

ANNUAL **REPORT** 2022

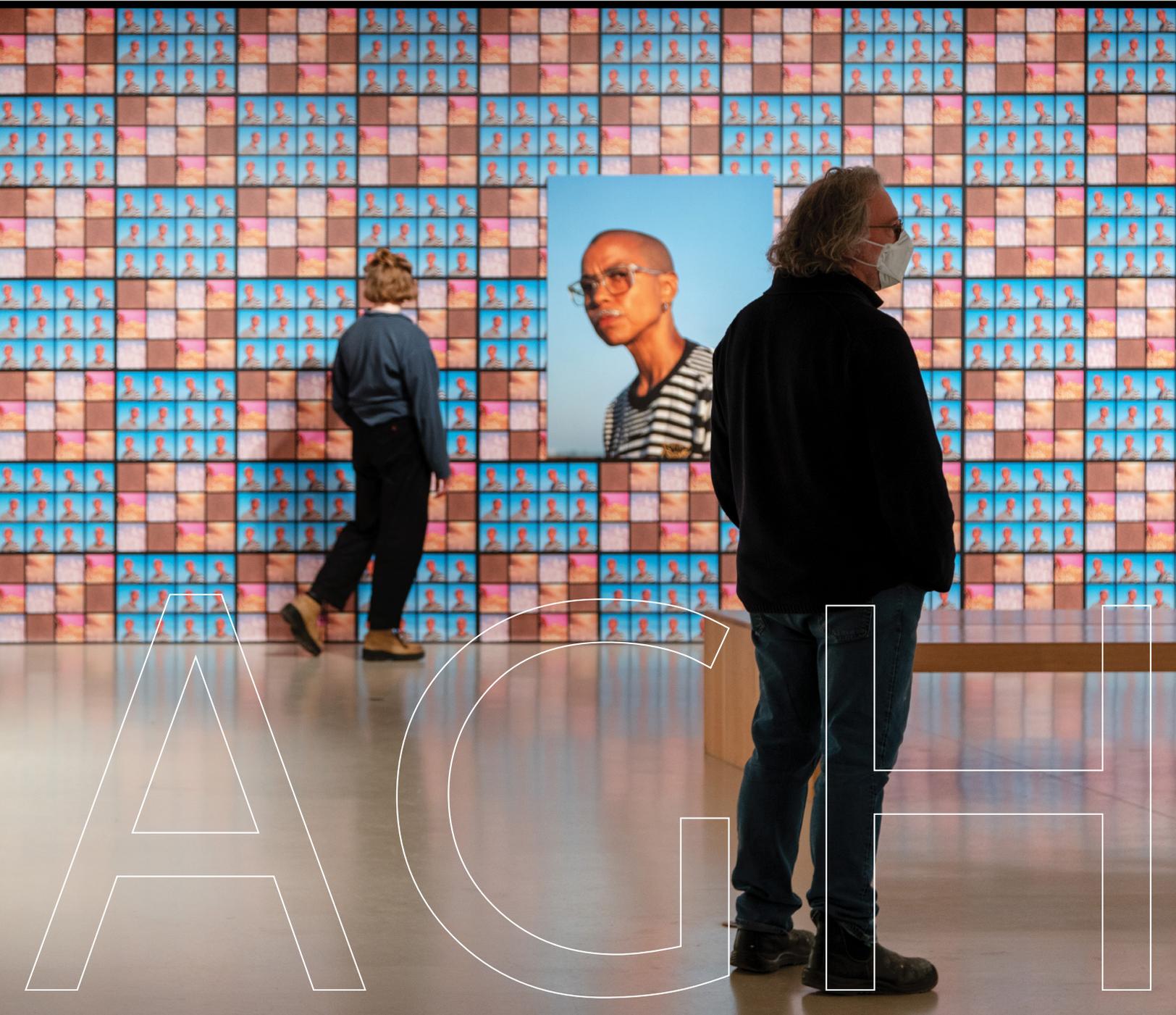


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board of Directors 1

Message from the Chair and President & CEO 2

Exhibition Highlights 5

Exhibitions 10

Acquisitions 12

Programs and Education Highlights 15

Volunteer Association 2022 18

By the Numbers 20

Operating Actuals 21

Donor Support and Sponsorship 22

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Shelley Falconer

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, PRESIDENT & CEO



Gary Graham
Chair, Board of Directors



Shelley Falconer
AGH President & CEO

Following two years of unprecedented historical turbulence, the AGH was able to navigate through the past year offering 13 exhibitions and over 400 programs, to an audience of over 160,000. With the easing of public health guidelines we were once again able to encourage physical gatherings to provide safe visitor experiences, and allow for a return of staff through a hybrid work environment. We also continued to expand our digital programs to maintain and deepen our audience engagement with a wide range of audiences.

Since reopening in early 2022, and through tireless rescheduling efforts, we were proud to offer a diverse range of exhibitions and installations. With a strong emphasis on regional and underrecognized artistic talents, over 160,000 visitors enjoyed a multitude of collection-focused and major exhibitions. Highlights included *Margaret Watkins: Black Light*, a presentation of over 100 works by Hamilton-born and internationally recognized photographer Margaret Watkins. While Watkins is often recognized for her commercial photography, this exhibition also paid tribute to her contributions to modern photography through her experimentation with still lifes and landscape photography. *The Bigger Picture: Art in Hamilton 1950-2000* displayed a collaborative collection of over 200 local creatives who contributed to the cultural ethos that would assist in shaping the diverse multi-faceted artistic landscape in Hamilton. We were also able to offer two free online only exhibitions, *Metamorphosis* and *Phobia*, which displayed contributions by Hamilton secondary school arts students. A truly unique exhibition, *Gatherings: Roger Ferreira and Kareem-Anthony Ferreira* explored the concept of cross-cultural identity through the lens of a father and son with the prominent theme of community and family incorporated into their works. Visitors were also treated to the second year of exploring works influenced by the permanent collection with the presentation of *The Living Vault: The Collection and Performance*; an exhibition featuring six multi-disciplinary artists from range of performance-based fields.

The AGH was honoured to be a supporter and partner with the Hamilton Jewish Federation for their inaugural and international #nomoreantisemitism Conference. In addition to providing venue space for part of the event, we also presented the exhibition *Ed Burtynsky: Chai*, a compelling series documenting Burtynsky's photographic journey across 4,000 kilometers of Eastern Europe's scarred landscapes of Holocaust sites. In April, we had the pleasure of welcoming Nathan Eugene Carson as our RBC Artist in Residence. His sprawling

installation on the lobby wall perfectly complemented the extensive collection of images that carried into his installation space in the sculpture atrium. The AGH collaborated with Nathan throughout the year to launch a popular public program focused on bringing the community into a shared space to lounge, connect, and converse; thus, Vinyl Night emerged welcoming an average of 70 people of varying ages per event.

We are grateful to have expanded our significant permanent collection of over 10,500 works to include an additional 100 acquisitions. Among the generous donations were four works by Canadian artist Stephen Andrews, one work by Canadian figurative artist Tony Sherman, a series of 27 photos by Canadian photographer Ruth Kaplan, and two works by Hamilton-born Canadian impressionist painter, Otilie Palm Jost. We were also fortunate to acquire significant pieces by Canadian and Indigenous artists including four protest banners by activist and educator Syrus Marcus Ware, two images by Inuk artist Katherine Takpannie, and four works by the late Ontario-based folk artist, Poppa Wilson.

