives, in found portfolio case from 1920 36.0 x 27.3 cm each, 41 pages Gift of the Artist

#### Wilf Perreault

Behind Silverman's, 1983 Acrylic on canvas 164.4 x 276.7 cm Gift of Imperial Oil Limited

#### Takao Tanabe

May Cloud, 1968 Acrylic on canvas 86.3 x 86.0 cm Gift of the Artist Prairie Sketch, 1975 Acrylic on canvas 55.9 x 88.9 cm Gift of the Artist

*Gulf Islands, Grey Morning,* 5/82, 1982 Acrylic on canvas 110.1 x 140.1 cm Gift of the Artist

Foothills Looking West, 3/83, 1983 Acrylic on canvas 50.5 x 152.0 cm Gift of the Artist

The Steacie Icecap on Axel Heiberg Island, 10/91, 1991 Acrylic on canvas 140.0 x 56.0 cm Gift of the Artist

San Juan Islands, Late Afternoon, 1992 Acrylic on canvas 165.0 x 65.0 cm Gift of the Artist

*Nanoose Bay at Night, 1/94,* 1994 Acrylic on canvas 91.8 x 141.8 cm Gift of the Artist

*Crossing the Straight*, 2009 Acrylic on canvas 92.3 x 183.0 cm Gift of the Artist

<sup>1</sup> Only those works recognized in the 2016 Audited Financial Statements are listed above.

### STORIES OF THE AGA: ROCHELLE BALL

### REGISTRAR

Rochelle Ball has worked at the AGA for eight years. Starting when the AGA was temporarily located at Enterprise Square as the Curatorial Administrator, she has since become Registrar of the AGA's collection and exhibitions.

"One of the great things about my role is access to artwork that comes in. The opportunity to get up-close and personal with the works is special to me and a great perk to my job.

"Another thing that makes my work at the AGA even better are all the great people I get to meet: artists, lenders and donors. They are amazing to work with, and it makes everything I do seem worthwhile and meaningful. Sometimes, out of the blue, I will get a phone call from an artist represented in our collection who just wants to thank us for the good work we do—it's lovely to hear and it certainly makes my day!"

### EVENTS



### **ART ON THE BLOCK**

Art on the Block is your AGA's most successful fundraiser of the year and has been referred to as the "must-attend social event" of the spring season. On May 13, the AGA drew over 600 community supporters and diverse art lovers—from young urban influencers to long-time AGA supporters—to the event. Guests purchased 130 art works and art-inspired items in the silent auction, raising more than **\$167,000** for AGA programs.

We are grateful for the support of our presenting sponsor, **Canadian Western Bank**, our creative sponsor, **DDB Edmonton**, and all the artists and business that donated to Art on the Block.

Presented by Canadian Western Bank with media partner DDB.

### **HOLLY BALL**

The Art Gallery of Alberta's annual holiday season fundraiser was another successful fête! On November 27, guests gathered to enjoy a holiday feast prepared by Zinc Executive Chef **David Omar** and a musical performance by **A/B Trio**. Holly Ball raised more than **\$92,000** in revenue. Special thanks to all who attended the event and to our Holly Ball sponsor Nearctic Developments.

Sponsored by Nearctic.

### **REFINERY: LATE-NIGHT ART PARTIES**

Themed around current AGA exhibitions and featuring content by artists, designers and performers from the local arts community, these late-night art parties aim to provide audiences with access to art in its many diverse forms, media and manifestations. Special thanks to our Refinery sponsor Langham Developments.

**Refinery en Vogue** March 18

### **Refinery Danse Macabre** October 29

Presented by WEM and sponsored by Langham Developments Limited.

Refinery Highlights 1,167 tickets sold 11 artists, designers and performers featured



### **VIBE: POP-UP LIVE MUSIC**

A new initiative in 2016, Vibe transformed Manning Hall into a laid-back lounge with live music, food and drinks. Attendees listened to emerging and established musical acts while participating in art activities led by educators and guest artists. Special thanks to our Vibe sponsor Langham Developments.

