

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
TWENTY  
FIFTEEN

SAAG

2015 ANNUAL REPORT  
SOUTHERN ALBERTA **ART GALLERY**

# OUR MISSION

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

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**Images:** Visitor Services Coordinator Tess Mitchell has been collaborating on vibrant window displays as part of the *Feature Artist in The Shop at SAAG* initiative. | The SAAG team had a great time celebrating at the December opening reception with artists Janice Wright Cheney, Sarah Anne Johnson, and Corinne Thiessen. | Gallery goers admire the Petra Malá Miller's *Portraits in Light*. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.

## SAAG

### STAFF

Director/Curator – **Ryan Doherty**  
Associate Director – **Danielle Tait**  
Assistant Curator – **Christina Cuthbertson**  
Event & Facility Coordinator – **Jess Fehr**  
Communications Coordinator – **Nicole Hembroff**  
Gallery Educator – **Paige Rosner** (until April 30)  
Visitor Services Coordinator & Film Programmer – **Tess Mitchell**  
Visitor Services Assistant – **Kate Galbraith**  
Public Engagement Coordinator – **Taylor Crozon**  
Public Engagement Coordinator & Preparator – **Clayton Smith**  
Installation Assistants – **Morgan Bath, Brandon Hearty, Tyler Stewart, Ronald Teather** (volunteer), and **Ian Thompson** (volunteer)  
Summer Educator – **Brandon Hearty**  
Librarians – **Elspeith Nickle, Sharon Stevenson-Ferrari** (volunteers)  
Curator Emerita – **Joan Stebbins**  
Executive Director Emerita – **Marilyn Smith**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – **David Cocks**  
Vice President – **Ivka Kadezabek**  
Treasurer – **Ryan Stevenson**  
**Jeremy Duchan**  
**Carla Ferrari**  
**Dawn King-Hunter**  
**Myra Sorochan**  
**Cara Varzari**  
**Carol Williams**

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











# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The staff and board at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery have dedicated themselves to redeveloping the governing and organizational structures of the institution, as we launch a new fundraising campaign and celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. Despite the incredible effort required for these initiatives, the gallery has maintained attendance and programming, and has even exceeded some of last year's record-breaking successes.

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SAAG enjoyed amazing support and patronage from gallery goers, teachers, and families in the past year. Education programs were at capacity, general attendance held steady, and SAAG again hosted a wonderful series of events and fundraisers. At the heart of it all, we remained committed to fostering the work of contemporary artists who push societal, political, and artistic boundaries. Details about our diverse initiatives can be found in the pages of this annual report.

Generous bridge funding provided by the City of Lethbridge, in the wake of significant provincial funding reductions, has allowed us to move into our 40<sup>th</sup> year with our most ambitious fundraising efforts to date. In 2015 we worked with Ross W. Marsh Consulting Group to analyze our current development program and make plans for future growth. As a result of this work, SAAG will launch an inspiring campaign in 2016: *Live Art. Love SAAG.*, which endeavours to raise \$1 million in the next three years. We are thrilled to welcome Kristin Ailsby as the chair of our Campaign Cabinet - a group external to the board, dedicated to working with management to develop and implement strategies for cultivation, involvement, and solicitation of legacy gifts.

In November the board of directors participated in a weekend retreat in Waterton to envision a new strategy for SAAG governance. Bruce Thurston of Management Resource Services generously volunteered his time to lead us through two days of workshops to conceive of improved board efficiencies for SAAG. Mark McLoughlin of Ross W. Marsh Consulting Group joined us to review the recommendations for fund development in 2016. We were thrilled to retain McLoughlin's services, and we support the recommendations made for internal restructuring in order to focus on fundraising success in the years to come. Dr. Mike Mahon, President of the University of Lethbridge, gave a keynote address, offering encouragement and inspiration, while drawing on his wealth of experience in building consensus on governing university and professional boards. That weekend saw a firm commitment to form new active committees including Fund Development, Board Development, and Nominations. These new committees have already made significant progress, and Bruce Thurston continues to contribute a great sum of his time in mentoring the board toward a working governance model. As SAAG implements new governing and organizational structures, we are confident in the strong foundational base these changes provide for the gallery. With a reinvigorated board, energetic staff, ambitious fundraising goals, and a longstanding track record of success, SAAG is poised to embark on our 40<sup>th</sup> year with clarity of vision, and an excitement about what the next 40 years may hold.