Outgoing exhibitions, loans and publications are also an important part of increasing access to our holdings and deepening our relationship with local, national and international audiences. The AGH exhibition *Tom Thomson? The Art of Authentication* was presented at The Tom Thomson Gallery in Owen Sound and Chun Hua Catherine Dong was presented at the Varley Art Gallery of Markham. Our collection also featured prominently in the National Gallery of Canada's European tour and presentation of *Canada and Impressionism: New Horizons*, and the McMichael's national tour of *Uninvited*. Additional works from the permanent collection were presented nationally and internationally during this period including: Sara Angelucci, *Everything in My Father's Wallet/Everything in My Wallet* as part of the Art Gallery of Ontario exhibition *I AM HERE: Home Movies and Everyday Masterpieces*; Walter Sickert, *The Painter in his Studio*, to Tate Britain, London, UK, for the touring show *Walter Sickert*, Tate Britain, London, and *Petit Palais*, Paris; and Shelley Niro, *1779* to the Mackenzie Art Gallery's *Radical Stitch*. Several works by senior artist Tim Whiten were loaned to a series of exhibitions developed through a partnership of the Art Gallery of Peterborough, McMaster Museum of Art and the Robert McLaughlin Gallery. Whiten's *Magic Sticks, Tabernacle and Reliquaire (II)* at McMaster Museum of Art in the exhibition *Elemental: Ethereal, Canticle for Adrienne* in *Tim Whiten: Phenomena* at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery. Marian Dale Scott, *Façade #2* and Gordon Webber, *Design #1*, Vermont to Musée d'art de Joliette for the exhibition *Forgotten!* Eveleigh, Brandtner, Scott, Webber: *Revisiting Montreal abstraction of the 1940s*; as well as the sculpture *Standing Sedna* by Mikisiti Saila, which was installed at the Wellwood Cancer Centre in Hamilton on long-term loan.

Five exhibition catalogues and in-gallery publications were completed in 2022: Michèle Pearson Clarke: *Muscle Memory* and *Successions: Ingrid Mayrhofer, Gatherings, The Bigger Picture* and Nathan Eugene Carson: *Cut From the Same Cloth*. The AGH was also instrumental in the production of a short documentary film to accompany the Margaret Watkins exhibition. The film has been accepted at multiple international film festivals including Toronto, Montreal and Berlin.

The AGH's website ended the year with over 200,000 visitors expanding our national and international reach. Our program of virtual exhibitions, talks, in-class and videos increased to 139 productions with continued growth on social media channels garnering more than 1 million impressions. The AGH received 626 media mentions, 32 of those being major features by publications such as the Toronto Star, Globe & Mail, TVO Today, the Hamilton Spectator, and CHCH News. This coverage led to a potential news reach of 989 million.

As an important cultural and civic hub locally, throughout the region and Canada, we provided a wide range of educational, social and wellness programs and activities, including 409 programs and activities, 52 health and wellness programs, and 7,000 education related events. We expanded to audiences across Canada with our cross-Canada virtual school program and Artful Moments programs that connected isolated seniors and participants with disabilities for whom in-person participation was not possible and continued to offer online docent-led tours of the AGH Collection on the first Friday of each month. Free Thursdays offered opportunities to organize evening events to welcome the community into the AGH.

The AGH Festival underwent an exciting transformation, evolving from a film festival into a 10-day multi-arts spectacular. Visitors to the Festival participated in various activities, from pop-up performances to workshops and film screenings. With events taking place at several locations across Hamilton, there was no shortage of exciting happenings to explore. The reimaged 2022 AGH Festival was a community success, with over 10,000 participants from across the province joining in the festivities.

We were also delighted to have our 2021 exhibitions and publications recognized by three awards from the provincial association of art galleries (GOG) and a grateful recipient of 15 competitive special project grants from federal, provincial governments and private foundations. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated AGH Board of Directors, Governors, passionate staff and volunteers, devoted members, and generous partners and donors. We would also like to acknowledge the continued support from all three levels of government who provide crucial operating support for the continued success of exhibitions, events, and educational programs that aim to enrich Hamilton and the broader community.

In a year that required resilience and creativity, and with a deepened commitment to our core mission, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community, and extend our sincerest thank you for being part of our year.

Gary Graham



Shelley Falconer



EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS 2022

MARGARET WATKINS: *Black Light*

February 26 - August 14, 2022

Organized and circulated by diChroma Photography



The Art Gallery of Hamilton was the only Canadian venue to present this internationally touring exhibition of Hamilton-born photographer Margaret Watkins' (1884–1969) work. Yet to receive her rightful place in the history of Canadian and International art, the exhibition sought in part to right this situation through the presentation of over one hundred works that reflected her extraordinary talent and daring as one of Canada's most significant early-twentieth-century artists.

Working in the early decades of the twentieth century, Watkins is largely recognized for her innovative contributions to advertising photography. In 1919 she embarked on the series of domestic still-lives that would come to define her practice and secure a place for her in modern photography circles. Still, she kept pushing her practice, and by the mid 1930s was working increasingly on the creation of wholly abstract compositions.

Her practice all but ceased in the late 1930s and Watkins died in Glasgow in 1969, her position as a key modernist photographer largely forgotten.

MICHÈLE PEARSON CLARKE: *Muscle Memory*

February 12 - September 5, 2022

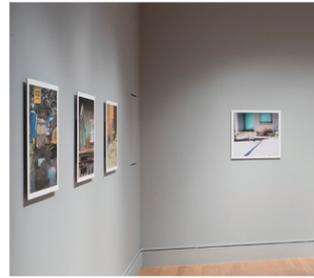


Exploring the vulnerability of queer female masculinity, *Michèle Pearson Clarke: Muscle Memory* was the first major solo exhibition in a public gallery for Trinidad-born, Toronto-based artist Michèle Pearson Clarke. Working primarily in photography and video, Clarke examines black and queer experiences of longing and loss, while situating such grief as a site of possibility for social engagement and political connection. With *Muscle Memory*, Clarke presented her largest installation to date, comprising both a new four-channel video

and sound work, *Quantum Choir*, 2022 and a selection of photographs from her ongoing series, *The Animal Seems to Be Moving*, 2018-present.

Quantum Choir reflects on the vulnerability of learning to sing as a way of exploring the legibility, precarity, and affinity of contemporary queer female masculinity, while in *The Animal Seems to Be Moving*, Clarke turns to self-portraiture for the first time to map a shift in her masculine appearance, one marked by both loss and fear.

INGRID MAYRHOFER: After All That Was Solid Melts Into Air
February 12 - May 23, 2022



In this solo exhibition of recent works, Hamilton-based artist Ingrid Mayrhofer explored the image of a changing city. Video collages and digital photomontages documented the altered streetscape during the process of demolition along King Street East in preparation for the City's planned Light Rail Transit (LRT).

After photographing many different stages of change – from active businesses and housing, to boarded up buildings and construction fencing, and newly revealed historical details – the artist created absurdist reality composites by incorporating the candy-coloured and tagged hoarding.