Sponsored by Langham.







Left Image: Art on the Block Middle Image:Refinery en Vogue Right Top Image: Vibe-April 2016 Right Bottom Image: Vibe-August 2016

## SINGHMAR CENTRE FOR ART EDUCATION

Education at the AGA consists of teacher and school programs, family programs and art classes and camps. These programs offer unique access points to current exhibitions and hands-on art making. Education and interpretive programs work together to create experiences that connect the community to a diversity of art forms in a variety of meaningful ways.



Image: AGA Summer ArtBreak Camps

### AGA Education Programs

- provide a point of entry to the AGA and current exhibitions that is engaging and accessible for people of all ages with a variety of backgrounds and experiences.
- provide high quality, unique programming experiences that allow patrons to connect and learn about art and exhibitions through gallery explorations and studio projects.
- strengthen visual literacy and visual thinking skills through both the conceptual and technical side of art and the artmaking process.
- provide leadership in the field of art education in the community through various professional development initiatives and partnerships.
- support the goals of the 21st Century Skills Framework through programming that builds and strengthens problem solving, innovation skills and information literacy skills.

Tours for Tots 49 offerings 688 children 440 adult participants

### **TEACHER & SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Teacher & school programs at the AGA connect teachers and students to artwork through a variety of programming including exhibitions visits, studio projects, professional development sessions and online resources.

### 2016 highlights

- Increased program connections to Alberta Education's Programs of Study in the areas of social studies, language arts, science, French, Spanish and early childhood learning.
- Offered interdisciplinary studio explorations of art & poetry; and science & art conservation.
- Introduced a full-day studio program featuring cross-cultural investigations of art & identity, indigenous ways of knowing and social justice.
- Facilitated in-depth investigations of featured exhibitions and studio practices through our art apprenticeship program.
- Developed teacher workshops and PD sessions.
- Heightened our focus on inquiry-based learning and studentcentred programming.

### **FAMILY PROGRAMS**

Family programs at the AGA provide opportunities for families to connect to exhibitions through exploratory programs focused on play, hands-on art making and exciting in-gallery experiences.

### **Tours for Tots**

The weekly Tours for Tots program provides opportunities for families with young children to discover exhibitions through play activities, movement and hands-on art making. Programs explore a new theme each week and include gallery explorations, art making, and storytelling. Programs relate to current exhibitions and promote early childhood learning skills such as literacy, numeracy, community awareness and creative expression.

### **Birthday Parties**

AGA birthday parties are fun-filled studio explorations for children aged 4 years and up. Birthday Parties include a gallery visit and interactive studio project led by art educators.

### **BMO All Day Sundays**

BMO All Day Sundays at your AGA pack the afternoon full of engaging art activities. With exciting programs and projects that tie into current exhibitions, guests of all ages join in and have fun.

Presented by BMO Financial Group.

### CHILD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### Weekend Art Classes

Weekend Art Classes run throughout the year and provide students with opportunities to choose from a variety of classes featuring Gallery visits, studio projects and experiments inspired by current exhibitions. Participants engage with the art at the AGA through hands-on, brains-on art projects. Professional artists and art educators lead the classes, focusing on experimentation, risk-taking and participation in an open dialogue about art in a fun and low-pressure environment.

### ArtBreak Camps

ArtBreak Camps at the AGA run during spring, summer and winter school breaks. Students take the lead in these exploratory programs to discover the world around them through art activities, exercises and projects related to specific themes. Focusing on student interactions and personal experiences, these camps create bridges between art, ideas and the community.

BMO All Day Sundays 12 offerings 1594 visitors

Weekend Art Classes 10 classes and 83 registrants 32 drop-in studios 166 participants

### STORIES OF THE AGA: EVELYN LIESNER

### ART EDUCATOR AND VOLUNTEER

Working with school groups and weekend programs, Evelyn Liesner helps young people acquire new skills, "guiding them to make art in a safe space, so everyone can experience and explore something both deeply profound and fun.

