

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
TWENTY  
SIXTEEN

SAAG

2016 ANNUAL REPORT  
SOUTHERN ALBERTA **ART GALLERY**

# OUR MISSION

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery fosters the work of contemporary artists who challenge boundaries. We encourage broad public engagement, and promote awareness and exploration of artistic expression. Our work extends to local, national, and international communities.

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**Images:** It was interesting to compare works from the Buchanan Collection with the student art they inspired in *Then and Now: The Buchanan Collection seen through Emerging Artists* | The SAAG team is all smiles at our December opening in this photo with artists Jason De Haan, Miruna Dragan, and Anton Ginzburg | A crowd gathers at the opening reception to hear curator Wayne Baerwaldt talk about the cowboy imagery in *Field Portraits of Contemporary Western Culture* | Images by Rod Leland Photo

## SAAG

### STAFF

Director/Curator – **Ryan Doherty**  
Associate Director – **Danielle Tait**  
Assistant Curator – **Christina Cuthbertson**  
Fund Development Coordinator – **Jess Fehr**  
Communications Coordinator – **Nicole Hembroff**  
Administrative Coordinator – **Kate Galbraith**  
Visitor Services Coordinator & Film Programmer – **Tess Mitchell**  
Visitor Services Assistant – **Kasia Sosnowski**  
Public Engagement Coordinator – **Taylor Crozon**  
Public Engagement Coordinator & Preparator – **Clayton Smith**  
Installation Assistants – **Ronald Teather** (volunteer), and **Ian Thompson** (volunteer)  
Shop Attendants – **Jiixin Shi**, **Liam Monaghan**, **Jessica Humphries**, **Henriette Plas**  
Librarians – **Elspeeth Nickle**, **Sharon Stevenson-Ferrari** (volunteers)  
Curator Emerita – **Joan Stebbins**  
Executive Director Emerita – **Marilyn Smith**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair – **Carol Williams**  
Chair Elect – **Kari Sackney**  
Secretary – **Robin Hepher**  
Treasurer – **Ryan Stevenson**  
**David Cocks**  
**Jeremy Duchan**  
**Carla Ferrari**  
**Ivka Kadezabek**  
**Dawn King-Hunter**  
**Myra Sorochan**  
**Urvil Thakor**  
**Cara Varzari**

**SOUTHERN ALBERTA ART GALLERY**  
601 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH | 403.327.8770 | SAAG.CA







# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past two years at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery have marked a time of great transition. In response to province-wide funding reductions from the Alberta Foundation of the Arts that originated in 2014, there has been an ongoing focus on board and fund development since early 2015.

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2016 saw continued transition as the Board of Directors worked toward a new governance model. In November, the board participated in a second annual weekend retreat. Bruce Thurston of Management Resource Services, along with Fund Development consultant Mark McLoughlin, led the board through a variety of visioning exercises and working sessions. ATB's Chief Economist Todd Hirsch gave a keynote address, speaking to us about the economic value of arts and culture. His presentation was thoughtful, timely, and relevant given recent funding pressures and the current provincial economic climate.

2016 also marked the gallery's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we launched an ambitious three year, \$1 million fundraising campaign: *Live Art. Love SAAG*. This was made possible with significant bridge funding from the City of Lethbridge for 2015 to 2018. We are deeply appreciative for the consistent support from the current Lethbridge City Council and city administration.

An essential component of SAAG's fundraising was the formation of a Campaign Cabinet consisting of philanthropically inclined supporters. These advocates are external to the Board of Directors, and have emerged as an active force to assist in meeting our goal of economic sustainability. Their efforts converged with individual donors who participated in the gallery's first Legacy giving initiative. In concert with this program, SAAG developed a limited edition 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Print Portfolio featuring work by David Hoffos, Geoffrey James, Faye HeavyShield, Kelly Richardson, and Anton Ginzburg—marking the generational influence of these artists, among many others, and celebrating SAAG's impact in Lethbridge and beyond.

The ambition of the *Live Art. Love SAAG*. campaign is to build sustainability for SAAG: to allow us to transform our physical facility and operations; to more fully cultivate public engagement; and to reach new audiences. Thus SAAG endeavours to enhance programming both in and out of the gallery: more classes for students of all ages; more projects sited in diverse locations and contexts beyond the gallery walls; more artists from broader geographic origins; and more opportunities for community collaboration.

Finally, as with any non-profit community organizations facing economically uncertain times, our ambition not only requires a firm financial foundation but also depends on the dedication of a diversely skilled, energetic, professional staff. Employees, alongside volunteers, dedicate countless hours to SAAG in their respective and overlapping areas of expertise—curatorial, communications, design, education, public engagement, volunteer coordination, financial management, fund development, installation and preparation, shop management, and administration. On behalf of the Board, I publically acknowledge the outstanding contributions of staff and volunteers who give so much to make SAAG thrive. Therefore, our fundraising efforts are not exclusively about expanding opportunities as sketched above, but to recognize that SAAG is wholly reliant on a team of extraordinary professionals who ignite and fuel the creative ambitions of this institution year round.

  
**Carol Williams**  
President

**Images:** Viewers check out Anton Ginzburg's brightly coloured mural at the opening for *Blue Flame: Constructions and Initiatives*. | Our reverse draw winners pose with their prizes including a complete set of framed prints from our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Print Portfolio and framed editions of Julie Duschenes' *Art Auction* prints. | Urvil Thakor has been a long-time SAAG supporter, attending exhibition openings, fundraising events, and currently serving on our Board of Directors. | Images by Rod Leland Photo

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

40 years ago, a handful of visionaries started something special in this remote corner of the world – a contemporary art gallery determined to showcase first-class artists and public programming. Almost immediately the Southern Alberta Art Gallery garnered a reputation as one of the most respected institutions in Canada, and we are proud to say we have remained resolute in our mandate and vision ever since.

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It was a great pleasure, this past year, to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to reflect fondly on all the extraordinary people who shaped this organization. Indeed, a remarkable legacy was formed through the support and vision of founding members including Van Christou, Charles Crane, Isabel Hamilton, Elaine Harrison, Bob Hicks, Corne Martens, Paulene McGeorge, Duncan Rand, Sandi Sandilands, George Watson, and Susan Whishaw. A debt is owed to former Mayor Bob Tarleck who, as a councilor, fought hard to see the old library transformed into a contemporary art gallery, and to Allan Harding MacKay, our first Director/ Curator, who set the bar very high with rigorous programming from across the country.

Forty years later we celebrated this legacy with exhibitions such as Janet Cardiff & George Bures Miller's *Opera for a Small Room* – a project that welcomed two of the most acclaimed artists in the world back to Lethbridge where they first launched their careers. We produced a limited edition 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary portfolio with prints from David Hoffos, Geoffrey James, Faye HeavyShield, Kelly Richardson, and Anton Ginzburg. We maintained long running programs like the *Art Auction*, *Gallery School*, and *Art's Alive and Well in the Schools* and even rifled through old photographs for our weekly Throwback Thursday series. While we tipped our hat to our past, SAAG has always been a forward looking organization and we never lost sight of the present, introducing artists like Lisa Lipton, now regarded as one of Canada's rising stars nominated for multiple Sobey Awards and other important accolades. We provided a forum for current research by hosting engaging *Articulations* lectures by Dr. Kimberly Mair, Dr. Devon Smither, and Dr. Mickey Vallee.

We explored the world by touring members of our community through the galleries and museums of Barcelona and Madrid on an *Art & Culture Tour*, and we brought the world to SAAG with work by international artists such as Holger Kalberg and Anton Ginzburg.

In truth, it is all too easy to celebrate the legacies built by those who came before us. The challenge comes in creating a legacy of our own. It is in this spirit that 2016 also marked the beginning of an ambitious plan for the future with the launch of our \$1 million *Live Art. Love SAAG.* fundraising campaign. Publicly launched this past September, it has commenced with a resounding show of support for the organization and the incalculable value of arts and culture. Our four key areas of transformation – Public Engagement, Outreach and Accessibility, Exhibition Programming, and Organizational Capacity – form the cornerstone of our campaign with the aim to foster an understanding of art as integral to any successful, dynamic, innovative, and healthy community. Together with our growing membership, visitor attendance, students, and volunteers, we are feeling exceedingly confident that this support will continue to grow as we look to the years ahead. We are also excited to have made an application to the City of Lethbridge Capital Improvement Program with a \$2.7 million proposal focusing on the capital component of our campaign: enhancing administrative, storage, and educational spaces as well as the potential for a leasable space to begin offering food services.

The success of this campaign will not be measured solely on financial targets and must instead reflect



our efforts to build advocacy and engagement with arts and culture. At SAAG we are fortunate to have a team of passionate and talented arts professionals working hard to strengthen connections between SAAG and our community. With infectious enthusiasm, they help our audiences make art a part of their everyday lives. A significant focus for 2016 has been with regard to human resources. New policies and procedures are being introduced regularly to improve wages and benefits, overtime policies, evaluation methodologies, individual and organizational planning, and more. Through the collective vision of the staff and board, new measures have been embedded within our *Live Art. Love SAAG.* campaign to see additional staff, office and meeting spaces, and further improvements to wages across the board. Professional development continues to be encouraged and this past year saw many opportunities. Our Communications Coordinator, Nicole Hembroff, travelled to Quebec to attend Agenda, the world's leading arts communications conference; our Assistant Curator, Christina Cuthbertson, conducted studio

visits in Winnipeg; and our Public Engagement Coordinators, Taylor Crozon and Clayton Smith, attended the Canadian Association of Gallery Educators (CAGE) conference in Kelowna. We are also happy to celebrate Associate Director Danielle Tait and Fund Development Coordinator Jess Fehr who were recently included among Lethbridge's Top 40 Under 40. Our staff continue to be invested in our community through organizations such as Rotary, Association of Fundraising Professionals, City of Lethbridge Committees, YWCA, U of L Athletics, and more.

We share a vision for southern Alberta with art and culture at its core; a community that advances public engagement with the ideas of our time and recognizes the value of the arts in shaping meaningful lives. 2016 was another successful year for the gallery and marked the beginning of a new legacy introducing ambitious and exciting plans for our future. We are well on our way to advancing southern Alberta as an increasingly vibrant and visionary place to call home.

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**Images:** Director/Curator Ryan Doherty poses with Ralph Thrall III and Rae-Ann Thrall, who hosted us at the McIntyre Ranch to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and our first group of Legacy Donors. Image by Tijana Martin | Eric Dyck was our fall Feature Artist in *The Shop* at SAAG. His custom window display commemorated 40 years of our history.