Her earlier series of collagraphs offered aerial views of the industrial sector and interpretations of the steelmaking process together with façades of workers' homes. The inclusion of cyanotypes and photographs from the AGH collection that document steel making and the TH&B railway construction, situated Mayrhofer's camera angle as she rambled along the tensions of progress.

RBC ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: Nathan Eugene Carson Black Carnival
April 14, 2022 - April 30, 2023



Nathan Eugene Carson was our highly celebrated RBC Artist in Residence, in 2022-2023. Beginning with a sprawling installation over our lobby wall, *Black Carnival Audience* was a sea of curious faces drawing visitors into Carson's extensive *Black Carnival* installation that occupied the David Braley and Nancy Gordon sculpture atrium, through April 2023.

During this residency, Carson created over one hundred paintings and drawings of carnival characters. Many were larger-than-life extraordinary figures that visitors were drawn to for the many possible stories that could be taking place. Carson was inspired by memories of visiting a carnival at Hamilton's Centre Mall on Barton Street. He was curious about the uniqueness of those who populated the carnival and became aware of how the 'carnies' were perceived and understood through their differences and otherness.

The collective gaze of Carson's characters was powerful, and their vulnerability was turned outward and open for discussion. Their otherness was not spectacle—rather they are wondrous and curious set of engaging characters, set out by the artist as an open-ended conversation.

THE BIGGER PICTURE: Art in Hamilton 1950-2000
September 10 - December 31, 2022

Presented by incite Foundation for the Arts

In partnership with Hamilton Arts Council and the Building Cultural Legacies Project



Hamilton's current vibrancy in the arts owes much to the lives and efforts of those who came before us, and yet this history is at risk of being lost or forgotten. In the fall of 2022, the Art Gallery of Hamilton hosted a celebratory exhibition to recall the artists who contributed to the multi-faceted explosion of the Hamilton art scene in the last half of the 20th century. The exhibition included an open call that resulted in a colossal group salon-style hang in the spirit of previous beloved collective Hamilton exhibitions such as the *NOW Show* (1986) and the *Go Show* (1991). The exhibition also featured thematic explorations of what has made the arts in Hamilton so significant and multidimensional.

Hamilton's strong sense of community and its ability to come together has been instrumental in the formation of the artistic landscape here. In recognizing our roots in collectivism, the exhibition hoped to deepen connections across generations and build toward Hamilton's continued cultural growth.

GATHERINGS: Roger Ferreira and Kareem-Anthony Ferreira
September 24, 2022 - January 8, 2023



This major exhibition by Hamilton-based father and son artists Roger Ferreira (b. 1961) and Kareem-Anthony Ferreira (b. 1989) featured over 30 paintings spanning Roger's 35-year career while also highlighting Kareem's emerging practice. Hailing from Trinidad, though born in Winnipeg, Roger and his family arrived in Hamilton in the late 1980s where he quickly established himself in the arts community, taking on public mural projects, and working with children and youth to share his skills and artistic vision.

For Roger, this exhibition served as a retrospective – spanning the major developments and themes in his approach to painting over the years, including his focus on family and Black culture, the landscapes of Canada and Trinidad, activism, and spirituality.

Kareem was born in 1989 in Hamilton and studied fine art at McMaster University before completing his MFA at the University of Arizona in 2020. In his impressive large-scale oil paintings, he revisits family trips to Trinidad. Working from old photos often taken during these family gatherings, Kareem builds richly textured images that reflect his experience of feeling rooted in two homelands: Hamilton and Trinidad.

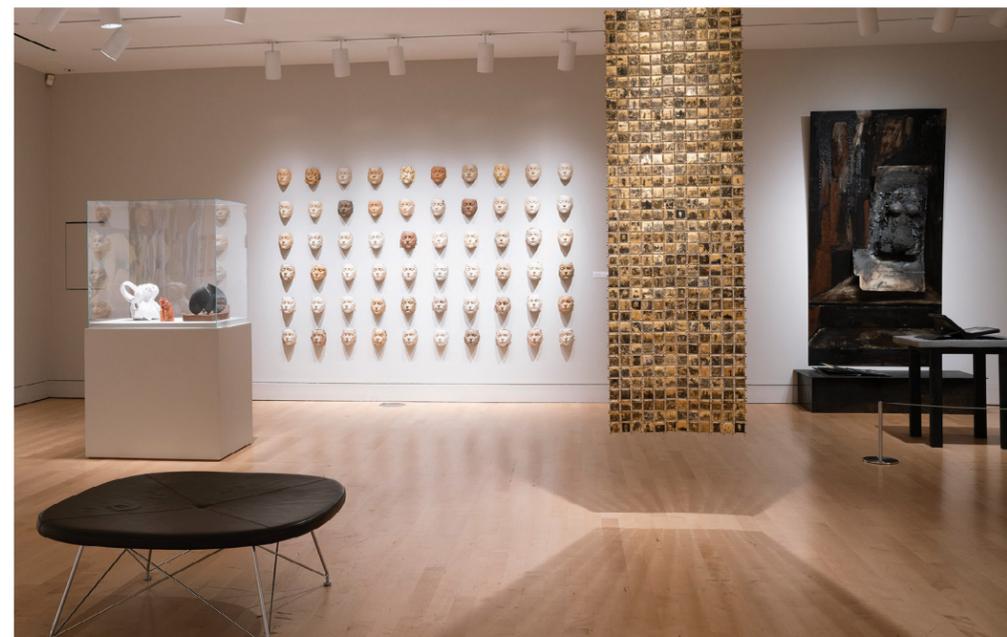
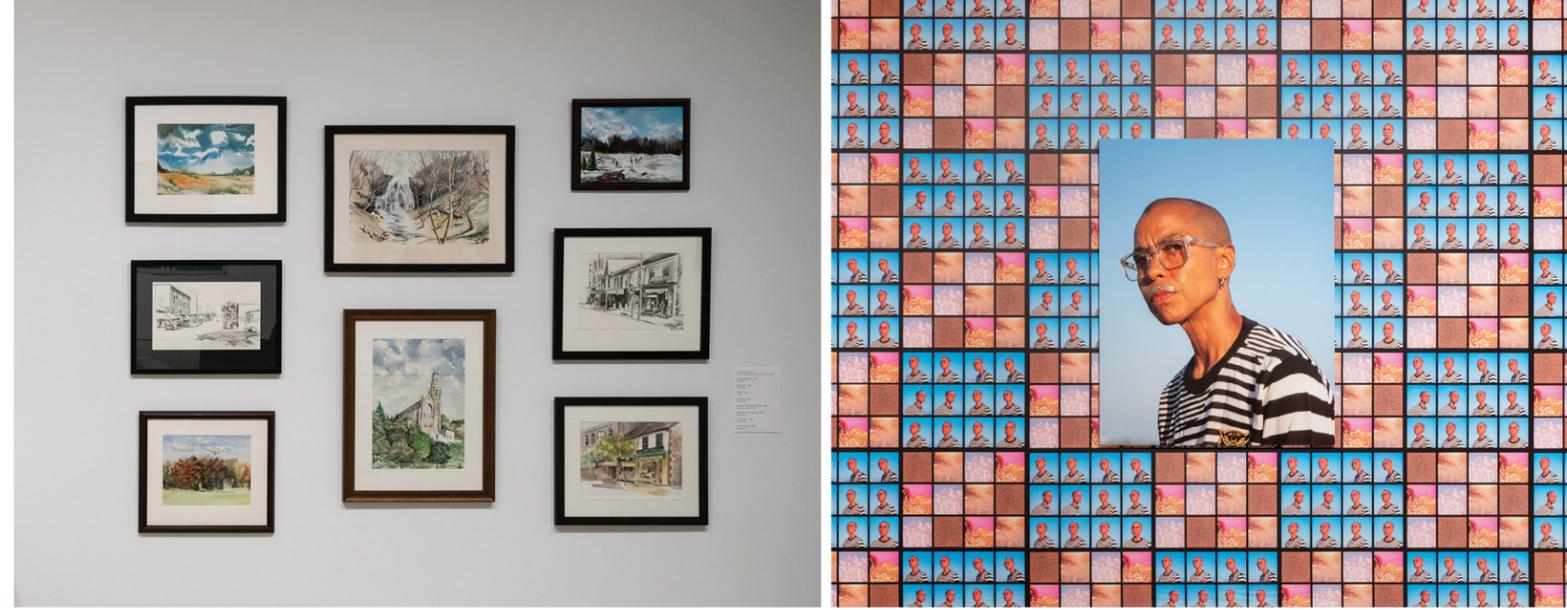
Kareem and Roger came up with the title *Gatherings* to reflect on how they are both supported and inspired by their communities and families. Were it not for people coming together, this exhibition, and indeed their practices, would not be possible.