"I love the AGA because I witness people connecting to art and to themselves in new ways, and am always amazed at the unique creations that are made! It becomes apparent that everyone is creative.

"I hear stories like 'I bruised my knee yesterday,' or 'I'm wearing my favourite shirt today!' Sometimes there is lots of energy and sometimes there are sleepy yawns, but every time something magic happens. Assisting with and witnessing that never gets old."



### YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

AGA Youth programs offer exciting opportunities to experiment with art and ideas in the studio and in the gallery. Led by local artists and designed especially for teens aged 13-17, AGA Youth Programs give teens the space to explore their own style while learning about art fundamentals and contemporary artmaking techniques.

### Studio Y Drop-in Workshops

Studio Y workshops are offered weekly on Thursdays, and provide teens with opportunities to drop by with friends to hang out and make art. A different topic is presented each week.

### Youth Weekend Art Classes

Youth Weekend Art Classes provide in-depth investigations into the creative practices of artists featured in our AGA exhibitions, while providing the opportunity for youth to take artistic risks in a safe and fun environment.

### The Hive

The Hive is a group of dedicated teen volunteers committed to developing teen audiences at the Art Gallery of Alberta. As members of The Hive, youth gain exclusive access to the inner workings of the gallery as well as unique opportunities to collaborate with local artists and creative professionals. They work alongside museum staff to design and develop programming initiatives for teens.

### SWARM: Teens take over your AGA!

SWARM is a special night designed just for teens at the AGA. It is the perfect opportunity for youth to see what's happening at the Gallery, make friends with similar interests, and be creative.

SWARM is developed and presented by The Hive with support from Maclab Enterprises.



### ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### Adult Drop-In Workshops

Adult Open Studio Workshops are casual, social drop-in art workshops offered weekly, featuring a new project and theme connected to current exhibitions. These workshops explore the technical and conceptual side of art-making and give participants opportunities to experiment and explore new ideas and materials in the studio.

### **Adult Registered Classes**

Adult Registered Classes allow participants unique access points to experience exhibitions through the conceptual and technical side of art-making. All classes are designed to connect viewers to artwork in meaningful ways and aim to provide art opportunities for a wide range of audiences.

### Art Express Studio Art Classes

Art Express is a hands-on studio style approach to art education for adults with developmental challenges. Class sessions take place in seven-week intervals throughout the year and involve drawing, printmaking, painting, sculpture and mixed media art. Funded in part by Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association and partnered with the Winifred Stewart Association, Art Express offered class projects that were inspired by current exhibitions and focused on students expressing their personal creativity.

### WEAC Community Support Program

This specialized initiative provides occasion for the AGA to partner with a community organization with the goal of breaking down barriers and providing free and accessible opportunities for participants in the partner organization.

Supported by Capital Power.



Image: A participant at the December edition of Swarm

Adult Drop-In 51 classes 424 participants

Art Express 12 classes 114 registrants

### RETAIL SERVICES

### **ART RENTAL AND SALES GALLERY**

2016 marks the 58th year of continuous operation for the AGA Art Rental and Sales and Gallery. The program was the idea of a group of visionary volunteers committed to making great art accessible to the wider community. This year, the AR&S Gallery continued in that tradition by providing many corporations and individuals with diverse works of art.

The AR&S Gallery also continued to improve its consigned collection, which represents the richness of Alberta's art scene. This year, the consigned collection continued to grow with an exciting and ever-changing group of 150 Alberta artists. The diversity of artworks and media also grew and now includes sculpture, photography, and paintings.

### SHOP AGA

In keeping with its mandate, Shop AGA increased its product assortment of local and Canadian artisans, focusing on Alberta artisans. New Alberta lines include: **Caracol Clay Studio**, **Red & White Studio**, **White Owl Ceramics**, **Malorie Urbanovitch Jewellery**, **Mutiara Jewellery**, **Ponderosa Designs**, **Silk Concepts and Stephanie Simpson**.