**David Cocks**  
President

**Images:** The view of Galt Gardens from our window is stunning. | Campaign Cabinet Chair Kristin Ailsby presents an Irene McCaugherty print to Mayor Chris Spearman to show our appreciation for the generous bridge funding provided by the City of Lethbridge. | Board President David Cocks and his son Watson admire the 3D printed sculptures during *Art's Alive and Well in the Schools*. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Since opening our doors in 1976, the Southern Alberta Art Gallery has presented innovative exhibitions, thoughtful public engagement, and diverse community events. Each year, we see our audiences expand and change, as we continually envision new initiatives that spark meaningful experiences with contemporary art.

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Our team continues to grow, and we currently have the largest full-time staff the gallery has ever seen – a group of 10 inspiring and passionate individuals who work tirelessly to achieve our mandate. Our fundraising efforts are more robust and ambitious than ever, and the support we receive from our individual and corporate partners continues to rise. All of this is reason to celebrate, as it has transpired amidst some of the most extreme funding reductions our organization has ever experienced. In the face of this obstacle, we continue to thrive and grow, and we reflect with pride on the highlights of 2015.

At the core of SAAG's purpose is a commitment to fostering the work of contemporary artists who redefine the boundaries of their discourse, and to create an environment where diverse communities may come together through shared experiences with contemporary art. The past year saw a multitude of artistic trajectories, coupled with strong institutional and curatorial partnerships. Featuring local, national, and international artists, our exhibitions ranged in medium and concept, and provided opportunities to work with artists at various stages in their career. Whether it's engaging emerging artists from the MFA and BFA programs at the University of Lethbridge, as we did in our spring exhibition *This Is Water*, or collaborating with the Art Gallery of Alberta and the National Gallery of Canada on a significant retrospective of the senior Calgary artist, Chris Cran, SAAG's exhibitions become milestones in the careers of the artists we are fortunate to work with.

Artists who have exhibited at SAAG are regularly highlighted in major art awards, which is a testament to the rigor and relevance of our exhibition programming. In 2015, five SAAG alum were long-listed for the Sobey Art Award, one

of whom went on to be shortlisted for the prize. The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Awards honoured Peter Von Tiesenhausen, and the Governor General Awards in Visual and Media Arts were awarded to Micah Lexier and Sandra Meigs, among others.

In addition to exhibitions, SAAG's engagement programming remains a strong element in achieving our vision and mission: to promote awareness and exploration of artistic expression. With programs such as the *Writing Workshop* and *Writing Prize*, *Articulations*, and *SAAG Cinema*, we offer opportunities for adults to tap into their curiosity and creativity. Similarly, our younger audiences remain engaged through children's and school programming including *Gallery School*, *Art's Alive and Well in the Schools*, *Art Club*, *Coulees and Culture*, *Tender Fingers*, and *Fantastic Film Workshops*. With new features like end-of-season art shows and student-led exhibition tours, we encourage children to feel agency when speaking about their own art, and the art within the galleries. Finally, *The Shop at SAAG* continues to align closely with our artistic programming, developing seasonal features from local, national, and international artists and designers.

The development and success of our ambitious programming relies heavily on a solid foundation of individual and corporate support. Revenue derived from our local community through sponsorship, memberships, purchases, registrations, and donations supports approximately 40% of our total operations. The significance of this cannot be understated, as this figure is fundamental in calculating provincial grants. Much of this revenue is the result of our various events and fundraisers, including our annual *Art Auction*, which has seen

a 75% increase in revenue over the last two years. *House Tours & Tea* and *Craft Beer Festival* were similarly successful – both sell out events that garnered rave reviews. The success of these efforts in 2015 has been timely in light of funding cuts to the Visual Arts granting stream of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. In 2014, we saw a 21% reduction in funding, and 2015 saw an additional 10%. These reductions will continue each year until 2017, where our operational grant from AFA will be the lowest we've seen since 2003.

In an effort to remain stable and resilient, much of 2015 was dedicated to analyzing our current development program and creating a roadmap for our future. With temporary funding from the City of Lethbridge, we were able work with Ross W. Marsh Consulting Group to conduct a feasibility study, and to create an outline for future fund development efforts. It is with their

recommendations and expertise that in 2016, our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, SAAG will launch a \$1 million fundraising campaign: *Live Art. Love SAAG*. Over the next three years, SAAG endeavours to build the foundation to transform the gallery in four key areas: Public Engagement, Outreach and Accessibility, Exhibition Programming, and Organizational Capacity. New initiatives will create opportunities to support this vision in diverse ways including new membership levels, corporate sponsorship, monthly donations, planned giving, major gifts, and more.