EDWARD BURTYNSKY: Chai
November 18, 2022 - April 9, 2023



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. Nearly 80 years later, these sites still bear witness to human loss perpetrated on an unprecedented scale.

Like the scarred landscapes of mines, oil fields and landscapes that have been destroyed by industrial processes in the support of our modern lifestyle that we see in Burtynsky's work, these places bear the mark of unthinkable destruction long after the activities have ceased. The portfolio is titled *Chai* – the Hebrew word for 'life'. While there were an unthinkable number of victims in these places, there were also survivors. Their experiences then and since must guide our remembrance and learning.



2022 EXHIBITIONS

Ingrid Mayrhofer: After All That Was Solid Melts Into Air

February 12 - May 23, 2022

Curated by Melissa Bennett

Online: AGH Youth Community Art Gallery Presents: Metamorphosis

January 31 - May 30, 2022

In collaboration with AGH Youth, Hamilton secondary school Art instructors, and young Hamilton artists

Resilience: The 126th Annual Women's Art Association of Hamilton Exhibition

April 23 - June 12, 2022

Organized by the Women's Art Association of Hamilton

Margaret Watkins: Black Light

February 26 - August 14, 2022

Curated by Anne Morin

Produced by DiChroma Photography

Michèle Pearson Clarke: Muscle Memory

February 12 - September 5, 2022

Curated by Melissa Bennett

Collective Arts Series 24

October 14 - October 23, 2022

Presented by Collective Arts

Online: AGH Youth Community Art Gallery Presents: Phobia

July 25 - December 31, 2022

In collaboration with AGH Youth, Hamilton secondary school Art instructors, and young Hamilton artists

The Bigger Picture: Art in Hamilton 1950-2000

September 10 - December 31, 2022

Presented by incite Foundation for the Arts

In partnership with Hamilton Arts Council

Guest Curated by Alexis Moline and Bryce Kanbara

Gatherings: Roger Ferreira and Kareem-Anthony Ferreira

September 24, 2022 - January 8, 2023

Curated by Melissa Bennett

The Living Vault: The Collection and Performance

June 24, 2022 - January 8, 2023

Created and guest curated by Anna Chatterton and Clairandean Humphrey, Chyler Sewell and Mykola Paskaruk, and Sumona Roy and Learie McNicolls.

In partnership with Industry and Porchlight Theatre

Edward Burtynsky: Chai

November 18, 2022 - April 9, 2023

Curated by Laurie Kilgour-Walsh

RBC Artist In Residence: Nathan Eugene Carson Black Carnival

April 14, 2022 - April 30, 2023

Curated by Melissa Bennett

Presented by RBC Royal Bank

LOANS & TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

- *Tom Thomson? The Art of Authentication* was presented at The Tom Thomson Gallery in Owen Sound.
- *Chun Hua Catherine Dong* was presented at the Varley Art Gallery of Markham.
- Six works from the AGH collection featured prominently in the National Gallery of Canada's European tour and presentation of *Canada and Impressionism: New Horizons*.
- Ten works from the AGH collection were presented in the McMichael's national tour of *Uninvited*.
- Sara Angelucci, *Everything in My Father's Wallet/Everything in My Wallet* as part of the Art Gallery of Ontario exhibition *I AM HERE: Home Movies and Everyday Masterpieces*.
- Walter Sickert, *The Painter in his Studio*, to Tate Britain, London, UK, for the touring show *Walter Sickert*, Tate Britain, London, and Petit Palais, Paris.
- Shelley Niro, *1779* to the Mackenzie Art Gallery's presentation of *Radical Stitch*.
- Several works by Tim Whiten were loaned to a series of exhibitions developed through a partnership of the Art Gallery of Peterborough, McMaster Museum of Art, and the Robert McLaughlin Gallery. Whiten's *Magic Sticks*, *Tabernacle* and *Reliquaire (II)* at McMaster Museum of Art in the exhibition *Elemental: Ethereal, Cantic for Adrienne* and *Tim Whiten: Phenomena* at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery.
- Marian Dale Scott, *Façade #2* and Gordon Webber, *Design #1*, Vermont to Musée d'art de Joliette for the exhibition *Forgotten! Eveleigh, Brandtner, Scott, Webber: Revisiting Montreal abstraction of the 1940s*.
- *Standing Sedna* by Mikisiti Saila, which was installed at the Wellwood Cancer Centre in Hamilton on long-term loan.

ACQUISITIONS

DONATIONS 2022

Jeffrey Chong Wang
(Canadian b. China 1979)

Self-Portrait with Winter Coat 2011
oil on canvas
61 x 76.2 cm

RLLC "Jeffrey Wong"
Gift of Alice and Ron Charach, 2022

Simon Frank
(Canadian b. Scotland 1968)

View (After Johnston) 2016
acrylic, oil stick, log-marking hammer on reclaimed plywood
122 x 165.1 cm
Gift of the artist, 2022

Ruth Kaplan
(Canadian b. 1955)

The Crossing (Roxham Road Photographs) 2019-2021
series of 27 inkjet prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310
91.4 x 61 cm each
Gift of the artist, 2022

Poppa Wilson
(Canadian 1925-2020)

Memories of Yesteryear 2007
acrylic on wood
40.6 x 40.6 cm
Gift of the Estate of Poppa Wilson, 2022

Ottillie Palm Jost
(Canadian 1878-1961)

Public Building in Munich 1912-13
charcoal and chalk on paper
20.2 x 12.4 cm (sight)

Altenau 1917
charcoal and chalk on paper
25 x 17 cm
Gifts of Barbara Mitchell, 2022