Shop AGA is the downtown source for unique and handmade items, with over **25 unique product lines** hand-crafted right here in Alberta, as well as an additional **20 Canadian lines**. Shop AGA is committed to providing high quality products that support art and culture within Canada.

### STORIES OF THE AGA: SYLVIA SOO

### SHOP AGA ARTISAN

The namesake of Sylvia Soo Leather did not set out to have her own artisanal line of accessories: "Working with leather was happenstance. I was a cancer patient undergoing radiation, and I enrolled in an art therapy course. The connection was instant."

Though her work with leather began as a creative outlet in 2013, it is now a full-time career. Often called "pieces of art," Sylvia's products are minimalist in nature, and she uses traditional artisanal processes in their design and creation. Shop AGA added Sylvia Soo Leather as a product line in early 2016. "It's a great fit," Sylvia says, adding that she appreciates how Shop AGA works with local Albertan artists and artisans.

"I think the AGA is forging its place in the community as accessible, educational, relatable and fun. The AGA is a place of both history and modern innovation that inspires me to think outside the box."

### ZINC AND ZINC CATERING

ZINC Restaurant at the Art Gallery of Albert offers a relaxed, fine dining experience featuring fresh Alberta ingredients and local artisan food products with a menu that changes every season. Catering at the AGA is provided by ZINC Catering.

In 2016, the ZINC team had the privilege in contributing to countless special occasions, including weddings, corporate receptions, media events, product launches, holiday parties and more. The dynamic structure of zinc, glass and steel designed by Los Angeles architect Randall Stout takes inspiration from Edmonton's northern environment and urban grid. Each event space is unique, from private meeting spaces, to contemporary banquet rooms, an in-house auditorium and a stunning 60-seat restaurant. The Art Gallery of Alberta offers a venue that is truly diverse and exceptional in every way. ZINC is the official hospitality partner of the AGA.



### MEMBERSHIP

2016 Members enjoyed exclusive invitations to **7 exhibition openings** and several special events. They received **10% discounts** at Shop AGA, ZINC Restaurant and Terrace Café, as well as discounts on tickets to Refinery and Vibe.

Many members took advantage of reduced pricing on registered and drop-in education classes and camps as well.

Our Members shared your AGA with hundreds of people, redeeming more than **850 Member guest passes** during Members' Weeks and throughout the year.

More than **600 reciprocal members** from our **15 partner galleries** visited the AGA in 2016. A new reciprocal partner the National Gallery of Canada— was announced in the fall of 2016.



The following galleries offer reciprocal admission to AGA Members.

Art Gallery of Grande Prairie Art Gallery of Greater Victoria Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax Art Gallery of Ontario<sup>2</sup>, Toronto Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton Glenbow Museum, Calgary Kamloops Art Gallery National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa Nickle Galleries, Calgary The Power Plant, Toronto Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Lethbridge Vancouver Art Gallery Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Banff

Winnipeg Art Gallery

<sup>2</sup> AGA, Curator's Circle and Director's Circle, Members only, as per AGO agreement.

## VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to everyone who volunteered in 2016. Your gift of time makes many AGA programs possible.

Venus Abenojar Adwoa Adasi Krista Allan Kristen Annand Lauren Ball Iryna Bajraktari Susie Boese Matthew Bui Noor Butres Joanna Calderon Jasmice-Grace Chan Nacu Lindsay Chopiuk Edith Chu Hailey Coogan Nicoletta DeAngelis Victoria Delmorme Esha Dhaliwal

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### STORIES OF THE AGA: SANDRA DELGADO ROJAS

### VOLUNTEER

Sandra Delgado Rojas joined the AGA as a volunteer in early 2016. She volunteers at events and in education programs. "Back home, I used to visit many museums and galleries. Missing that, I began to spend more time at the AGA. Once I learned about the volunteer opportunities available at the AGA, I jumped right in."