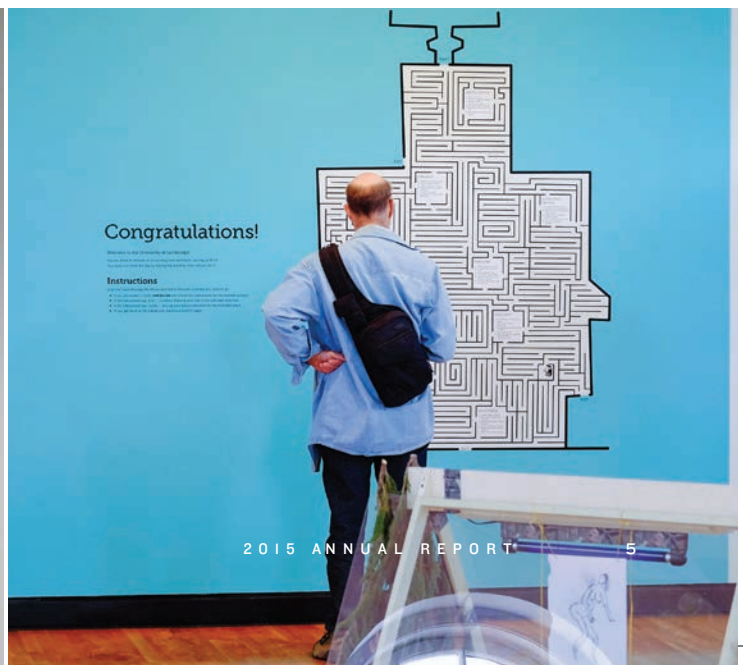
For 39 years, the Southern Alberta Art Gallery has built a reputation as a leading contemporary art gallery in Canada by working with great artists, dedicated staff, enthusiastic board members, and passionate volunteers. As we prepare for a milestone in 2016, we remember what a great artist once said “We may be standing on the shoulder of giants but some of us are looking at the stars.”\*

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“We may be standing on the shoulder of giants but some of us are looking at the stars.”\*

**Derek Sullivan**

\*Derek Sullivan's 2008 exhibition title was a conflation of two well-known phrases: Sir Isaac Newton's "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants" and Oscar Wilde's "We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars."  
**Images:** Director/Curator Ryan Doherty addresses the crowd at our annual *Art Auction*, which was presented by Foster & Sons Jewellers. | University of Lethbridge MFA candidate Megan Morman created a vinyl mural and hands on printed maze entitled *Congratulations!* that represented the experience of grad school. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.



# CURATORIAL REPORT

Space, existence, loss, connection, desire, control, and surveillance were among the diverse themes explored by artists at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery in 2015.

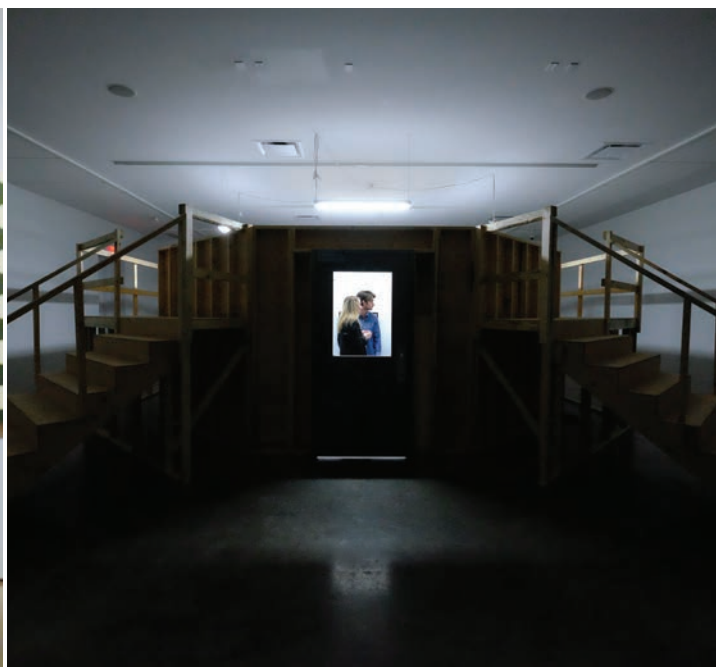
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One encounters these topics on philosophical, existential, and personal levels when reflecting on the zeitgeist of the past year. The Edge Question of 2015, “What do you think about machines that think?” brought attention to mutating definitions of life, personhood, reality, and connection. At the Venice Biennale, the curatorial theme, *All The World's Futures*, highlighted a shared anxiety about the state of the world's economic, political, and environmental conditions. At home, our news and social media spheres were flooded with accounts of advancements in technology, natural disaster, racial tension, war, celebrity, security, and political and economic uncertainty. Perhaps it's not surprising then, as we face an unpredictable technological turn, escalating global conflict, precarious economic structures, and an irreversible environmental tipping point, that artists explore the infinite minutiae of human existence, and our shifting perceptions of what it means to be alive amidst these overwhelming global forces.