Michael Robinson
(Anishinaabe/Métis 1948-2010)

Dancing Forever
etching on paper
ed. 39/99
Gift of Ann and Bill Manson, 2022

Unidentified artist
(Cape Dorset)

Man mid-20th century
whale bone
25 x 7.5 x 6 cm
Bequest of Margaret Middleton, 2022

Hugh Robertson
(Canadian 1900-1986)

Hamilton Marsh
watercolour on paper
58.4 x 68.6 cm (framed)

John Sloan Gordon
(Canadian 1868-1940)

Lamplighter 1895/96
watercolour (with possible pastel?) on paper
45.7 x 55.9 cm (framed)
Gifts of Rod and Cathy Innes, 2022

Andy Fabo
(Canadian b. 1953)

Phantom Limbs 2004-2005
20 works - ink, watercolour, marker, graphite on paper
74 x 56 cm (paper)

Andrew McPhail
(Canadian b. 1960)

Untitled (Red) 1989
pencil, marker, acrylic on paper
130 x 101 cm

Tony Scherman
(Canadian b. 1950-2023)

Trudeau (Black October) 2010-11
encaustic, oil pastel on canvas
214 x 214 cm

Stephen Andrews
(Canadian b. 1956)

James from the series
The Apostles 1998
oil, pencil on parchment
48 x 61 cm

NO! from the series
Hoi polloi 1998
oil, pencil on parchment
48 x 61 cm

Crossing 2011
oil and encaustic on canvas
244 x 183 cm

Team 2 2002
6 works - oil and pencil on parchment
48 x 61 cm

Betty Goodwin
(Canadian 1923-2008)

The cry 2000
steel, oil stick, bronze and wire
Base: 243 x 56 x 55 cm
Ball: 25 cm in diameter, 48 cm total height
Gifts of Salah Bachir and Jacob Yerex, 2022

Chun Hua Catherine Dong
(Canadian b. China 1975)

I Have Been There-Hangzhou 2018, digital print
32 x 48 inches; 81.3 x 121.9 cm
Skin Deep - Red Phoenix 2018
digital print with Augmented Reality
40 x 32"; 101.6 x 81.3 cm
Gifts of the artist, 2022

PURCHASES 2022

Syrus Marcus Ware
(Canadian b. 1977)
Afraid of the Dark c.2020
mixed media protest banner
273 x 330.2 cm

We Will Win c.2020
mixed media protest banner
259 x 327.6 cm

Take Root Among the Stars c.2020
mixed media protest banner
254 x 317.5 cm

But What if We Don't c.2020
mixed media protest banner
254 x 317.5 cm
Purchases, Permanent Collection Fund, 2022

Andrew McPhail
(Canadian b. 1960)

SICK&TIRED 2017
sequins on bedsheet, thread
175.3 x 228.6 cm
Purchase, Permanent Collection Fund, 2022

Kareem-Anthony Ferreira
(Canadian b. 1989)

Untitled (family archive) 2022
silkscreen on Coventry Rag Vellum 290 gsm
ed. 7/15, 118.7 x 86.4 cm
Purchase, Permanent Collection Fund, 2022

Miss Rodney's Event 2022
acrylic, mixed media on canvas, diptych:
135.3 x 184.2 cm each

Roger Ferreira
(Canadian b. 1961)

Peace March 2008
watercolour on paper
50.8 x 73.2 cm
Purchase, Permanent Collection Fund, 2022

Poppa Wilson
(Canadian 1925-2020)

Is this the place? 2008
acrylic on wood
72 x 92 cm

Moose Power 2009
acrylic on wood
60 x 77 cm
Purchases, Permanent Collection Fund, 2022

Ravinder Ruprai
(Canadian b. England 1969)

Braid III 2021
silk, wool, fabric edging, gold leaf, paper, foam core, wood
50.5 x 54.5 cm

Braid I 2021
silk, wool, fabric edging, gold leaf, paper, foam core, wood,
50.5 x 54.5 cm
Purchases, Permanent Collection Fund, 2022

Katherine Takpannie
(Inuk b. 1989)

Autumn Peltier #3 2020
archival pigment ink print
ed. 4/5, 61 x 91.4 cm

Women's Season #1 2021
archival pigment ink print
ed. 1/5, 61 x 91.4 cm
Purchases, Permanent Collection Fund, 2022

Janice Reid
(Canadian b. 1987)
Transforming Fanny Eaton
2021
photographic print on
Hahnemühle Hemp paper
61 x 91.4 cm
ed. 1/5
Purchase, Permanent
Collection Fund, 2022

Ruth Cuthand
(Canadian, Plains Cree
b. 1954)
Extirpate this Excrable
Race no. 3 2018
glass beads, Canadian Forces
blankets, ribbon
dimensions variable
Purchased with the support
of the Elizabeth L. Gordon

Art Program, a program of
the Gordon Foundation and
administrated by the Ontario
Arts Foundation, and the
Permanent Collection Fund,
2022

Katherine MacDonald
(Canadian b. 1953)
Italian lemon 2022
oil on paper
21 x 26 cm
Blue dress (worn by
Rae Hendershot) 2018
watercolour on paper
34 x 22 cm
Purchased with funds
provided by the Women's Art
Association of Hamilton and
the Permanent Collection
Fund, 2022

Nathan Eugene Carson
(Canadian b. 1980)
Animals at the Circus table
2022-2023
details tbd
Purchased with funded
provided by the RBC Arts
Rising Program, 2022

PUBLICATIONS & PRODUCTIONS

Five exhibition catalogues and in-Gallery publications were completed to accompany exhibitions in 2022:

- *Michèle Pearson Clarke: Muscle Memory*
- *Successions: Ingrid Mayrhofer*
- *Gatherings: Roger Ferreira and Kareem Ferreira*
- *The Bigger Picture: Art in Hamilton 1950-2000*
- *Nathan Eugene Carson: Cut from the Same Cloth*, published in collaboration with the Power Plant Art Gallery
- The AGH was also instrumental in the production of a short documentary film to accompany the Margaret Watkins exhibition. The film has been accepted at multiple international film festivals including Toronto, Montreal and Berlin

AWARDS

- 2022 Galleries Ontario / Ontario Galleries (GOG) Award Winners; Innovation in a Collections-Based Exhibition *Breaking The Vault: Art and Poetic Liberty*, and Art Writing, and Geneviève Wallen "Moving Beyond Fantasies: The Art of Esmāa Mohamoud" From the publication, *Esmāa Mohamoud: To Play in the Face of Certain Defeat*, 2021, Museum London in partnership with the Art Gallery of Hamilton
- 2022 Shortlisted: Exhibition Catalogue Design Award: Vincent Perez, *Tom Thomson? The Art of Authentication*, Art Gallery of Hamilton in collaboration with the Agnes Etherington Art Centre

PROGRAM & EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

This year was a year of returns and growth. As we shifted back into a program focused on in-person experiences across the spectrum of our activities one of our priorities was reengaging with our audiences and communities at the AGH after an extended time away. To begin, the reimagining of many core activities placed new emphasis on social connection and learning, and the department underwent significant restructuring in order to align with emerging priorities. The difficult decision to end the film program came in the wake of many changes to the film and cinema landscape over the last years, but this change made way for the repositioning of programming areas into three pillars: Education and Learning, Wellness, and Community Engagement.