One of her favourite moments volunteering was during the ArtBreak Animation Camp in the summer of 2016: "Stephanie [the educator] is an amazing artist and has the most incredible ideas. She was so engaging and could get the best out of the kids. One day, the Alberta Film Board visited us, and we did some stop motion animation captures. It was incredible to see what the kids created—incredible attitude, dedication and overall, imagination.

"To me the AGA is not just an art gallery. The AGA is movement, change and evolution. AGA makes you interact with the exhibitions and the gallery. You get to become a part of the story that the artist wants to tell."

## DONORS

Thank you to all our 2016 donors.

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### STORIES OF THE AGA: DELL POHLMAN AND LAUREN RAYMORE POHLMAN

### **ARTIST PATRONS**

A social worker and a geologist respectively, Lauren and Dell Pohlman have lived in Calgary for more than 30 years. Their involvement with and support of the AGA is extensive: from loaning artworks from their personal collection of more than 200 works, to guest speaking, to donating and becoming Artist Patrons.

Even from Calgary, the Pohlmans visit as often as they can. "We've seen many terrific exhibitions over the years; however, Lauren and I both expressed the same enthusiasm for Christian Marclay's *The Clock*," explains Dell. "We attended a 24-hour showing of the work to see the segments of the video not normally seen outside of regular museum hours. Our hotel was very close and we alternated between watching about two hours of the film at the AGA and returning for quick naps at the hotel. It was a fun and exhausting experience through the night and early morning that we could not have done anywhere else.

"The AGA is a wonderful place to see and experience exhibitions that in many cases we would have to travel to other cities or countries to see. As a result, we get to learn more about artists we know, and more importantly, those we don't. Our knowledge of the art world has expanded because of the AGA."

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Joan Paton, Senior Manager, Donor Relations (to July, 2016)

Sarah Flowers, Development Assistant (to December, 2016)



### STORIES OF THE AGA: DANI RICE

### **HEAD PREPARATOR**

For most of us, we see artworks installed at the AGA and are moved by them. But it's Dani Rice and her team doing the moving, working behind the scenes to carefully install all artwork in the three weeks between exhibitions.

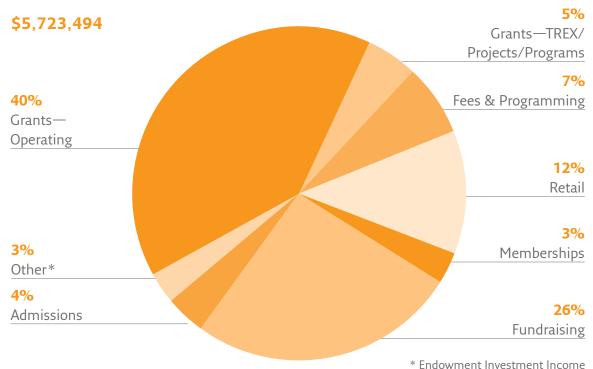
Since joining the AGA in 2009, Dani has dealt with a lot of questions: "I often explain what a preparator does because it's specific to museums and galleries." More often, though, she's the one asking. "As a preparator, I see the exhibitions and the building differently. I'm always having to ask, 'How can we get this into the building?' or 'How are we going to install this?' I have a different perspective, and I love to problem-solve and challenge myself."

Dani says her team "lives and breathes each show for three to six months" before each 3-week install. "It's a lot of time to concentrate on one thing and hard to see what the larger picture is—we're so consumed with the details.

"But there's this perfect moment, usually on the last day right before an exhibition opening, when I can take it all in. I see all the work we put into getting the exhibition together—and I can let it go. To have that quiet hour on the last day, to be able to reflect on our accomplishment—that is the most fulfilling."

## REVENUES AND EXPENSES

### **2016 OPERATING REVENUES**



### **2016 OPERATING EXPENSES**