It is no small thing for artists to take up these complex, nuanced, and deeply poignant issues. In doing so they provide a space of contemplation as we grapple with our own connection to the world around us. With much of society's time dedicated to the pursuit of entertainment and progress, contemporary artists and art galleries have the opportunity to provide a counterpoint: a space of provocation, contemplation, and resistance. In 2015 SAAG presented 11 exhibitions by contemporary artists from Canada and abroad. Using a variety of media including video, painting, photography, installation, and sculpture, our exhibitions continued to be conceptually and physically ambitious, as they provided a site for connection and reflection.

Throughout SAAG's history, we have turned our challenges into possibilities. As a gallery geographically isolated from the larger centres of contemporary art, artists have often considered

**Images:** Chris Cran's *Inherent Virtue* was a collection of his new paintings, which will go on to become a part of a major retrospective of his work at the National Gallery of Canada in 2016. | This large octagonal structure housed performance videos that people could view from within or above. It was a central component of Sarah Anne Johnson's *Hospital Hallway*. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.





SAAG a safe-haven – a place to investigate new ideas, media, and methods in an institution deeply committed to experimentation and discovery.

We are continually inspired by the rigor, tenacity, courage, and earnestness with which our artists approach their work. Their dedication inspires us to meet these qualities with equal measures of enthusiasm, support, organization, and engagement. When describing her experience at SAAG, Sarah Anne Johnson said “I have rarely felt more supported, or more encouraged to do something new.” In 2015, artists Brendan Fernandes, Scott Rogers, Petra Malá Miller, Corinne Thiessen, and Sarah Anne Johnson all presented new work at SAAG. Creating the conditions where artists feel compelled to push their work in new directions is a crucial element in fostering work that challenges boundaries - a central tenet in SAAG’s curatorial vision.

As the popular understanding of the concept of curation changes through its ubiquitous use in both art and non-art contexts, it is important we address our own connection to the shifting role of curators on a societal level. A contemporary understanding of the term may refer to anyone who identifies and organizes content in creative ways to trigger dialogue, spark ideas, or reveal new depth and meaning. As the notion of curation shifts from exclusive to populous, the role of galleries and museums as cultural authorities is also evolving. At SAAG, we address this cultural phenomenon through the inclusion of many curatorial voices in our exhibition line up, through a rigorous engagement strategy, and by embedding artists into many areas of operation at the gallery. Collaborations with guest curators and partnering institutions brought ranging perspectives, insights, resources, and sensibilities to our exhibition programming in the past year. We were fortunate to work with the vast knowledge and expertise embedded in the Canadian arts sector, through partnerships with the National Gallery of Canada, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, SFU Galleries,

Art Gallery of Hamilton, and Art Gallery of Alberta, among others.

In addition to an ambitious line up of exhibitions, SAAG also supported an artist residency at the University of Lethbridge’s Gushul Studio, with Calgary artist Tyler Los-Jones; an artist project with the Montreal-based Doug Scholes; the release of three publications; a performance by Shary Boyle and Christine Fellows; and the development of a film retrospective highlighting the work of Norman McLaren; all while delivering and maintaining our roster of diverse public engagement and outreach programming.

As we continue to embed artists in many areas of operation at SAAG, including engagement and outreach, *The Shop at SAAG*, film programming, and fundraising, we have grown the artistic branch of the gallery to include Ryan Doherty, Director/ Curator; Christina Cuthbertson, Assistant Curator; Taylor Crozon and Clayton Smith, Public Engagement Coordinators; and Tess Mitchell, Visitor Services Coordinator & Film Programmer. With this expanded team we are able to offer increasingly diverse programming that promotes meaningful connections between contemporary art and our varied audiences.

In 2016 the Southern Alberta Art Gallery will turn 40. With the passing of this milestone we find an occasion to reflect on the past while reimagining the future. It has been suggested that we live in a moment when we have just begun to grasp the magnitude of information and data being collected, processed, and shared, the implications of which, may be among the most significant developments in recent history. With exhibitions on our horizon that examine our understanding of information, life, experience, and the sacred, SAAG creates a space where we can begin to challenge any verdicts or assumptions we may have about the state of the world around us.