Throughout 2022, audience numbers grew, and an overall sense of energy and excitement fueled our work, leading to the introduction of a number of significant projects coming to fruition.

EDUCATION & LEARNING

Having maintained connections with our regional school audiences in 2020-21, and into 2022 through virtual programming, we were thrilled to welcome students back to the AGH for in-person Tour and Studio programming, as well as a Curatorial Symposium for secondary students, with the 2022-23 school year showing an almost full return. Artist Led Projects maintained a strong virtual presence in classrooms early in the year with artist-educators returning to classrooms in the Fall.

Fall also kicked off a national arts education program, thanks to the support of the Canada Council for the Arts. Our artist-educator team worked in virtual classrooms across the county delivering arts-based projects in visual art, film, photography, creative writing, drama, and rap/poetry.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Interpretive Activities

Artist Talks in support of our exhibitions were varied and well attended. They included: Michèle Pearson Clarke in support of her solo exhibition; Mary O'Connor and Katherine Tweedle presenting on Margaret Watkins; a Town Hall style event in response to Ingrid Mayrhofer's exhibition; a curator's talk for *The Bigger Picture: Art in Hamilton 1950-2000*; and an artist talk with Roger and Kareem-Anthony Ferreira for their exhibition *Gatherings*. Additional interpretive events brought the collection to life through weekly guided tours, monthly Fridays at Four virtual presentations, and group experiences.

Creative and Social Programs

In the spirit of joining together to share arts and cultural experiences, these programs include Summer in the City, a series of programs including musical performances, trivia night, karaoke nights, dance parties, and arts & crafts activities. These Free Thursday events attracted diverse groups of people to the Gallery, from grade-school children to retirees. Monthly Vinyl Nights, the third Thursday of each month, hosted by artist-in-residence Nathan Eugene Carson also encouraged new and regular patrons to join the fun. Family programs including monthly Family Fun Days and Story Time rounded out the all-ages Gallery experiences.

AGH Festival

In October, the first AGH Festival was a success! We went into this year's Festival with the intention of learning how to hold a multi-disciplinary arts festival, after over a decade of holding annual film festivals. Through his "year-zero" approach we were able to try a wide variety of talks, parties, workshops, film screenings and kids' events. Over the 10-day Festival, we hosted 29 events with approx. 10,000 attendees from across the province. AGH Festival gave us the opportunity to develop new and stronger relationships with many of Hamilton's grassroots organizations in the city, working with local artisans, musicians, and performers and our major event, *Celebrate: An Afro-Caribbean Extravaganza*, was a joyful night of great food, music, and friendship.

WELLNESS

Artful Moments

Artful Moments is an umbrella program for a range of wellness programs designed for specialized audiences. We prioritize strengths and abilities along with knowledge of participants' needs in an interactive and socially connective experience. Artful Moments works with many different audiences and collaborates with several community partners. Participants include people living with dementia, autism, social isolation, caregivers, and those who use social support. We built connections with Hamilton Civic Museums (specifically Whitehern Historic Home and Garden), Glenhyrst Gallery of Brant and Lynwood Arts Centre in order to support Artful Moments programming within other museums. Artful Moments was presented to an international audience as part of the 2022 MuseumNext Summit of Health and Wellbeing.

Programs for Wellbeing

In 2022, the Youth Art Collective provided opportunities for young people ages 15 to 24 to come together to experience and make art with like-minded peers. YAC is an open invitation for youth to make the AGH a comfortable place to express themselves. QUARTZ: Queer Art Hang! opened the AGH doors and studio to be a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive space for queer community members and aspiring allies to gather, be creative, and experience the Gallery. Quartz took place monthly and welcomed over 30 participants at each session. Mindfulness and Movement programs invited participants to take time each month for creative reflections. These took the form of yoga and sound-therapy experiences, mindful drawing, sensory and slow-looking tours, and encouraged participants to take time and space to achieve their own wellness goals.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Through a variety of ongoing and special events, we connected with a number of partners in 2022. These included Lit Live, Keeping Six, City Housing Hamilton, and more. Hamilton You Poets connected art and spoken work in innovative programs for youth. Speakers of Truth continued to be a powerful and inspiring Round Table discussion led by Lyndon George. The Art of Creation project uses art to explain the importance of being healthy before and during pregnancy. We were honoured to partner with the Hamilton Jewish Foundation for their first International Antisemitism Conference, collaborate with the Afro Caribbean Association (ACCA) to develop a Young Curator Program and thrilled to welcome the Filipinas of Hamont to the Gallery for an afternoon tour and artmaking workshop. Porchlight Theatre held its second Garden Party at the Gallery celebrating the BIPOC community in the greater Hamilton area.



VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION 2022

Volunteer activity and interest has been building steadily throughout 2022.

With a return to in-person support beginning mid-February, volunteers were eager and willing to adjust to revised needs within the Gallery, as pandemic protocols continued to evolve.

In hopeful anticipation of a return to on-site in-person school-group tours, a group of new docents received training from February through May with Laurie Kilgour-Walsh, Senior Manager, Education.

Meanwhile, the very popular “Fridays at Four” online art viewing program, initiated and led by docents, moved from a weekly program in 2021 to a monthly program in 2022. By the end of the year, over 900 works from the AGH permanent collection had been shared to over 2700 registrants!

In the Spring, one local school board returned to booking in-person school tours. Fall brought a welcome and steady stream of students, keeping volunteer docents active daily.

The Art Gallery of Hamilton was the institution of choice in 2022 for 29 new volunteers who actively supported in a variety of areas. Twelve others applied toward the end of the year and are eagerly awaiting their recruitment process while we look for openings and opportunities for more volunteer support.

We are grateful that Rebecca Frerotte, Development Officer, has been our guiding force, offering encouragement and working collaboratively with our Volunteer Association Executive to bring her energy to help make decisions that support the Gallery’s needs and directions.

The following are the volunteer hours recorded by area in 2022:



With over 3182 volunteer hours recorded in 2022, we are on a gradual rise towards pre-pandemic levels.

Fall also brought many new and returning volunteers together to support the inaugural ten-day AGH Festival. Led and supported by staff lead, Jordan Delfs, and Performance and Festival volunteer liaison, Jennifer Powell-Fralick, 45 volunteers contributed over 376 hours for this full-staff effort. The community outreach of this event was something that volunteers could clearly be a part of, with many commenting positively on the sense of welcome, inclusion, and sharing of varied cultural and artistic ideas.

Throughout 2022, the Volunteer Association Executive took actions to support the Gallery’s mandate of honouring, highlighting, and learning more about Indigenous roots and influences, encouraging all volunteers to pursue their individual growth in their path to Truth and Reconciliation.