# CURATORIAL REPORT

In 1976, the Southern Alberta Art Gallery opened its doors to offer contemporary programming of the highest caliber and establish a reputation as one of the most significant voices in contemporary art in Canada. Forty years later SAAG's curatorial endeavours continue to be celebrated far and wide reflecting a roster of exceptional artists locally, nationally, and internationally and concerted efforts to foster engagement with the diverse communities of southern Alberta.

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As part of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, we revisited some old friends – artists with which SAAG maintains unique relationships. Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller, former residents of Lethbridge who rose to international prominence, were invited to return to SAAG for their solo exhibition *Opera for a Small Room*. This stunning audio/visual installation prompted a host of questions including how one might discover a cultural epicenter in a small, non-descript community and by extension, how the extraordinary is located in the ordinary. SAAG takes pride in our storied history with Janet and George and the mutual gratitude we share with one another.

In the same spirit, SAAG produced a limited edition 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary portfolio in recognition of the generations of artists who have shaped our organization. It became an occasion to celebrate

this place – the gallery, the city, the region, and the many communities who animate southern Alberta. The portfolio included exquisite prints from David Hoffos, Geoffrey James, Faye HeavyShield, Kelly Richardson, and Anton Ginzburg – artists who have all worked intimately with SAAG over the course of our forty-year history and explored southern Alberta in their own fashion.

As much as we are proud of our legacy, our reputation reflects an organization resolute in its mission to foster the work of artists embedded in distinctly contemporary discourse. As such, the past year we were excited to support the work of artists such as Anton Ginzburg, Holger Kalberg, and Lisa Lipton whose practices routinely break convention. Blending performance, film, photography, painting, sculpture, and more into potent installations, these artists are exploring new takes on identity, Modernism, and social theory.





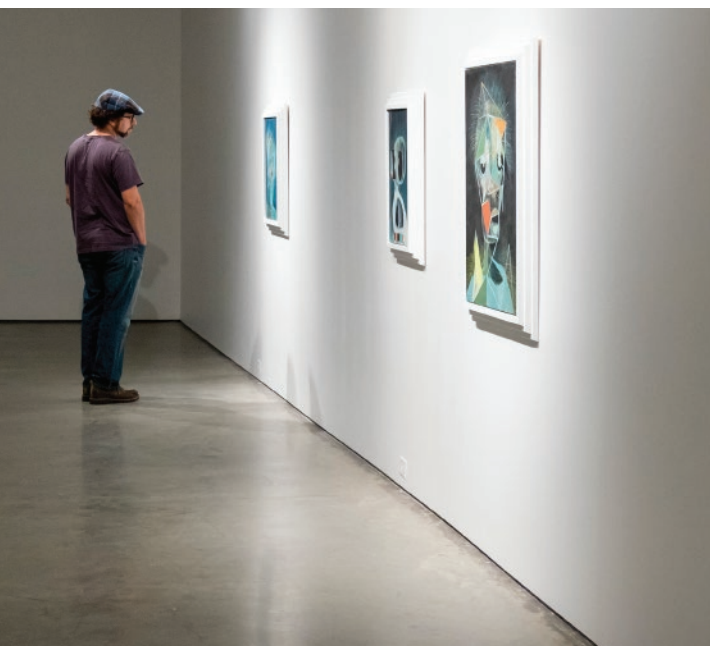
SAAG's curatorial program routinely reflects the wide range of contemporary topics explored by our exhibiting artists, however there is significant value in generating larger themes that engage these projects in dialogue with one another. In 2016, portraiture was considered from diverse angles through the exhibitions *Field Portraits of Contemporary Western Culture* and Holger Kalberg's *The Colony*. Together with last year's *Portraits in Light* by Petra Malá Miller, these three projects extend traditional themes of portraiture, such as power, beauty, wealth, taste, or virtue of an individual, to reflect on notions from cultural stereotypes to social histories. Kalberg's abstracted portraits to some extent operate as variations on the self, but at the same time offer meditations on failures of utopian systems and modernist idealism.

Modernism continues to serve as a foil for many artistic practices including Anton Ginzburg and Miruna Dragan who exhibited this past winter. Ginzburg's *Blue Flame: Constructions and Initiatives* explored the collapse of the modern

universalist project through a compelling lens of Soviet Russian art, architecture, and radical pedagogy overlaid in the cultural context of western Canada. Ginzburg engaged in a series of visual exercises, including colour and spatial studies, photography, and graphic explorations, reanimating aspects of an avant-garde methodology either ignored or rejected. Dragan's *Another Name for Everywhere* took a less structured approach, however like Ginzburg, it mined an essentialist tradition in search of reconciliation between faith and reason. The work is seductive, and her application of colour and form triggered a visceral response as much as it seemed to transcend the physical. Ginzburg's and Dragan's exhibitions reconsidered the contested modernist prerogative that art that was more spiritual and sensual, yet remained rational, could affect the human condition. That the utopian ideals of a new society set forth with the Russian Revolution relied on spiritual transcendence and metaphysical truths places the two exhibitions in a persuasive dialogue.

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**Images:** We were thrilled to have George Bures Miller and Janet Cardiff back at SAAG for the opening of *Opera for a Small Room*. | Lisa Lipton's character Frankie on stage at the Yates Theatre during the performance for *THE IMPOSSIBLE BLUE ROSE*. | Holger Kalberg's portraits referenced modernism, craft, and DIY in the exhibition titled *The Colony*. | Viewers ponder Anton Ginzburg's sculptural star map, *Stargaze*. | Images by Rod Leland Photo





The exhibitions on view at SAAG this last year offered a wide range of experiences and were intended to generate some new perspectives through which to see the world and our place in it. The work that is done in developing these projects is an enormous responsibility and requires opportunities to research, conduct studio visits, tour galleries, and collaborate. It is our intent to offer curatorial programming that is balanced and deeply considered, and in 2016 we were proud to present exhibitions with artists from near and far. We are excited to have worked with a large number of Lethbridge and Alberta-based artists including: Jill Stanton (*Blue Line*), Jon Bowie (*Field Portraits of Contemporary Western Culture*) William Austin, Amy Dalton, Dylan Dobbie, Vanessa Eagle Bear,

Shona Fitz-Gerald Laing, Alison Grigg, Megan Morman, Arhea Robinson, Sheila Shaw, Kelsey Tuck, Martina Visser, and Grace Wirzba (*Then and Now: the Buchanan Collection seen through Emerging Artists*), and the aforementioned Miruna Dragan. Similarly we value a multiplicity of curatorial voices. In addition to projects developed by our Assistant Curator, Christina Cuthbertson, we were pleased to work with Michael Campbell, Janice Rahn, Jarrett Duncan (*Blue Line*), Crystal Mowry (*Imitations of Life*), Wayne Baerwaldt (*Field Portraits of Contemporary Western Culture*), and student curators Courtney Green and Jessica Humphries (*Then and Now: The Buchanan Collection Seen Through Emerging Artists*).

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Curating the programming for SAAG is an enormous privilege and we are grateful to the artists for their generosity and boundless imagination. Similarly we are immensely thankful to our staff, volunteers, and audiences who support our endeavour to foster a dynamic, engaged, and committed relationship to contemporary art and culture. We look forward to sharing another year of extraordinary experiences in 2017.



February 13 to April 17, 2016  
BLUE LINE

Integral to the development process of art making, erasure and exclusion often act as silent mechanisms in organizing a work into its finished state. *Blue Line* presented the story of process, giving a look into the unstable adolescence of a comic panel's life. This exhibition highlighted the sketchy, untidy, and free flowing works of Robert Crumb, Aline Kominsky-Crumb, Guy Delisle, Jill Stanton, and Connor Willumsen among others.

*Blue Line* was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and guest curated by Michael Campbell, Janice Rahn, and Jarrett Duncan. Funding assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the City of Lethbridge.

**Images:** Installation view of Miruna Dragan's *Another Name for Everywhere* | Assistant Curator Christina Cuthbertson introduces Edmonton-based artist Jill Stanton during our February opening reception. | Jill Stanton's site-specific mural, *Doubt*, was very popular with our audience. | Images by Rod Leland Photo





February 13 to April 17, 2016

# IMITATION OF LIFE

*Lois Andison, Daniel Barrow, Kota Ezawa, Adad Hannah, Faith La Rocque,  
Lorna Mills, Allison Schulnik, Skawennati*

*Imitation of Life* took myriad definitions of “animate” as its point of departure – at its core is a meaning that is both complex and inspiring: to make something come alive. The works in this exhibition employed a range of strategies and technologies that simulate living.

*Imitation of Life* was organized by the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery and curated by Crystal Mowry. Funding assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the City of Lethbridge, Musagetes Fund held at the Kitchener-Waterloo Community Foundation, Allan MacKay Curatorial Endowment Fund, established by the Musagetes Arts and Culture Fund, and Christie Digital.

**Images:** Plants are an uncommon addition to most art exhibitions but this light and touch sensitive specimen fit *Imitation of Life's* theme perfectly. | (L to R) Courteny Green, Shona Fitz-Gerald Laing, and Jessica Humphries celebrate together at the opening of the U of L student exhibition, *Then and Now: The Buchanan Collection Seen through Emerging Artists*. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.



May 1 to June 12, 2016

# THEN AND NOW: THE BUCHANAN COLLECTION SEEN THROUGH EMERGING ARTISTS

*William Austin, Amy Dalton, Dylan Dobbie, Vanessa Eagle Bear, Shona Fitz-Gerald Laing, Alison Grigg, Megan Morman, Arhea Robinson, Sheila Shaw, Kelsey Tuck, Martina Visser, and Grace Wirzba*

This exhibition brings emerging contemporary artists into dialogue with the historic collections of Donald W. Buchanan. Students from the BFA and MFA programs at the University of Lethbridge selected an item from this collection to respond to through the creation of new work.

*Then and Now* was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery in collaboration with the University of Lethbridge Faculty of Fine Arts' Art History/Museum Studies program and Lethbridge College. Curated by Jessica Humphries and Courtney Green. Funding assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the City of Lethbridge.