February 14 to April 12, 2015

# ANTONIA HIRSCH

*Negative Space*

Antonia Hirsch investigated inner and outer worlds, opening a space for speculation on desire and human experience. Ideas of seeing and believing manifested in evocations of proto-photographic devices, such as the Claude glass used by 18th century painters; contemporary hand-held devices, such as iPhones and tablets; and a cheeky restaging of NASA footage. Engaging with a history of reflection, Hirsch questioned how interaction with devices suggests a favoring of the image over the “real.”

Hirsch is a Berlin based artist, writer, and editor. Her work has been exhibited at the Salzburger

Kunstverein; the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver; The Power Plant, Toronto; Taipei Fine Arts Museum; Tramway, Glasgow; and ZKM Museum of Contemporary Art, Karlsruhe, among others, and is held in the public collections of the Vancouver Art Gallery, and the National Gallery of Canada. Her writing and projects have appeared in *artecontexto*, *C Magazine*, *Fillip*, and *The Happy Hypocrite*. She is the editor of the anthology *Intangible Economies* (Fillip, 2012). *Negative Space* was organized in collaboration with SFU Galleries and curated by Melanie O’Brian.





February 14 to April 12, 2015

# GRAEME PATTERSON

## *Secret Citadel*

The intricately detailed video and sculptural installations of *Secret Citadel* told a nostalgic story of two characters embarking on a series of bittersweet adventures. From childhood to adulthood, stages of life were conveyed in idiosyncratic animated videos accompanied by large sculptures containing uncanny miniature worlds. Though Patterson focused on male friendships, viewers related to the subtleties and complexities inherent in all close relationships.

Graeme Patterson lives in Sackville, New Brunswick. After graduating from NSCAD in 2002 his work has shown nationally and internationally. He was an Atlantic finalist for the 2014 and 2009 Sobey Art Award, finalist for the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Arts Award, and a 2011 Juno award nominee for album package of the year. *Secret Citadel* was co-produced by the Art Gallery of Hamilton and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, and curated by Melissa Bennett and Sarah Fillmore.

**Images:** (left to right) Installation view of Antonia Hirsch's *Negative Space* at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, 2015. | Installation view of Graeme Patterson's *Secret Citadel* at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, 2015. | Images by David M.C. Miller and Petra Malá Miller.



April 26 to June 7, 2015

# THIS IS WATER

*Emerging Practices in Contemporary Art* – William Austin, Katie Bruce, Roy Caussy, Makaila Cline, Dylan Dobbie, Shona Fitz-Gerald Laing, Sam Loewen, Megan Morman, Elena Petzold, and Potluck City.

Working with MFA and BFA students at the University of Lethbridge (U of L), this exhibition was an opportunity to expand on the long-standing success of SAAG's collaboration with Lethbridge School Districts in the mounting of our annual *Art's Alive and Well in the Schools* exhibition. Celebrating the wealth of budding artistic talent in our community, SAAG has committed to an annual collaboration with the U of L to foster the work of artists and

curators in the burgeoning stages of their careers.

*This Is Water* was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery in conjunction with the Allied Arts Council of Lethbridge's *Soar: Emerging Artist Festival*, and curated by Morgan Bath and Christina Cuthbertson. We would like to thank the University of Lethbridge Fine Art Department for their support of this exhibition.

**Images:** (left to right) Installation view of *This Is Water*: at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, 2015. Image by David M.C. Miller and Petra Malá Miller. | Visitors to the gallery view one of Scott Rogers' photographs during the exhibition opening reception. Image by Rod Leland Photo.





June 26 to September 6, 2015

# SCOTT ROGERS

*Where Is Our Twentieth Century Promised*

In *Where Is Our Twentieth Century Promised*, Scott Rogers contemplated the physical and conceptual space of an exhibition as a site where multiple levels of influence, control, resistance, observation and value production are negotiated. An assortment of falconed birdfeeders - devices of seduction and observation - were configured to control the movement of visitors in the space. Above, artificial falcons equipped with elements from GoPro cameras surveyed the room. Like sentinels or security guards, the falcons produced an atmosphere of subtle, passive surveillance complicating the relationship between the gallery visitor and the exhibition. Here

the interaction of care and desire between the feeders and the visitors was challenged, bringing cunning, discipline, and data collection into consideration.

Scott Rogers is a Calgary-born artist currently living and working in Glasgow, UK. He holds a BFA from the University of Calgary and recently completed his MFA at the Glasgow School of Art where he was awarded the Gordon Fellowship for outstanding achievement in visual art. Rogers has exhibited internationally and throughout Canada. This exhibition was organized by SAAG and curated by Christina Cuthbertson.