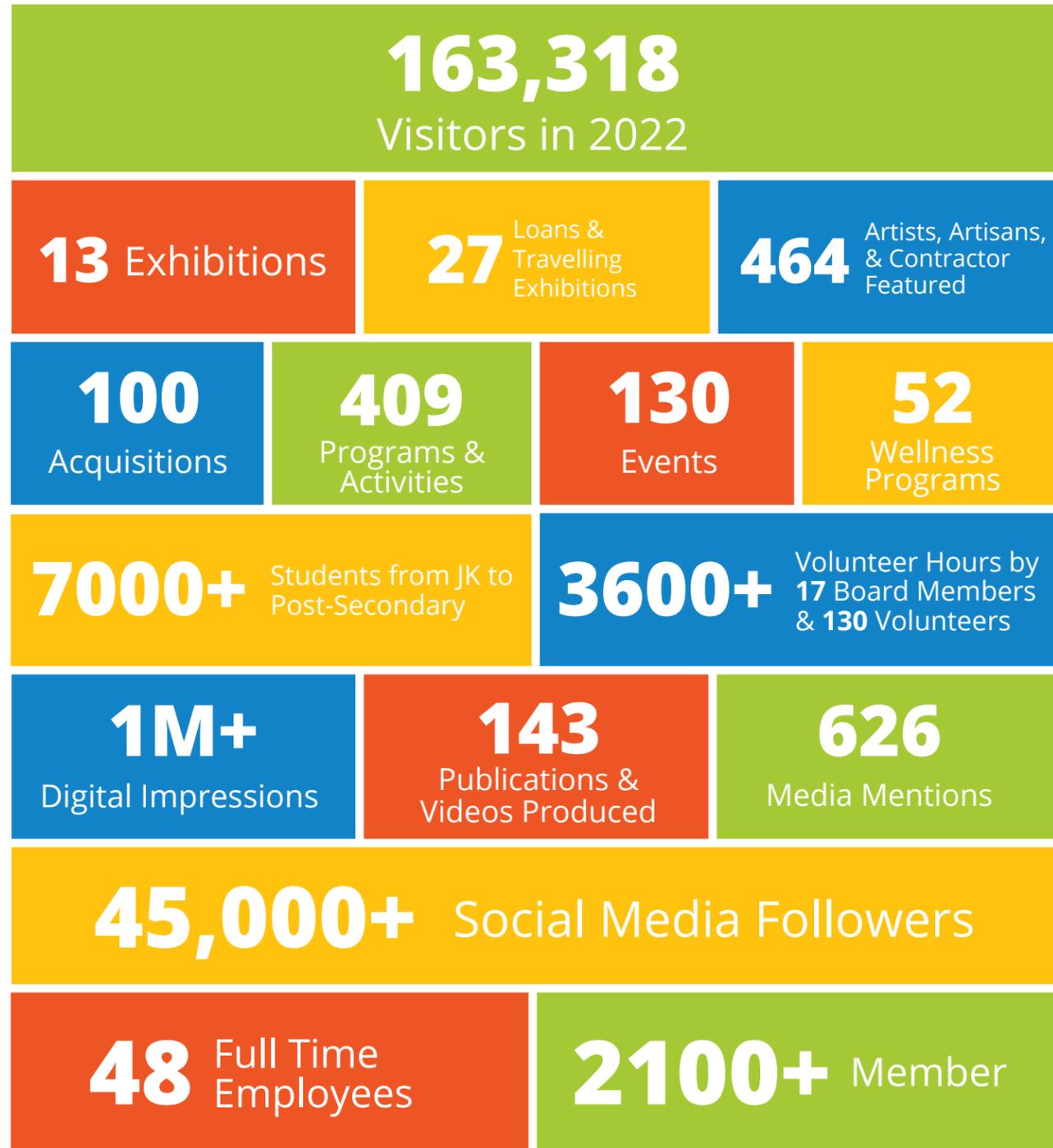
In addition, the Volunteer Association Executive brought attention to the need for volunteers to learn about and receive training on issues of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. During our Annual General Meeting in May, attendees were guided to consider and challenge our own blind spots and assumptions and learn about micro-aggressions. The VAE looks forward to more opportunities to have ongoing training for all volunteers to help us become ready and well versed to interact with and welcome visitors in an equitable, accessible, and widely representative environment.

As volunteerism evolves and changes with the needs of the times, one tradition that AGH volunteers are proud of and wish to continue is the legacy of fundraising to support acquisitions for the AGH permanent collection. This spring, the Volunteer Association Executive launched a fundraising effort. As the year 2025 will mark 75 years of volunteer activity at the AGH, we would like to celebrate this milestone with an acquisition that supports the Gallery’s direction to include local, under-represented communities. We encourage all volunteers to participate and continue the tradition of support started in 1950!

Heading into 2023, our Volunteer Association is committed to collaborating with the incredible talents, skills, and dedication of AGH staff to find ways that we can all serve the public and promote the Gallery as a destination for all!

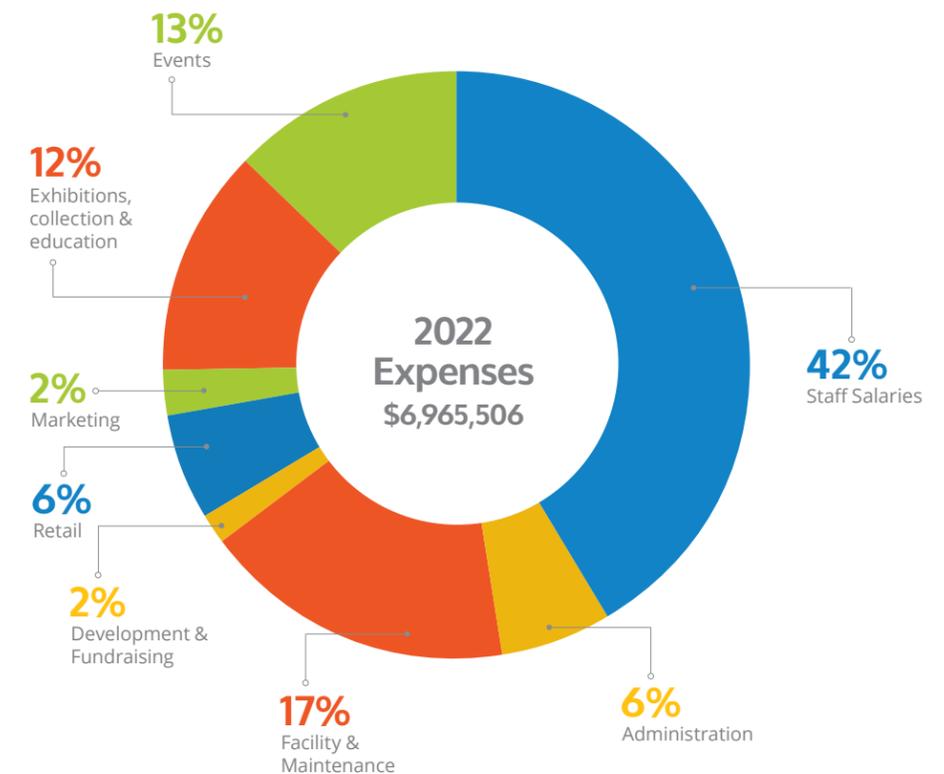
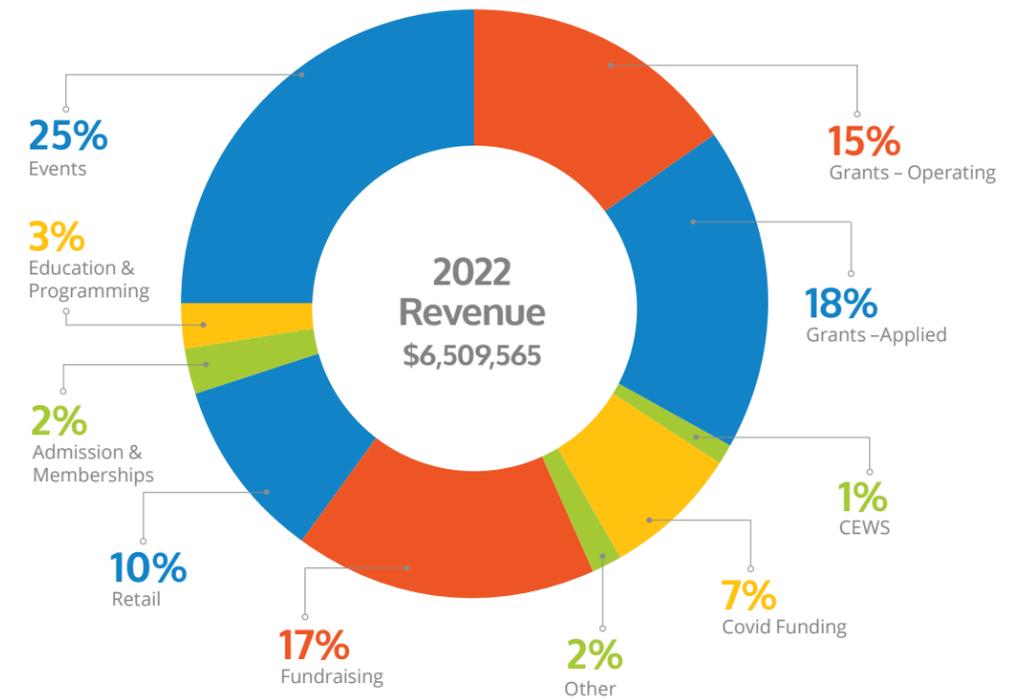
Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Fong