June 24 to September 11, 2016

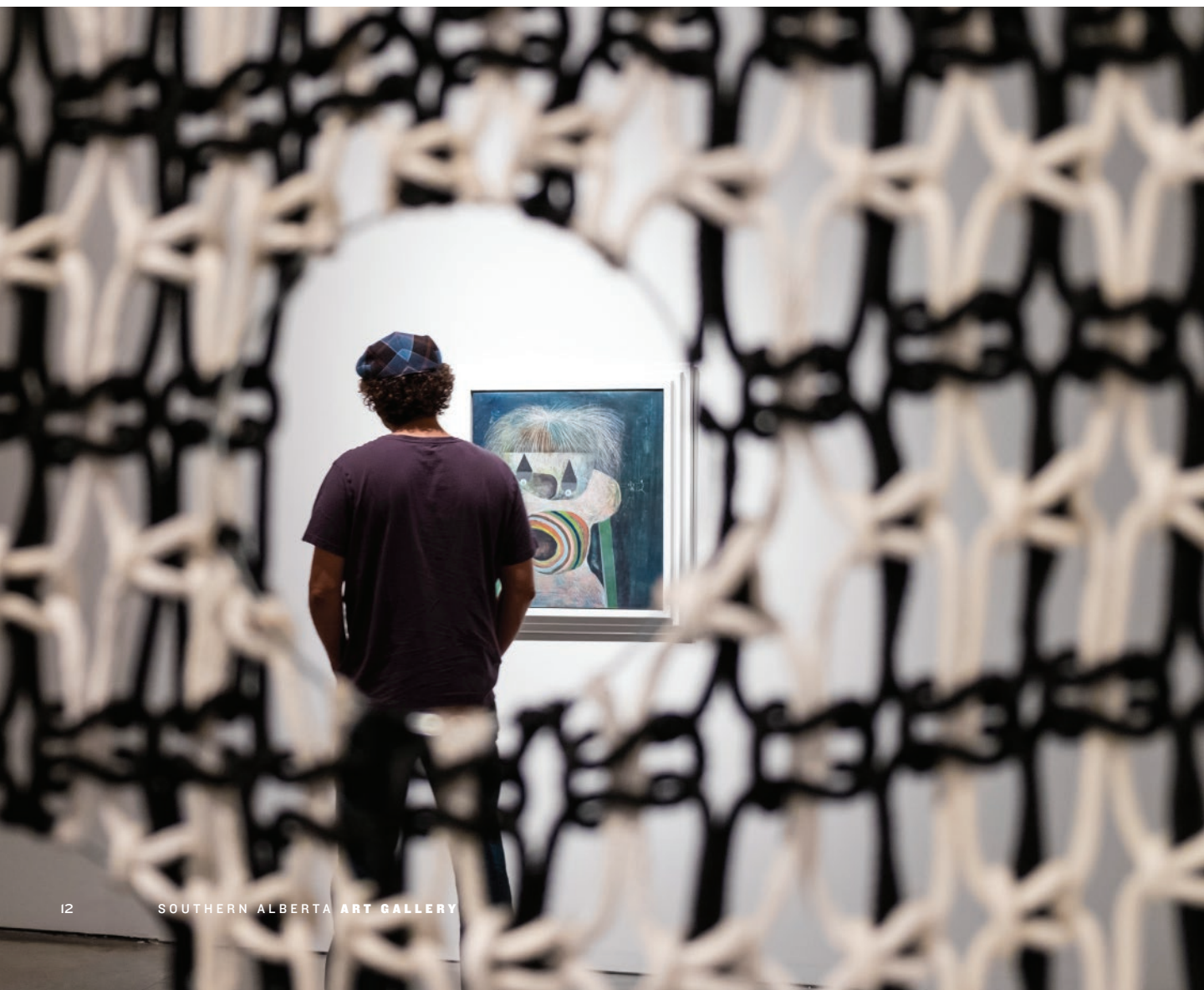
# HOLGER KALBERG

*The Colony*

Winnipeg-based artist Holger Kalberg explores the history and legacy of Modernism and its relationship to utopian ideals. In *The Colony*, a mixed media installation of paintings and sculptural elements, Kalberg challenged the language of abstraction and representation, combining a visual lexicon of Modernism with the aesthetics and materials of craft and DIY.

*The Colony* was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and curated by Ryan Doherty and Christina Cuthbertson. Funding assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the City of Lethbridge.

**Images:** A visitor admires one of Holger Kalberg's portraits at the opening reception for *The Colony*. | Audiences were fascinated by the wide range of portraiture styles included in *Field Portraits of Contemporary Western Culture*. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.





June 24 to September 11, 2016

# FIELD PORTRAITS OF CONTEMPORARY WESTERN CULTURE

*Jon Bowie, Luis Fabini, Blake Little, Collier Schorr, and Sheila Spence*

*Field Portraits of Contemporary Western Culture* presented works by five artists who focus on the essence of 21st century subjects in mostly rural environments, capturing their subjects in the great outdoors, at work, between rodeos, or in temporary, mobile studios. Their photographs are conceptually attuned to traditional portraiture and to the social changes in contemporary Western cultures.

This exhibition was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and curated by Wayne Baerwaldt. Funding assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the City of Lethbridge.



October 1 to November 20, 2016

# LISA LIPTON

*THE IMPOSSIBLE BLUE ROSE*

Halifax-based artist Lisa Lipton brought together the nine chapters of her film and performance opus *THE IMPOSSIBLE BLUE ROSE*. Three years in the making, Lipton's project was the culmination of video, theatre, dance, poetry, sculpture, and more. In this final iteration, basketball games, food vendors, and long distance running merged with live music, dance, and a feature length screening offering the visitor a collaborative opportunity for exchange.

Lisa Lipton is a multidisciplinary artist and musician who received her BFA from NSCAD University in 2003, and MFA from the University of Windsor in 2006. She has exhibited her work nationally and internationally. *THE IMPOSSIBLE BLUE ROSE* was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery in association with M:ST Performative Arts Festival. Funding assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the City of Lethbridge.





October 1 to November 20, 2016

# JANET CARDIFF AND GEORGE BURES MILLER

*Opera for a Small Room*

Internationally acclaimed artists Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller returned to Lethbridge to present *Opera for a Small Room* and *The Muriel Lake Incident*. Like many of the duo's major works, these meticulously orchestrated audio-visual installations offer an uncanny world rife with narrative and opportunities to explore.

Cardiff and Miller live and work in the interior of British Columbia.

*Opera for a Small Room* was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery. Funding assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the City of Lethbridge.

**Images:** Lisa Lipton's *THE IMPOSSIBLE BLUE ROSE* was more than just an exhibition. The opening night featured a multi-venue performance and screening. | Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller presented a mysterious room in their exhibition *Opera for a Small Room*. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.





December 3, 2016 to February 5, 2017

# MIRUNA DRAGAN

*Another Name for Everywhere*

Dragan's site-responsive work reflects themes of dispersion, immanence, and transcendence. Operating within and between various modes of studio research including drawing, lens-based media, site-specific intervention, and others, she interprets surreal geographies through the reanimation of archetypes, myths, and symbols.

Miruna Dragan is a Calgary-based artist, whose work has been exhibited in national and international venues. *Another Name for Everywhere* was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and curated by Christina Cuthbertson. Funding assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the City of Lethbridge.

**Images:** Carbo Carbonis did a live, interactive, and improvisational performance spanning three days in Miruna Dragan's *Another Name for Everywhere*. | Installation view of Anton Ginzburg's *Blue Flame: Constructions and Initiatives*. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.



December 3, 2016 to February 5, 2017

# ANTON GINZBURG

*Blue Flame: Constructions and Initiatives*

Anton Ginzburg, a New York-based artist, born in the USSR, presented a new body of work exploring the collapse of the modern universalist project. Visitors encountered a series of artistic investigations recalling Constructivist pedagogical experiments combined with the artist's personal mythologies. It culminated in *Turo* (Tower in Esperanto), a film exploring post-Soviet geography and Constructivist architecture.

Ginzburg received a classical arts education before immigrating to the United States in 1990. He earned

a BFA from Parsons The New School for Design in 1997 and MFA degree from Bard College, Milton Avery Graduate School of Arts. His art has been shown at the fifty-fourth Venice Biennale, Palais de Tokyo in Paris, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and White Columns in New York, among others. This exhibition was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery. Funding assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the City of Lethbridge.





# PUBLICATIONS

For 40 years the Southern Alberta Art Gallery has maintained an extensive publishing program. This rigorous endeavour connects SAAG's exhibitions with artists, writers, curators, and critics from across the globe. SAAG's publications not only provide an opportunity to collaborate with leading thinkers and institutions, but also serve as a permanent record of some of SAAG's exhibitions. Through our publishing program, SAAG fosters the work of contemporary artists, positioning them for stronger careers in Canada and abroad. In 2016 SAAG collaborated in the development of the following publications:

## AN TE LIU

**Writers** | Andrew Berardini, Pablo Larios, Ken Lum, Kitty Scott

**Partners** | Art Gallery of Grand Prairie, Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Division Gallery, Blackdog Publishing

Trained both as an architect and art historian, An Te Liu is a Canadian installation artist working across a number of different media. Featuring an interview with multimedia artist Ken Lum and contributions from Pablo Larios, associate editor of *frieze d/e*, Kitty Scott, Curator of Creative Arts at the Art Gallery of Ontario, and critic and curator Andrew Berardini, this richly illustrated monograph provides the most comprehensive overview of the artist's work to date in a series of expressive, personal, and critical texts.

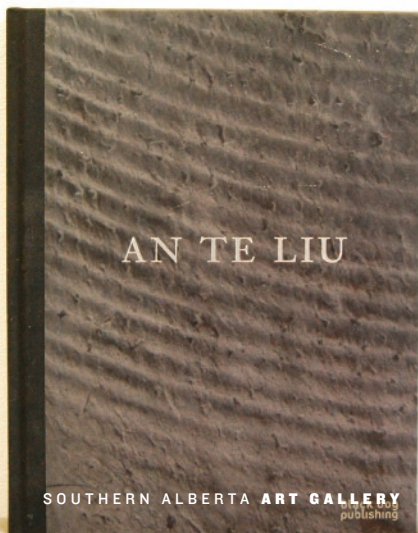
## STILL MOVE: BRENDAN FERNANDES

**Editor** | Crystal Mowry

**Writers** | Christina Cuthbertson, Shaun Dacey, Anik Glaude, Hendrik Folkerts, Ryan Josey, Robin Metcalfe, Stuart Reid, Jess Wilcox

**Partners** | Blackdog Publishing, Contemporary Art Gallery (Vancouver), Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, Rodman Hall Art Centre, Saint Mary's University Art Gallery, Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Varley Art Gallery of Markham

For the last five years, New York, Chicago, and Toronto-based artist Brendan Fernandes has explored how stillness and static movement can be powerful tools of resistance. Informed by his training in ballet and modern dance, Fernandes' practice routinely explores the role of the body within social and political spaces, questioning and breaking down the notion of hegemony. For Fernandes, choreography serves as a remarkable tool for decoding and unpacking this complex conversation. Inspired by ballet movement vocabularies relating to labour and endurance, the work demonstrates the artist's keen interest in responding to histories of avant-garde dance and its relationship to visual art. His work takes on numerous forms, building on an effort to negotiate a complex sense of both individual and cultural identities within performative acts.