June 26 to September 6, 2015

# BRENDAN FERNANDES

## *Still Move*

Informed by his training in dance, Brendan Fernandes' practice routinely explores the body, both static and in motion, in relation to space and objects. *Still Move* enacted a dialogue between institutional rhetoric and the language of movement; for Fernandes, choreography serves as a tool for decoding and unpacking this complex conversation.

Based in Toronto and New York, Fernandes completed the Independent Study Program of the Whitney Museum of American Art (2007), earned his MFA from The University of Western Ontario (2005) and his BFA from York University (2002).

His work has been shown in exhibitions at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Arts and Design New York, The National Gallery of Canada, Mass MoCA, The Andy Warhol Museum, Stedelijk Museum, and Deutsche Guggenheim.

*Still Move* was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery in cooperation with the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, Rodman Hall, Brock University, Varley Art Gallery, St. Mary's University Art Gallery, Contemporary Art Gallery and was curated by Ryan Doherty and Christina Cuthbertson. A catalogue is in production with Black Dog Publishing.





September 25 to November 22, 2015

# PETRA MALÁ MILLER

*Portraits in Light*

*Portraits in Light* featured hundreds of photographs, each following an exacting compositional structure. Their seriality called to mind the work of Bernd and Hilla Becher, yet without austerity they felt more like Vermeer paintings bathed in light and tenderness, each subject lovingly considered and carefully seen. Exploring notions of displacement, belonging, and subjectivity, Malá Miller methodically photographed people she knows in Lethbridge, Alberta. Starting with family and close friends and radiating out to colleagues and

acquaintances, her photographs captured the artist and sitter in a moment of shared vulnerability.

Petra Malá Miller earned her MFA from the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design, Prague in 2008. She was the recipient of the ESSL Museum Award for contemporary Art, Klosterneuburg, Vienna and her work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions in Canada and Europe. *Portraits in Light* was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and curated by Christina Cuthbertson.

**Images:** (left to right) At the opening for Brendan Fernandes' *Still Move* dancers pressed rubber balls in between their own flesh and the gallery walls. | With so many members of the community included in Petra Malá Miller's *Portraits in Light*, visitors were regularly looking for themselves or someone in their circle of acquaintance amongst the photos on the gallery's walls. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.



September 25 to November 22, 2015

# CHRIS CRAN

*Inherent Virtue*

*Inherent Virtue* included a selection of new work loaded with Chris Cran's trademark wit, pushing the medium of painting in new directions. His paintings continued to reference a variety of styles and genres, while increasingly challenging the codes of the medium and examining the processes of its interpretation.

Chris Cran is a senior Canadian artist who lives and works in Calgary, Alberta. He graduated from the Alberta College of Art and Design (ACAD) in 1979. Cran has exhibited widely with many of his

works included in important collections, including the National Gallery of Canada, and the Art Gallery of Alberta. His work has been reviewed widely including in *The New York Times* and *Canadian Art Magazine*. He is represented by TrépanierBaer Gallery, Clint Roenisch Gallery, and Wilding Cran Gallery. *Inherent Virtue* was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and curated by Ryan Doherty. It is part of a survey including exhibitions at the Art Gallery of Alberta and the National Gallery of Canada. A catalogue is currently in production with the National Gallery of Canada.

**Images:** (left to right) Chris Cran's works frequently involved optical illusions and visitors found them looking at the paintings from all angles. | Installation view of Janice Wright Cheney's *Cellar* at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, 2015. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.



December 5, 2015 to January 31, 2016

# JANICE WRIGHT CHENEY

## *Cellar*

Comprising hundreds of rats of various shades and colours created from a wide range of recycled vintage fur coats, this installation incited contradictory feelings of fascination and unease. Focusing on the cultural construction and problematization of rats because they transgress spaces designated for human habitation, *Cellar* explored our fundamental fear belief systems by asking the critical question:

*“Where do we locate the border between human beings and rats?”*

- excerpted from a text by Lianne McTavish and Terry Graff

Janice Wright Cheney is a textile-based artist. She currently teaches at the New Brunswick College of Craft & Design. She is represented in the collections of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and the Glenbow Museum, among others. Her work was selected for *Oh Canada*, a survey of contemporary Canadian art, organized by MASS MoCA in 2012. She received the New Brunswick Lieutenant Governor’s Award for High Achievement in Visual Arts. *Cellar* was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery in cooperation with the Beaverbrook Art Gallery and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and was curated by Christina Cuthbertson.