2022 BY THE NUMBERS



108 YEARS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

OPERATING ACTUALS



DONOR SUPPORT & SPONSORSHIP

The AGH began 2022 with a mandated closure in January, closing early the very popular exhibition *Maud Lewis*. Off to a challenging start, we relied on the continued support of our community of donors to help us transition back to full opening in February. We are so very grateful for this ongoing support which allows the AGH to continue to offer award winning exhibitions and programs, care for our 10,500+ works of art, and provide exceptional spaces for the community to gather and celebrate.

The AGH has placed a renewed emphasis on partnerships, which we view as a necessary component for our ongoing success. In 2022, we joined with other arts and culture organizations to form the Hamilton Arts & Culture Collective to strengthen the arts community in Hamilton through cooperation and joint initiatives such as **Giving Tuesday**. We are also actively pursuing other partnership opportunities within the city.

The Art Gallery of Hamilton is sincerely grateful to our major supporters of 2022:

Margaret Watkins: Black Light exhibition, supported by our communities and a generous matching donor.

The Bigger Picture: Art in Hamilton 1950-2000 exhibition, sponsored by the incite Foundation for the Arts, in partnership with the Hamilton Arts Council and the Building Cultural Legacies project.

Gallery Level 2 Free Admission sponsored by Orlick Industries Ltd.

Collection Acquisitions supported by the Elizabeth L. Gordon Art Program, a program of the Gordon Foundation and administered by the Ontario Arts Foundation.

Exhibition and Program support generously provided by Bob and Maggie Carr, Don & Sheila Pether, John and Liz Heersink (anonymous?), Filomena Frisina, John & Eileen Hutton, Gary & Sandra Graham, Brent & Sally Foreman, Joe Pietrantonio, and Eleanor McMahan.

RBC Artist in Residence supported by RBC Royal Bank.

AGH Free Thursdays supported by incite Foundation for the Arts, and RBC Royal Bank.

AGH Learn & Education programs supported by the incite Foundation for the Arts, Hamilton Community Foundation, The Fedorovitch Family Foundation, The Dougher Community Fund, the Edith H. Turner Foundation Fund, The McGrath Milne Fund and the Taylor Family, and the Government of Canada Young Canada Works program.

AGH Festival presented by BMO Financial Group, the Province of Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation an Agency of the Government of Canada, the Government of Canada, the incite Foundation for the Arts, and many more community sponsors and partners.

AGH Sketchbook Summer supported by Cogeco Inc.

Artful Moments presented by the TD Bank Group, the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario.

Digitization Project supported by the Government of Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage MAP- Digital Access to Heritage program.

Gala presented by RBC Royal Bank, supported by wide angle sponsors Effort Trust, Fox Harb'r Resort and LiUNA, close-up sponsors DPAI, Collyer Benson Artic Experience McNaught Gallery, Local Sponsors Herzig Eye Institute, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Simpson Wigle, and AON Reed Stenhouse Inc.

Building Improvements including sculpture garden installation of turf, new outdoor furniture and games, and improved safety, security systems and accessibility signage through the Government of Canada Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario and RTO3. Operating Support provided by Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, and the City of Hamilton.

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Special Acknowledgement

John Soule

In memory of John Soule and in recognition of his outstanding generosity and support as a member of the Council of Governors, Board of Directors, and Acquisition Committee.

Carl and Kate Turkstra

In memory of Carl and Kate Turkstra for their tireless support of the AGH as founders of the incite Foundation. Carl and Kate were valuable members of the AGH Council of Governors and the Legacy Art Committee.

William "Bill" Manson

In memory of William "Bill" Manson for his many years of generosity and support to the AGH and as Chair of the AGH Volunteer Committee.

This list reflects donations of \$500 + made between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022.

The AGH respects the Donor Bill of Rights and the privacy requests of all donations, therefore anonymous donations have not been reflected in this list.

IMAGE CREDITS:

Cover Image: Installation view, *Michèle Pearson Clarke: Muscle Memory*, Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2022, photo by Yuula Benivolski

Table of Contents Image: Dawn White Beatty, *I am the Garden*, 1994, handmade papers, plaster cast of artist's face, Collection of the Artist

Pg 5: Installation view, *Margaret Watkins: Black Light*, Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2022, photo by Robert McNair

Installation view, *Michèle Pearson Clarke: Muscle Memory*, Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2022, photo by Yuula Benivolski

Pg 6: Installation view, *Ingrid Mayrhofer: After All That Was Solid Melts Into Air*, Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2022, photo by Robert McNair

Installation view, *RBC Artist In Residence: Nathan Eugene Carson*, Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023, photo by Lisa Narduzzi

Pg 7: Installation view, *The Bigger Picture: Art in Hamilton 1950-2000*, Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2022, photo by Lisa Narduzzi

Installation view, *Gatherings: Roger Ferreira and Kareem-Anthony Ferreira*, Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023, photo by Lisa Narduzzi

Pg 8: Installation view, *Edward Burtynsky: Chai*, Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023

Pg 9: [Clockwise from top left] Installation view, *Gatherings: Roger Ferreira and Kareem-Anthony Ferreira*, Art Gallery of Hamilton, 2023, photo by Lisa Narduzzi

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