## RAPHÄELLE DE GROOT: THE SUMMIT MEETINGS

**Writers** | Julie Bélisle, Bernard Lamarche, Véronique Leblanc, Srimoyee Mitra, Jacob Wren

**Partners** | Art Gallery of Windsor, Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Southern Alberta Art Gallery

Raphaëlle de Groot, a recipient of the prestigious Sobey Art Award (2012), is among the most stimulating artists of her generation. Focusing on the most ambitious project of her career, *The Burden of Objects* (2009) is a cycle of artistic creation during which she accumulated objects whose owners agreed to part with them, whether because they had outlived their usefulness or because they bore the memory of a painful past. By calling out to various communities, de Groot made contact with the guardians of these shelved-away objects and answered for their future, promising to keep them with her. From 2009 through 2016, de Groot animated this unconventional collection, responding to it, and using it as the material of her artistic practice. This publication was produced in conjunction with *The Summit Meetings*, a series of exhibitions marking the culmination of this ambitious project.

## CHRIS CRAN

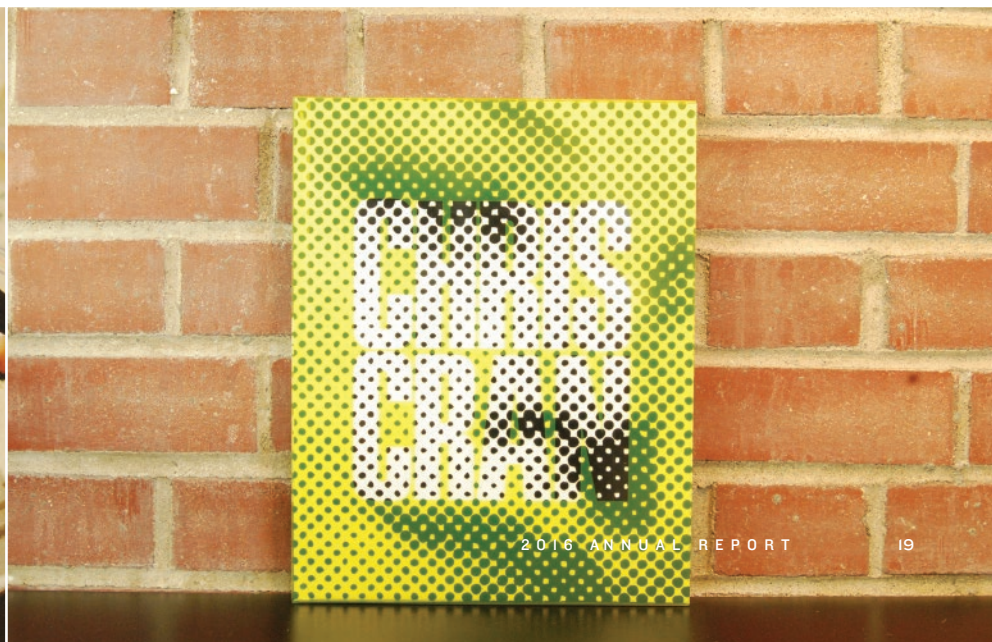
**Writers** | Ryan Doherty, Josée Drouin-Brisebois, Bruce McCulloch, Nancy Tousley, William Wood

**Partners** | Art Gallery of Alberta, National Gallery of Canada, Southern Alberta Art Gallery

Over the last four decades Chris Cran has earned a reputation as one of the most important painters in Canada. He has challenged our experience of traditional genres of painting by creating tensions between the discordant styles and movements from which he samples, including Pop Art, Photorealism, Modernist Abstraction, and Op art. To complicate this mix, he has introduced popular imagery from advertising and graphic art from magazines from the 1950s and 1960s, producing works that exude a rare and unapologetic boldness and confidence. This publication was produced in conjunction with the exhibitions *Chris Cran: Inherent Virtue* and *Chris Cran, Sincerely Yours*, the most comprehensive survey of Cran's work to date. This publication was the recipient of an award for graphic design in 2016.

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**Images:** *An Te Liu*, 2016. | Brendan Fernandes, *Working Move I (detail)*, 2012. Digital C Print, 38 x 48". Image courtesy of the artist.  
| *Raphaëlle de Groot: The Summit Meetings*, 2016 | *Chris Cran*, 2016



# ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery strives to cultivate meaningful experiences with contemporary art and the fields of discourse that surround it.

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To accomplish this goal we align our efforts closely with the ideas, themes, issues, and artistic media explored by contemporary artists. Through artist-led initiatives we consider different ways of engaging with contemporary art. Holger Kalberg's examination of utopian ideals encouraged visitors to materialize their own visions of a perfect world on the *My Utopia* activity table. Kalberg also invited participants to experience Buckminster Fuller's architectural concept of *tensegrity* in a full day workshop in Galt Gardens. Calgary artist Miruna Dragan highlighted the embodied experience as a form of knowledge, by fostering nude viewings of her exhibition, as well as a three-day musical encounter with her improvisational group, *Carbo Carbonis*.

Lisa Lipton's multifaceted performance, *THE IMPOSSIBLE BLUE ROSE*, had local dancers, musicians, actors, basketball players, marathon runners, and theatre professionals, participating in a synchronized production, concluding her four-year chronicle of auto-ethnographic character, Frankie. Taking place simultaneously at the Fritz Sick Community Centre, the Yates Memorial Centre, and SAAG, this immersive project blurred art, reality, and community. SAAG was delighted to support a two-month artist residency, where Lipton brought the pieces of her project together through community engagement.

In 2016 our Artist-in-Residence programs played an important role in the development of new work, and in connecting artists with southern Alberta. In June, SAAG hosted Anton Ginzburg at the University of Lethbridge's Gushul Studio in Blairmore as our *Intersection Artist in Residence*, and in September we partnered with the U of L's Data Physicalization Lab and The Lethbridge Research and Development Centre to host five artists. Their residency introduced them to genetic

scientists and their working data sets, which will inspire new work and result in an exhibition in 2018.

Through programs such as *Articulations: Art Appreciation Lecture Series*, *Writing Workshop*, and *Writing Prize*, we provide a space for innovative thinking and critical writing. In 2016, we redesigned *Articulations*, allowing the program to align more closely with concurrent exhibitions. We heard from Dr. Mickey Vallee, Dr. Devon Smither, and Dr. Kimberly Mair (who simultaneously launched her publication). Renowned art critic, editor, writer, and curator, Sarah Milroy led this year's *Writing Workshop*, presenting her own thinking and rethinking about art criticism.

Focusing on critical thinking, problem solving, and self-directed learning, we approach our engagement efforts as a participatory act, where value and understanding are derived through conversation, exploration, personal experience, and exchange. SAAG's *Exhibition Guides* foster meaningful self-examination of our exhibitions. Employing a Socratic method, our *Exhibition Guides* aim to elicit diverse conversations and opinions.

In the virtual and public spaces, SAAG's presence continues to grow beyond the walls of the gallery. Participation in *Jane's Walk*, *Word on the Street*, and *Bright Lights Festival* are just a few examples of SAAG's involvement in community events. SAAG's online presence creates a space for conversation and exchange. Through Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, and E-news, we have the opportunity to engage wide audiences on broad issues that impact contemporary art and culture. Through educational videos, which showcase current exhibitions, or expanded content from online *Articulations* lectures, SAAG invests in meaningful experiences taking place in virtual

spaces. One highlight from 2016 was Jill Stanton's *Doubt*, a video collaboration featuring the creation of her mural for the exhibition *Blue Line*, which was revealed through time-lapse photography captured by Ian Thompson and music by electroacoustic composer Jon Martin.

Our ongoing film programs, *Tuesdays at Noon* and *SAAG Cinema*, showcase documentaries and feature-length films, connect with our exhibitions, and provide a platform for investigating the multilayered ideas surrounding contemporary art.

Collaborating with schools has been a long-standing practice for SAAG, and in 2016 our initiatives grew. In addition to *Art's Alive and Well in the Schools*, and nearly one hundred *Gallery School* tours, SAAG partnered with the University of Lethbridge Fine Arts Department to present *Then and Now: The Buchanan Collection seen through Emerging Artists*; an exhibition featuring MFA and BFA students from the U of L. *Aa'sitapiwa*, a student art exhibition that joined Kainai's Tatsikiisaapo'p Middle School and Sir John Franklin School from Calgary, explored ideas around the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. SAAG looks forward to fostering these relationships through annual exhibitions, and ongoing efforts in improving inclusivity.

A cornerstone of SAAG's community engagement is our well-developed slate of children's programming. Through art classes such as *Art Club*, *Tender Fingers*, *Coulees and Culture*, *PD Days*, and *Summer Camps*, we hope to cultivate an understanding of contemporary art from a young age. Engaging children ages 3 and up, these programs introduce media, skills, and ideas to artists at the earliest stages of their creative development. Our semester-style programs, *Tender Fingers* (ages 3 to 5) and *Art Club* (ages 6 to 9), provide an opportunity to invest in the artistic growth of children through ongoing connections with exhibitions and contemporary artists, weekly practice of various media and techniques, and the development of student-led gallery tours and art critiques.

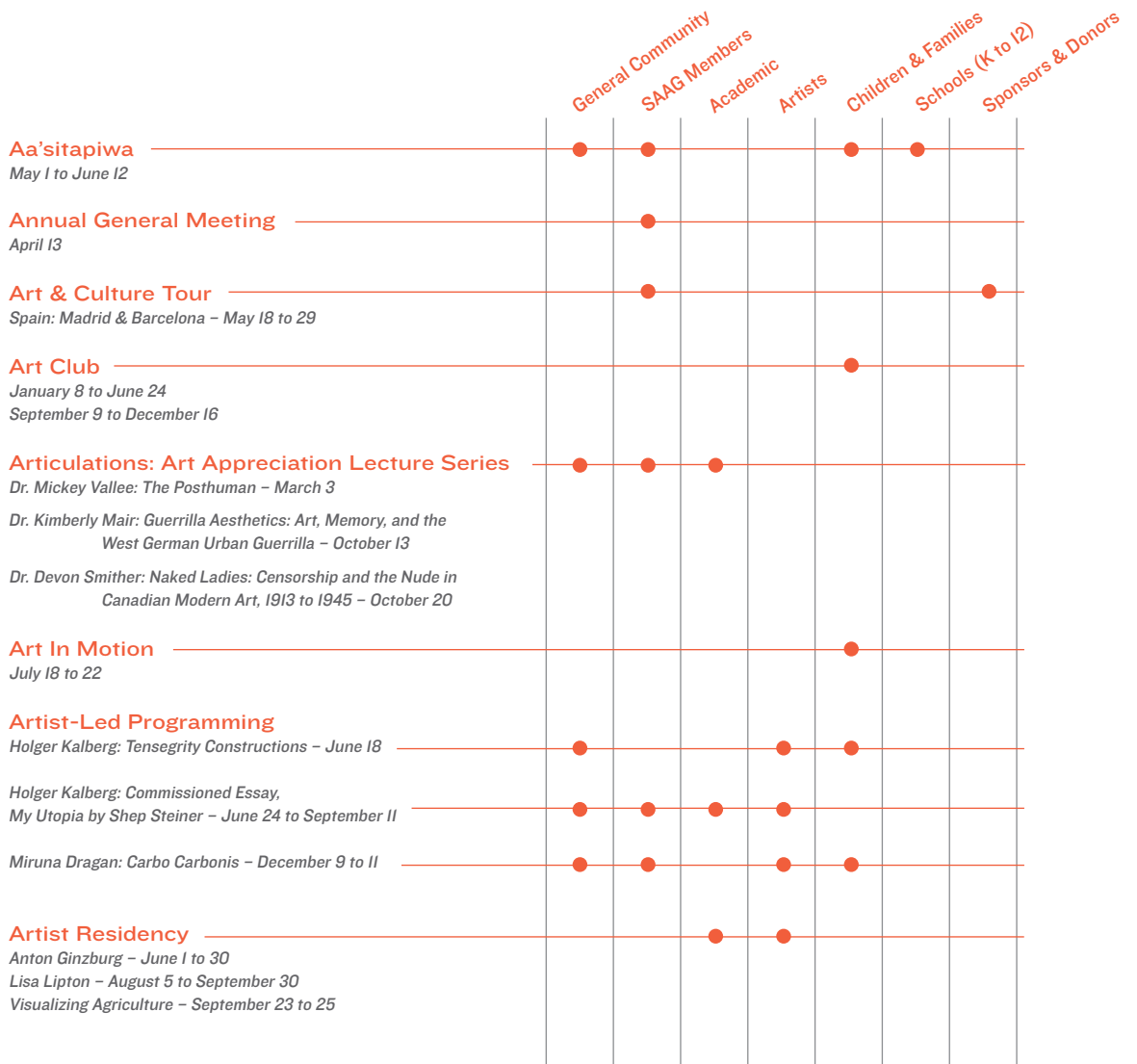
As we continue to grow our engagement and outreach initiatives we consider the changing landscapes of communication, immigration, accessibility, and citizenship. Through initiatives such as free Sundays, expanded gallery hours, gallery tours for diverse audiences, bursary programs, and new offerings for special needs populations we endeavour to spark meaningful and enriching experiences for our varied audiences.

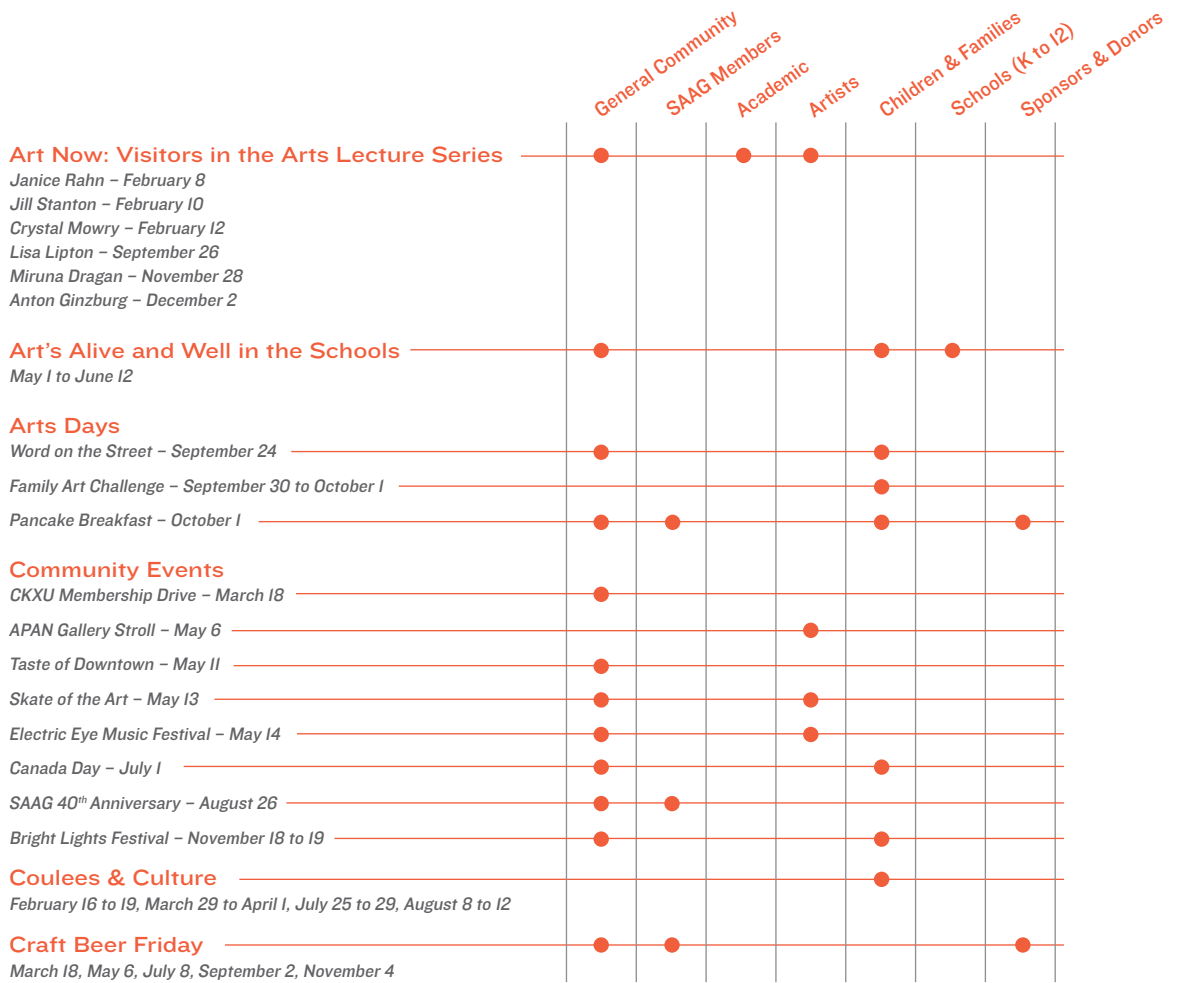
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**Images:** An essential component of Lisa Lipton's *THE IMPOSSIBLE BLUE ROSE* performance involved a basketball game, complete with cheerleaders, announcers, and pizza. Image by Tijana Martin | We were excited to present *Aa'sitapiwa*, a project that explored truth and reconciliation through collaborative works made by students from Sir John Franklin School in Calgary and Tatsikiisaapo'p Middle School in Kainai. Image by Rod Leland Photo.









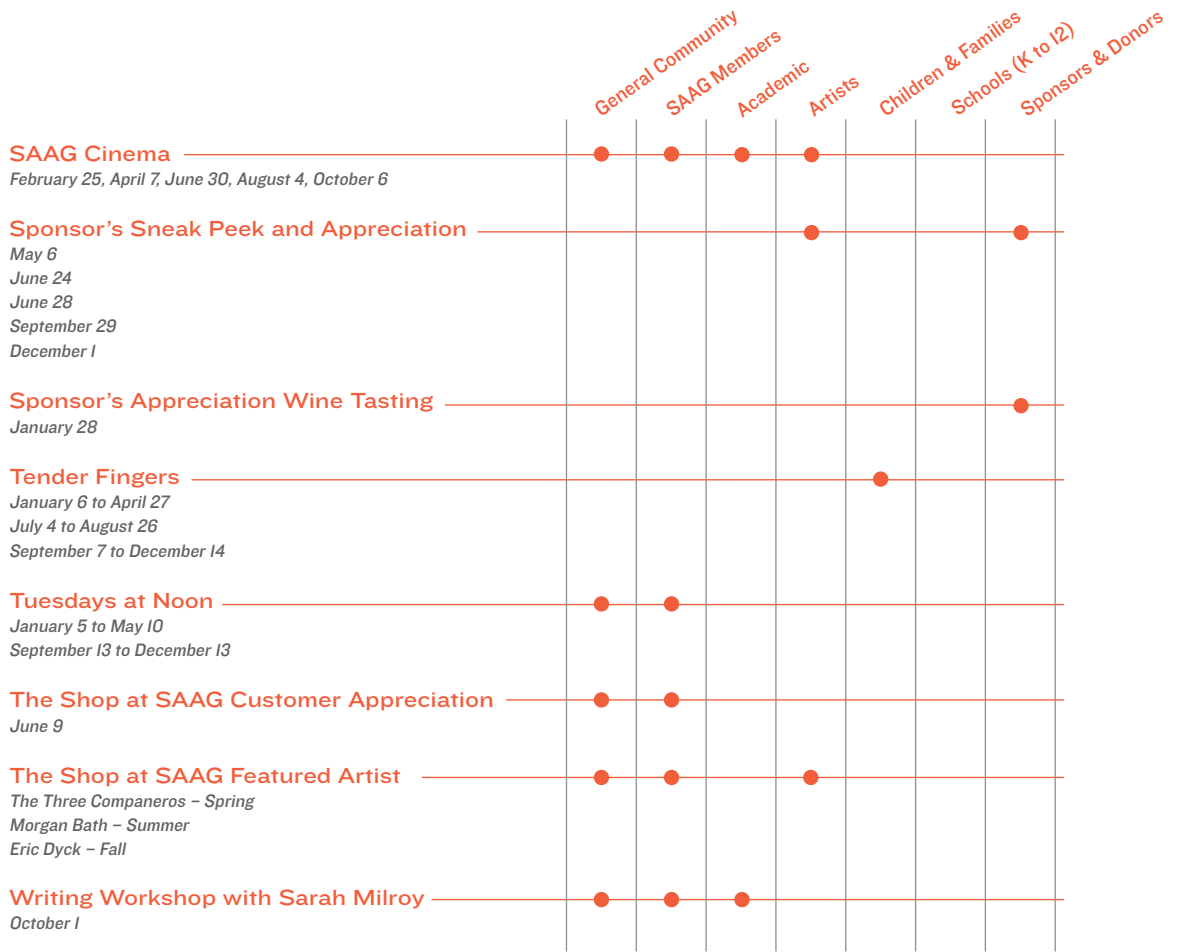
**Images:** This year's *Art & Culture Tour* to Spain was spectacular. | Miruna Dragan, artist and member of *Carbo Carbonis*, performs vocal and instrumental improvisations in her exhibition *Another Name for Everywhere*. | Bella Beck (right) gets help from her friend Ameerah to sell lemonade and treats to support victims of the Fort McMurray fires during *Craft Beer Friday*. | Our tables are covered with brown paper during *Craft Beer Friday* so visitors can doodle while they enjoy tasty samples and play board games with their friends. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.



	General Community	SAAG Members	Academic	Artists	Children & Families	Schools (K to 12)	Sponsors & Donors
<b>Epic Art Film Camp</b> February 17 to 19 July 25 to 29					●		
<b>Exhibition Opening Receptions</b> February 13, May 1, June 24, October 1, December 3	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Family Art Challenge / Exhibition Guides</b> Ongoing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Fantastic Film Workshops</b> April 15 May 13					●		
<b>First Friday at SAAG</b> February 5, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 8, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2	●						
<b>Fundraising Events</b> SAAG Celebrates 40 – August 27							●
Art Auction – September 17	●	●		●			●
Craft Beer Festival & After Party – October 22	●	●					●
<b>Gallery School and Exhibition Tours</b> Ongoing	●		●		●	●	●
<b>Holiday Market at SAAG</b> November 18 to 19	●	●		●	●		
<b>Patio at SAAG</b> July 6 to September 7	●						●
<b>PD Days</b> October 21 & November 25					●	●	







**Images:** Public Engagement Coordinator Taylor Crozon helps turn students into filmmakers during *Epic Art Film Camp*. | Jeremy Duchan makes sure to get a bid in on a silent auction item at our annual *Art Auction*. | Assistant Curator Christina Cuthbertson shows kids the ropes of silk screening during one of our summer camps. | I Love SAAG shirts can be personalized to fit the style of our most creative visitors. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.



# DEVELOPMENT REPORT

2016 was a groundbreaking year for the Southern Alberta Art Gallery's development program. In January, we were proud to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the launch of the *Live Art. Love SAAG.* campaign. The first capital campaign in our history, this three-year, \$1 million fundraising initiative endeavours to build the foundation to transform the gallery in four key areas: Public Engagement, Outreach and Accessibility, Exhibition Programming, and Organizational Capacity. New programs have created opportunities to support this vision in diverse ways including new membership levels, corporate sponsorship, monthly donations, planned giving, major gifts, and more.

The launch of *Live Art. Love SAAG.* also saw the introduction of SAAG's first Campaign Cabinet – a group of dedicated and passionate individuals, external to our Board of Directors, focused on SAAG's community fundraising initiatives. Kristin Ailsby (Chair), Matthew McHugh, Jennifer Spriddle, Ted Stilson, and Ralph Thrall III have all played a critical role in the success of the campaign to date.

With outstanding support from the City of Lethbridge, individual donors, corporate sponsors, and annual fundraising events, we finished the year having raised 60% of our \$1 million goal. A cornerstone of this success was the development of the gallery's first Legacy Giving program. Designed for gifts of \$10,000 or more, we were thrilled

to have 21 donors pledge support at this level, with \$235,000 being committed by individual supporters over the next five years. We had a great evening celebrating this group of donors at The McIntyre Ranch this summer, on the eve of SAAG's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ralph Thrall III and Rae Ann Thrall graciously opened their doors for an intimate outdoor event with live music, delicious food and drink, and an unparalleled setting.

Individual donors are a critical component in our development initiatives, supporting the gallery through membership, donations, and volunteer work. We would like to thank all of the individuals who support us through the donation of their time and talent. From volunteers who give their time to help with a variety of initiatives, to artists who donate works of art to our annual *Art Auction*, to individuals who support us through annual donations and event attendance, we are fortunate to be part of a vibrant and generous art community.

Our facility rental program continues to be a great way to foster relationships while diversifying our revenue sources. Community groups are eager to book meetings and host receptions in our beautiful spaces, and in 2016 we were fortunate to host groups such as the Tour of Alberta, Lethbridge Skateboard Association, Southern Alberta Women in Business, the Lethbridge Jazz Festival, and more. Major fundraising events such as the *Art Auction*



and *Craft Beer Festival* experienced continued success in 2016. The *Art Auction* remains our most successful annual fundraiser, and our 24th edition had some great new features such as our Red Carpet Photo Wall, sponsored by five local businesses. Our profit was up yet again, increasing another 1% over last year. During campaign years, it can be common for other fundraising initiatives to suffer due to the shift in focus. That this event continues to grow, and has doubled its profit in a short 8 years, is a testament to the philanthropic spirit of our community. 2016's event also featured a record-breaking purchase when Allan Harding MacKay's *Boreal Smoulder* sold for \$5250. All of the artists, donors, sponsors, volunteers, and attendees deserve extra recognition and thanks for their support this year.

*Craft Beer Festival* continues to bring many new people to the gallery, and provides a wonderful opportunity to work with local businesses and partners, Andrew Hilton Wine & Spirits, Two Guys And A Pizza Place, and Plum. 2016 also saw the growth of our *Craft Beer Friday* series, and we were pleased to welcome Subaru of Lethbridge as the presenting sponsor of these bi-monthly events. We would like to thank all of the committee members, sponsors, and volunteers who contribute to the success of our special events from year to year.

Support from the corporate sector has always been important to the gallery, and 2016 was a solid year,

bringing in over \$130,000 of financial and in-kind support from local and national partners. Since 2014, SAAG has been taking a new approach to corporate sponsorship with the development of our Sponsorship Opportunities Package. With this we have been able to streamline our sponsorship process, and sign many of our sponsors to multi-year agreements. We were thrilled to welcome new partners in 2016 while also expanding on relationships with current sponsors. Nearly 100 organizations support a variety of initiatives. We'd like to thank those that offer benefits to SAAG members, support our public programs, and sponsor special events, fundraisers, and exhibition opening receptions.

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery saw numerous successes when it came to funding applications and received support from a wide variety of organizations and initiatives. As always we are grateful for the ongoing support of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the Canada Council for the Arts. We would like to sincerely thank the City of Lethbridge for their annual support and for the bridge funding that has been committed for 2015 - 2018. In addition to overcoming provincial funding reductions, this one-time allocation has allowed us to work with the appropriate consultants and restructure our organization to launch the *Live Art. Love SAAG.* campaign. We look forward to the continued success of this initiative in the years to come.

**Images:** Associate Director Danielle Tait, marks off the \$95,000 point on our *Art Auction* chart. We were thrilled to receive so much support this year. | Campaign Cabinet Chair, Kristin Ailsby, and Rae Ann Thrall smile for the camera at the McIntyre Ranch at SAAG's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary donor event. Image by Tijana Martin | (L to R) Stephanie Wierl and Taylor Crozon show off Allan Harding MacKay's *Boreal Smoulder*. | *Craft Beer Festival* was packed again this year and featured more Alberta breweries than ever. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.





# SAAG SUPPORTERS

## Individuals

### Friend's Circle Up to \$249

Melinda Appenheimer  
Don Flaig  
Kate Galbraith  
Laurie Gibson  
Friederike Granzow  
Vincent Hanlon  
Robin Hepher  
Ralph Himsl  
Tweela Houtekamer  
Jessica Joss  
Karen Koenig  
Cecile & Charles McCleary  
Susan McDaniel  
Katie Nakagawa  
Rose Primachuk  
Lyal Sakamoto  
Jean Sheppard  
Clayton Smith  
Sheila Torgunrud  
Janet Walters  
Jessie Westers  
Alane Witt-Lajeunesse

### Curator's Circle: \$100 to \$499

Palmer Acheson & Lise Zimmerman  
William Austin  
Bella Beck  
Dorothy Beckel  
Amanda Berg  
Jillian Bracken  
Michael Campbell  
Belinda Crowson  
Kevin Deaust  
Jon & Barb Doan  
Ryan & Jackie Doherty  
Jeremy Duchan  
Chai Duncan  
Mandy Espezel  
Greg & Bonnie Farries  
Carla Ferrari  
Rob Fiorino  
Marianne Gerlinger  
Barb Goodman  
Lorelei Harasem  
Tracy Hembroff  
Lora & Shane Hirsche  
Frances Hiscocks  
Scott Holtman  
Stan Janz  
Laura Kenwood  
Dale Ketcheson  
Shonna Lamb  
Debi Lucas Switzer  
Joe & Selena Mauro  
Matthew McHugh

Mark McLoughlin  
Tess Mitchell  
James Moody  
Peter Mueller  
Shanell Papp  
Kent Peacock  
Lorna Peacock  
Patti Pharo  
Shannon Phillips  
Dell & Lauren Pohlman  
E.K. Richardson  
Jessica Robinson  
Catherine Ross  
Kari Sackney  
Kevin Sehn  
Chelsea Shan  
Kasia Sosnowski  
Joan & Luke Stebbins  
Ryan Stevenson  
Urvil Thakor  
Cory & Carrie Thibert  
Ian Thompson  
Andrea Ulmer  
Shawn Van Sluys  
Katrina Veljovic  
Tim & Bev Waters  
Marion Wright  
Kathryn Yoshida  
Gregg Zimmerman  
Collin Zipp

### Director's Circle: \$500 to \$999

Joseph Anderson  
Leila Armstrong  
Kyle Baines  
Victoria Baster  
Cheryl Bradley  
Bev Burke  
Pam Clark  
David Cocks & Karla Mather-Cocks  
Adrian & Val Cooke  
Taylor Crozon & Dylan Babe  
Dagmar Dahle  
Jeffrey & Tara De Jong  
Walter & Kelly Dyck  
Denton Fredrickson  
Don Gill  
Anton Ginzburg  
Faye HeavyShield  
Marilyn & Vaughan Hembroff  
David Hoffos  
Geoffrey James  
Mary Kavanagh  
Dawn King-Hunter & John Savill  
Petra Mala Miller  
Annie Martin

April Matisz  
Guy & Tracy McNab  
Kate Mitchell  
Janice Rahn  
William Ramp  
Kelly Richardson  
Naomi Sato  
Tim & Christie Schipper  
Chris Spearman  
Ted & Tania Stilson  
Dan & Karen Westwood  
Lana Wicentovich

### President's Circle: \$1000 to \$2499

Andrea Amelinckx & Rene Ives  
Robert Balog  
Norma Boulton  
Mark Brown  
Leanne Chahley  
Christina Cuthbertson  
& Dana Woodward  
Miruna Dragan  
Leanne Elias  
David Foster  
Olive Green  
Pam & John Hasell  
Brad & Trudy Hembroff  
Ivka Kadezabek  
Maren & Jerrad Kubik  
Heather MacDonald Sorochan  
Glen MacKinnon  
Mia Majorahn  
Jenn Marsh  
Billy McCarroll  
Muriel Mellow & Tad Mitsui  
Eric Metcalfe  
David Miller  
Jeremy Pavka & Karly Mortimer  
Henriette Plas  
Jack Quincy  
Paige Rosner  
Logan Tait  
Danielle Tait  
Corinne Thiessen  
Nicholas Wade  
Janice Wright Cheney

### Patron's Circle: \$2500 to \$4999

Courtney Atkinson  
Chris Cran  
Ken & Kathy Lewis  
Antje Procee  
Mike Whittaker  
Stephanie Wierl

**Benefactor's Circle: \$5000 to \$9999**

Julie Duschenes  
 Rick & Lynette Harder  
 Allan Harding MacKay  
 Ike & Diana Lanier  
 Bill & Shannon Spenceley  
 Karen Thomas  
 Erin Thrall & Pete Johnson

**Legacy Circle: \$10,000+**

Kristin Ailsby  
 Dr. Troy & Karen Basarab  
 Kurt Schlachter & Jason VandenHoek  
 Gordon & Elizabeth Jong  
 Ryan Kasko  
 Johnna Kubik & Doug McCallum  
 Dale & Colleen Martin  
 Elspeth Nickle & Ron Teather  
 Dan Sorochan  
 Myra Sorochan  
 Don & Dilene Sorochan  
 Dean & Jennifer Spriddle  
 Sharon Stevenson Ferrari  
 Donna & Bruce Tait  
 Ralph & Rae-Ann Thrall  
 Wendy & Bruce Thurston  
 Janice & Glenn Varzari and Cara Varzari,  
 Quintin Pike & Kya Varzari Pike  
 George & Carole Virtue  
 Dr. Carol Williams  
 In the Memory of Dr. Leslie A. Dawn

**Corporate****Friend's Circle: Up to \$100**

Art Gallery of Alberta  
 Boarderline  
 Canadian Art Magazine  
 Classique Dancewear  
 Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre  
 Galt Museum & Archives  
 Intrigue Lingerie Boutique  
 Kinetic Indoor Cycle & Fitness  
 Lethbridge Volkswagen  
 Nicholai Home Fashion  
 Nickle Galleries  
 Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden  
 Nutter's Bulk & Natural Foods  
 Pita Pit  
 Pop-Up Yoga Lethbridge  
 Prairie West Band  
 Rascal's Children's Wear  
 Streetside Eatery  
 The Keg Steakhouse + Bar  
 The Sous Chef

**Curator's Circle: \$100 to \$499**

Association of  
 Fundraising Professionals  
 - Southern Alberta Chapter  
 Big Rock Brewery  
 Blindman Brewing  
 Blueprint Records  
 Coulee Brew Co.  
 Electric Skin Clinic  
 Empress Theatre  
 Fee Simple Law LLP  
 Fernie Brewing Co.  
 Goose Island Beer Co  
 Hell's Basement Brewery Inc.  
 Horizon Beers  
 Hosack Denture Clinic  
 Integrity Dental  
 Kubik & Company  
 Lethbridge Jazz Society  
 Lethbridge Symphony  
 Levis Fine Art Auctions & Appraisals  
 MacLachlan McNab Hembroff  
 Okanagan Spring Brewery  
 Radiance by Renata  
 Ribstone Creek Brewery &  
 Fallentimber  
 Sign City  
 Sleeman Canada  
 The Penny Coffee House  
 Theoretically Brewing Company  
 Tool Shed Brewing  
 Torry Lewis Abells LLP  
 Troy's No Frills  
 TruCraft Beverages  
 Unibroue  
 University of Lethbridge  
 - Faculty of Fine Arts  
 Urban Grocer  
 Village Brewery

**Director's Circle: \$500 to \$999**

Advance Glass & Aluminum  
 Clear Sky Radio Inc  
 Flexahopper Plastics LTD  
 Gentlemen Three Menswear  
 M:ST Mountain Standard Time  
 Performative Arts Festival  
 Umami Shop  
 University of Lethbridge

**President's Circle: \$1000 to \$2499**

Ad-Caddy  
 Alberta Private Client - ATB Financial  
 Allied Arts Council of Lethbridge  
 Atkinson & Associates Real Estate

BMO Wealth Management  
 Bromwich & Smith Inc.  
 Burton & Co. Chartered Accountants  
 Flowers on 9th  
 Galko Homes  
 KPMG  
 Lethbridge Toyota  
 National Salvage  
 Pratt & Whitney  
 RBC  
 Spriddle's Golf Shop  
 Subaru of Lethbridge  
 Two Guys and a Pizza Place  
 University of Lethbridge  
 - Printing Services  
 WA Environmental Services

**Patron's Circle: \$2500 to \$4999**

Plum  
 Rod Leland Photo  
 Three Legged Dog Design

**Benefactor's Circle: \$5000 to \$9999**

Andrew Hilton Wine & Spirits  
 Foster & Sons Jewellers  
 L.A. Gallery Custom Framing & Art  
 LA Chefs Catering & Events  
 Management Resource Services  
 MNP  
 North & Company LLP  
 Scotiabank Bright Future Program  
 Wawanesa Insurance

**Legacy Circle: \$10,000+**

FWBA Architects

**Public Funders**

Alberta Foundation for the Arts  
 Alberta Lottery Fund  
 Canada Council for the Arts  
 City of Lethbridge  
 Community Foundation of Lethbridge  
 & Southwestern Alberta  
 Government of Alberta

THANK YOU!

# VOLUNTEER REPORT

At the Southern Alberta Art Gallery we are very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who help us on a variety of levels. Our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year presented us with some of our most challenging exhibitions and exciting events to date. The help of our volunteer team was invaluable, and our need for more committed volunteers is always growing. As we continue to expand our programming and our place in the community, we look to our fantastic volunteers to help support our ambitious endeavours.

In 2016, almost 1100 volunteer hours were donated to SAAG. All of these people helped to generate a high quality and engaging experience for our community. We were sorry to see Jeff Merritt, a longtime SAAG volunteer bartender, work his last shift with us at our *Art Auction*. His commitment was incredible and we wish him the best with his future endeavours. As we said goodbye to one long-term volunteer, we gained another. Dryden Roesch has volunteered with us for many years, but his involvement has grown recently. We are especially grateful for his support

this past year with everything from *Tour of Alberta* and *SAAG Cinema*, to *Art Auction*, *Craft Beer Fridays*, and more. His hard work and dedication have made him a key member of our team.

We offer a wide variety of volunteer opportunities at SAAG. In 2016 Jiaxin Linda Shi (Jia Jia) came on board. Jia Jia originally joined us as a volunteer to assist with Visitor Services and *The Shop at SAAG*. Her attention to detail and enthusiastic attitude have made her essential to both the SAAG team and our visitors. She has recently transitioned from being a volunteer to becoming part of our Visitor Services staff.

In addition to these volunteers, we would like to thank our install gurus, Ron Teather and Ian Thompson, and our volunteer librarians Elspeth Nickle and Sharon Stevenson-Ferrari. A big thanks to all of our volunteers this past year who helped make our exhibitions and events run smoothly and allowed for an incredibly successful 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Your hard work is appreciated more than we can say.

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**Images:** Long-time supporter and volunteer Elspeth Nickle celebrates at our Sponsor's Appreciation Wine Tasting. | We are so sad to bid farewell to the always amazing Jeff Merritt and we wish him the best in the future! | Palmer Acheson has become one of our most dedicated bartenders. He is always armed with great tips about the latest brews at *Craft Beer Friday*. | It wouldn't be *Art Auction* without an amazing roster of Vannas! (L to R) Ali Koganow, Stephanie Wierl, Jessica Golom, Taylor Crozon, Madison Reamsbottom, Morgan Bath, and Jessica Beck. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.





# THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO GENEROUSLY DONATED THEIR TIME TO SAAG IN 2016

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**Install:**

Ron Teather  
Ian Thompson  
Dana Woodward

**Library:**

Elsbeth Nickle  
Sharon Stevenson-Ferrari

**Education:**

Audrey Carter  
Michele Danylchuk  
Courteny Green  
Robin Mountain  
Lyn Paterson  
Shelby Sawyers

**Bartending/Events:**

Palmer Acheson  
Melinda Appenheimer  
Hunter Ascroft  
Morgan Bath  
Jessica Beck  
Dylan Dobbie  
Judi Dormaar

Jamie-Lee Girodat  
Kyrach Griffith  
Brittany Griffiths  
Alison Grigg  
Jessica Golom  
Kris Hodgson  
Jessica Humphries  
Ross Kilgour  
Ali Koganow  
Jeff Merritt  
Shelby Ost  
Madison Reamsbottom  
Arhea Robinson  
Dryden Roesch  
Valour Stadt  
Stephanie Wierl  
Matthew Wilkinson  
Nicole Wilkinson

**Live Art. Love SAAG. Campaign Cabinet:**

Kristin Ailsby  
Matthew McHugh  
Jennifer Spriddle  
Ted Stilson  
Ralph Thrall III

**Board of Directors:**

David Cocks  
Jeremy Duchan  
Carla Ferrari  
Robin Hepher  
Ivka Kadezabek  
Dawn King-Hunter  
Kari Sackney  
Myra Sorochan  
Ryan Stevenson  
Urvil Thakor  
Cara Varzari  
Carol Williams

**The Shop at SAAG:**

Liam Monaghan  
Jiaxin Linda Shi



# COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

To communicate the Southern Alberta Art Gallery's activities and achievements, we maintain a robust schedule of marketing, public relations, social networking, media-relations, and web-based communications. Through these endeavours we advance our mission and vision in local, national, and international spheres.

Strong visual language continues to be an important focus in communicating our many activities. Central to maintaining and enhancing our image is SAAG's close collaboration with designer Dana Woodward of Three Legged Dog Design, and photographer Rod Leland of Rod Leland Photo. Whether sharing exhibitions across a network of arts professionals, or promoting events through social media, our strong visual language communicates our professionalism, and uniqueness.

2016 was a banner year as we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A refreshment of SAAG's branding provided a subtle method for commemorating this milestone. To mark the anniversary SAAG held a press conference and cake cutting on our anniversary weekend, and during *Arts Days*, launched Slaughterhouse Slough's *The Saga of SAAG: 1976 to 2016*. The comic and its artist, Eric Dyck, were featured in an editorial in Lethbridge Living Magazine. Finally, we sifted through our archives to share photos and remember past

exhibitions in our Throwback Thursday series for our weekly E-news.

Through strong media relations, SAAG maintains steady coverage in local, and national media. Regular features in the Lethbridge Herald, and on Global and Shaw TV have allowed SAAG to share our exhibitions with a local audience. On a national level SAAG enjoyed a successful year in magazine coverage. SAAG aims to advance the careers of contemporary artists and it is a point of pride when our artists receive recognition on a national level. In 2016, Sarah Anne Johnson's *Hospital Hallway* was reviewed in Canadian Art and Border Crossings. Petra Malá Miller's *Portraits in Light* received a review in Ciel Variable, CBC Radio covered *Blue Line* and *Imitation of Life*, and finally, Lisa Lipton's *THE IMPOSSIBLE BLUE ROSE* was covered in the online publication, Luma Quarterly.

Extending our scope in a digital sphere, social media continues to be a growing force in the communications realm. We see steady growth across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, resulting in high attendance at events and programs.

SAAG's 40<sup>th</sup> year had many communications successes and we look forward to continued growth in the years to come.



# THE SHOP AT SAAG REPORT

*The Shop at SAAG* offers a wide variety of accessories, art objects, and home décor items made by local, national, and international artists. *The Shop* extends the mission and programming upheld by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery by supporting and fostering uniquely talented artists and ethically sourced products.

One of the aspects of *The Shop* that is unique to SAAG is our Feature Artist program where we showcase the commercial work of local artists. This program coincides with our opening receptions and often parallels our exhibition themes. 2016 was an exemplary year starting with *The Three Compañeros*, a collective comprised of two Lethbridge-based artists, Amanda Bigford and Andrew Martin. They launched their project *Mouthful*, a collection of buttons, prints, pendants, and patches, based off of the 10 shapes a mouth makes to create the sounds used in the English language.

Morgan Bath, currently based in Vancouver, is a multidisciplinary artist who opened up her journals and created a line of heartfelt 'zines, postcards, and embroidered shirts. Her work was an invitation to explore inner anxieties and carry them into the public realm. Largely inspired by the idiom "wear your heart on your sleeve," she divulges

inter-personal relationships through the use of language and humour.

To commemorate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary we asked cartoonist Eric Dyck to create a comic illustrating the history and lineage of the Southern Alberta Art Gallery. Having already garnered attention for his comic series *Slaughterhouse Slough* - which explores the history, people, vegetables, and eccentricities of Lethbridge - Eric offered a humorous and informative look at SAAG's past and present. Eric released a limited edition SAAG print, an exclusive and illuminating comic book, and hand made buttons.

*The Shop at SAAG* joined forces with Magpie Vintage Market to host another successful *Holiday Market at SAAG*. This year we extended our holiday market from one day to two and it quickly surpassed our expectations. We had over 2,400 guests enjoy our shop and holiday vendors, grossing over double the profit of the previous year.

*The Shop at SAAG* is committed to supporting artisans of ethical industry who create items of unique beauty. As our collection of products grows, we hope to continue to provide a platform and welcoming space for the Lethbridge community of artists and patrons alike.

**Images:** We marked our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary by putting together a limited edition Print Portfolio. | Eric Dyck captured some of our favourite stories in *The SAGA of SAAG*. | *The Three Compañeros*' buttons allowed shoppers to discreetly display messages on their outfits, bags, and backpacks. Image by Rod Leland Photo. | Morgan Bath's postcards were available with a variety of quirky phrases.





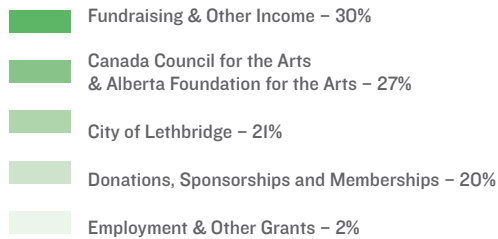
# TREASURER'S REPORT

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery Association's (the Association) 2016 financial results continue to display the challenges facing arts organizations in Alberta. Despite continued reductions in provincial government funding the Association continued to deliver exceptional programming in the community to meet its mandate.

The Association's 2016 revenue sources were as follows:

## SAAGA 2016 GROSS REVENUES

Excluding City of Lethbridge Imputed Rent and Utilities



The Association had some success in the pursuit of grants during the year. In 2016, the total grants obtained were \$603,276. This was an increase from the \$580,446 in total grants received in 2015. The difference was largely due to some additional funding provided by the City of Lethbridge, while funding from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) continued to decrease. The AFA's funding reductions since 2014 have had a significant impact on the Association's financial position. With further reductions in funding scheduled annually through 2017, the Association is having to focus many resources on fund development and generating community-derived revenue in order to continue offering the southern Alberta community the exceptional programming and services it has become accustomed to.

The Association's focus on the *Live Art. Love SAAG.* fundraising campaign in 2016 saw an increase in donations and sponsorship of \$109,762. This also came with a corresponding increase in fundraising expenses of \$61,513 and marketing expenses of \$13,503. The result is a net surplus of \$34,746.

Referring to Note 7 of the 2016 Financial Statements, additional financial highlights from 2016 fundraising activities include:

- The *Art Auction* was another successful event with a net surplus of \$49,586. This figure excludes event related sponsorships and donations.
- The Association participates in other fundraising activities, which resulted in a net surplus of \$78,803

The 2016 fiscal year was challenging year for the Association, but the shift in revenue streams is proof of the success of the *Live Art. Love SAAG.* campaign. While the percentage of revenue from the Canada Council for the Arts and Alberta Foundation for the Arts has decreased, the percentage of Community Derived Revenue from things like Fundraising & Other Income and Donations, Sponsorships, and Memberships, has increased. This will ultimately lead to greater organizational stability in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ryan Stevenson CPA, CA, CBV**

Treasurer

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members and Board of Directors of Southern Alberta Art Gallery Association:

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2016, and the summary statements of operations and changes in net assets are derived from the audited financial statements of the Southern Alberta Art Gallery Association for the year ended December 31, 2016. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated March 17, 2017 (see below). The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Southern Alberta Art Gallery Association.

## **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

## **Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

## **Opinion**

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statement of the Southern Alberta Art Gallery Association as at December 31, 2016 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. However, the summary financial statements are misstated to the equivalent extent as the audited financial statements of the Southern Alberta Art Gallery Association for the year ended December 31, 2016.

The misstatement of the audited financial statements is described in our qualified audit opinion in our report dated March 17, 2017. Our qualified audit opinion is based on the fact that in common with many charitable organizations, the Organization derives revenue from donations and other fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the organization and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to contributions, excess of revenues over expenditures, current assets and net assets.

Lethbridge, Alberta  
March 17, 2017

**MNP LLP**

**Chartered Accountants**

**MNP**  
LLP

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## SOUTHERN ALBERTA ART GALLERY ASSOCIATION Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2016

	General Fund	Education Fund	Capital Assets	Permanent	Other Works of Art	Endowment Fund	2016	2015
<b>Assets</b>								
<b>Current</b>								
Cash	140,101	23,748	-	-	-	-	163,849	253,779
Accounts receivable	215,812	-	-	-	-	-	215,812	248,453
Inventory	18,007	-	-	-	-	-	18,007	19,112
Prepaid expenses and deposits	25,083	-	-	-	-	-	25,083	9,721
	399,003	23,748	-	-	-	-	422,751	531,065
Capital assets	-	-	127,201	-	-	-	127,201	110,247
Endowment investments	-	-	-	-	-	220,726	220,726	205,676
Collections	-	-	-	99,590	13,543	-	113,133	113,133
	399,003	23,748	127,201	99,590	13,543	220,726	883,811	960,121
<b>Liabilities</b>								
<b>Current</b>								
Accounts payable and accruals	114,855	-	-	-	-	-	114,855	134,552
Deferred contributions	38,750	-	-	-	-	-	38,750	94,513
	153,605	-	-	-	-	-	153,605	229,065
<b>Net Assets</b>								
Unrestricted	245,398	-	-	-	-	15,050	260,448	340,288
Internally Restricted	-	23,748	-	-	-	62,037	85,785	-
Externally Restricted	-	-	-	-	-	143,639	143,639	167,387
Equity in assets	-	-	127,201	99,590	13,543	-	240,334	223,381
	245,398	23,748	127,201	99,590	13,543	220,726	730,206	731,056
	399,003	23,748	127,201	99,590	13,543	220,726	883,811	960,121

Approved on behalf of the Board



Director



Director



**SOUTHERN ALBERTA ART GALLERY ASSOCIATION**  
**Statement of Operations**

*As at December 31, 2016*

	General Fund	Education Fund	Capital Assets	Permanent	Other Works of Art	Endowment Fund	2016	2015
<b>Revenue</b>								
Alberta Foundation for the Arts	168,858	-	-	-	-	-	168,858	181,189
Canada Council for the Arts	155,000	-	-	-	-	-	155,000	155,000
City of Lethbridge	257,300	-	-	-	-	-	257,300	237,800
Employment grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,890
Other grants	22,118	-	-	-	-	-	22,118	5,567
Fundraising and other	358,827	-	-	-	-	-	358,827	297,042
Imputed rent	153,015	-	-	-	-	-	153,015	214,245
Donations and sponsorship	241,448	-	-	-	-	-	241,448	131,686
Imputed utilities	33,110	-	-	-	-	-	33,110	34,663
Endowment fund gain	-	-	-	-	-	17,107	17,107	5,597
	<b>1,389,676</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,107</b>	<b>1,406,783</b>	<b>1,263,679</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
Salaries and related expenses	477,336	-	-	-	-	-	477,336	399,315
Exhibition and public programming	260,930	-	-	-	-	-	260,930	189,912
Fundraising and related expenses	230,438	-	-	-	-	-	230,438	168,925
Facility	164,675	-	-	-	-	-	164,675	214,158
Administration	168,783	-	-	-	-	2,057	170,840	158,092
Marketing and communications	77,484	-	-	-	-	-	77,484	63,981
Amortization	-	-	25,930	-	-	-	25,930	19,888
	<b>1,379,646</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,930</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,057</b>	<b>1,407,633</b>	<b>1,214,271</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before other items</b>	<b>10,030</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(25,930)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,050</b>	<b>(850)</b>	<b>49,408</b>
<b>Other items</b>								
Loss on disposal of capital asset	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3,004)
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>10,030</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(25,930)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,050</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>46,404</b>

**SOUTHERN ALBERTA ART GALLERY ASSOCIATION**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**

*As at December 31, 2016*

	General Fund	Education Fund	Capital Assets	Permanent	Other Works of Art	Endowment Fund	2016	2015
Net assets beginning of year	278,251	23,748	110,248	99,590	13,543	205,676	731,056	684,652
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	10,030	-	(25,930)	-	-	15,050	(850)	46,404
Purchase of capital assets	(42,883)	-	42,883	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets, end of year	<b>245,398</b>	<b>23,748</b>	<b>127,201</b>	<b>99,590</b>	<b>13,543</b>	<b>220,726</b>	<b>730,206</b>	<b>731,056</b>

SAAG

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**SOUTHERN ALBERTA ART GALLERY**  
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