December 5, 2015 to January 31, 2016

# CORINNE THIESSEN

## *Factory Logic*

*Factory Logic* was a large-scale installation by Lethbridge artist, Corinne Thiessen. Honing a material language developed in earlier works, such as *A Horse in Motion* (2013) and *Chronic* (2015), this exhibition combined natural and industrial material and a collection of repurposed urban waste to create a fascinating and whimsical hybrid. Tree branches were transformed into marionette-like, hooved limbs trotting obediently, systematically in place in an endlessly looping cycle.

Corinne Thiessen is a multidisciplinary artist living and working in Lethbridge.

Through kinetic objects, drawing, video and performance, her work explores physical and ideological impediments, repression, and “acting out.” Thiessen has presented in group exhibitions and collaborative performances at home and abroad. She has participated in artist residencies in Berlin and Banff and has published in *Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture*, and *(Re)Activating Objects: Social Theory and Material Culture*. *Factory Logic* was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and curated by Christina Cuthbertson.



December 5, 2015 to January 31, 2016

# SARAH ANNE JOHNSON

## *Hospital Hallway*

Sarah Anne Johnson's *Hospital Hallway* was a continuation of themes explored in *House on Fire* (2009) and *Dancing With The Doctor* (2010). These works reflected on trauma sustained as a result of CIA experiments on mind control undertaken from 1950 to 1973. This exhibition explored family history through performance, video, and a large-scale installation of an endless clinical hallway. A series of videos lined the walls, each featuring the artist as she played the patient, her grandmother, caught in a claustrophobic and nightmarish purgatory.

Winnipeg-based Sarah Anne Johnson received her BFA from the University of Manitoba in 2002 and her MFA in Photography at the Yale School of Art in 2004. She has exhibited extensively in Canada and abroad and her works are represented in the collections of the Guggenheim Museum, The National Gallery of Canada, and the Art Gallery of Ontario. *Hospital Hallway* was organized by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and curated by Ryan Doherty and Christina Cuthbertson.

**Images:** (left to right) Installation view of Corinne Thiessen's *Factory Logic* at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, 2015. | Installation view of Sarah Anne Johnson's *Hospital Hallway* at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, 2015. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.



# PUBLICATIONS

In a society dependent on fleeting electronic communications, we often long for something permanent. At the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, our publications are a lasting record of our exhibitions, and of our commitment to fostering the work of contemporary artists. Throughout our history SAAG has collaborated with writers, curators, institutions, critics, and designers from all over the globe in the development of monographs, exhibition catalogues, and artist books. It is largely through this endeavour that SAAG has grown a reputation as a leading contemporary art gallery in Canada. In 2015 SAAG collaborated in the development of the following publications:

***Amalie Atkins: we live on the edge of disaster and imagine we are in a musical***

This catalogue, the first to focus on Amalie Atkins' work, features more than fifty colour illustrations of her films, photographs, and installations, as well as insightful essays by award-winning poet Sylvia Legris, Timothy Long of the MacKenzie Art Gallery, and Grace Kehler of McMaster University. Together they create a conversation around gift giving, craft, DIY aesthetics, and the wish for places of belonging in a mobile world. This catalogue was co-published by MacKenzie Art Gallery and the Southern Alberta Art Gallery in collaboration with Kenderdine Art Gallery and Open Space. **ISBN: 978-1-896470-90-0**





**Cyclorama: Lyla Rye**

Using the form of a book to consider architectural space and memory, Lyla Rye's, *Cyclorama*, functions as a record of the artist's work and as an artwork in and of itself. This catalogue was co-published by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and the Visual Arts Centre of Clarington with contributions from Ryan Doherty, Caoimhe Morgan-Feir, and James Campbell. *Cyclorama* includes photography from David Miller and Petra Malá Miller, and Lyla Rye; it was edited by Shannon Anderson; designed by Shani K Parsons; and printed by Incredible Printing. **ISBN: 978-1-894699-62-4**

**TOPO: Scott Rogers**

Exploring a provisional, perhaps even subversive approach to publishing, Scott Rogers routinely uses his exhibitions as an opportunity to collaborate with writers, curators, and artists in the development of book works. *TOPO* included an essay by Isla Leaver-Yap and drawings from Scott Rogers, and was published by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery.

*In 2016 SAAG is pleased to release publications on the work of Raphaele de Groot, Brendan Fernandes, and An Te Liu.*

**Images:** (left to right) Lyla Rye, *Cyclorama*, 2015 and Amalie Atkins, *we live on the edge of disaster and imagine we are in a musical*, 2015 | Scott Rogers, *TOPO*, 2015. Image by David M.C. Miller and Petra Malá Miller.



# ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery strives to cultivate meaningful experiences with contemporary art and the fields of discourse that surround it. Central to our engagement and outreach programming is a desire to align our efforts closely with the ideas, themes, and media explored by contemporary artists. Through school programs, art classes, collaborations, residencies, adult programming, film screenings, and community involvement we create the conditions for inquiry, discovery, and expression.

SAAG's commitment to fostering the work of contemporary artists is evident through our support of practices that move beyond conventional exhibitions. In May, Shary Boyle and Christine Fellows presented *Spell to Bring Lost Creatures Home*, a collaborative performance of music, light, and animation centering on the artists' shared interest in storytelling, myth, and immersive experience. Doug Scholes worked closely with Lethbridge Waste and Recycling Services on his artist project *Wanderings of a Rubbish Picker*, highlighting the relationship between cultural production and cultural waste. Finally, in June SAAG was delighted to host Tyler Los-Jones at the University of Lethbridge's Gushul Studio as our *Intersection Artist in Residence*. Through his photographic practice, Los-Jones explored the problematizing ways in which landscape photography constructs expectations around local geographical environments.

Collaborating with schools has been a long-standing priority for the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, and in 2015 we continued to grow our initiatives for students. In addition to *Art's Alive and Well in the Schools*, and conducting more than eighty *Gallery School Tours*, SAAG committed to a new partnership with the University of Lethbridge Fine Art Department. *This Is Water: Emerging Practices in Contemporary Art*, an exhibition featuring MFA and BFA students from the U of L, provided a professional experience for artists at an early stage of their professional career. As we move into 2016 we're excited to continue these partnerships with the U of L and Lethbridge schools, while developing new collaborations with First Nations students at Tatsikiisaapo'p Middle School.

Home to two post-secondary institutions, Lethbridge has a large academic community. Through programs such as *Articulations: Art Appreciation Lecture Series*, *Writing Workshop*, and *Writing Prize*, we aim to provide a space for innovative thinking and critical writing. In 2015 we presented a five-week *Articulations* series featuring exhibiting artists and local art historians; our *Writing Prize*, presented in partnership with The Banff Centre and Dr. Carol Williams, saw more entries than ever; and our fourth annual *Writing Workshop* invited Sky Goodden, founding editor of MOMUS, to review the recent history of





contemporary art criticism, citing practitioners who are changing the voice and raising the stakes in the field of art criticism.

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 & Culture*, *Fantastic Film Workshops*, and *Summer Camps*, we cultivate an appreciation for contemporary art while students are young. 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* and *Art Club*, provide an opportunity to invest deeply in the artistic growth of children through ongoing connection with exhibitions and contemporary artists, and weekly practice of various media and techniques. The recent development of student-led gallery tours and art critiques provides kids with a sense of ownership and validation regarding their growing skill-set.

Focusing on critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and self-directed learning, we approach engagement as a participatory act, where value and understanding are derived through conversation, exploration, personal experience, and exchange. In 2015 SAAG introduced *Family Art Challenge* discovery kits to accompany exhibitions. Using a series of questions, activities, and art-making supplies, *Family Art Challenge*

prompts visitors to think about, and engage with, the underlying issues and ideas embedded in our exhibitions. Similarly, SAAG's growing online presence creates a space for conversation and exchange. Through Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram we have the opportunity to engage with wide audiences, and broad issues that impact contemporary art and culture.

Our ongoing film programs, *Tuesdays at Noon* and *SAAG Cinema* showcase documentaries, independent films, shorts, animations, and feature-length films that draw on connections with our exhibitions, providing a rich platform for investigating the multilayered ideas surrounding contemporary art. In the summer of 2015 we were fortunate to collaborate with the National Film Board (NFB) to present a film retrospective of Norman McLaren (1914-1987). Exploring themes of war, movement, sound, and experimentation, this retrospective was an opportunity to showcase the work of an influential Canadian filmmaker, while addressing ideas and issues that are still relevant today.

As we grow our engagement and outreach initiatives, we continue to look for ways to embed artists, and creativity into our operations. More than ever we are poised to consider the changing landscapes of communication, accessibility, and citizenship, thereby sparking enriching experiences and dialogues for our diverse audiences.

**Images:** (left to right) Each year *Art's Alive and Well in the Schools* hosts the work of students from K to I2 throughout the city of Lethbridge.\* | Visitors were able to celebrate the achievements of BFA and MFA students from the University of Lethbridge's Fine Art Department during *This Is Water*.\* | We were thrilled to host a retrospective of Norman McLaren's films. Image courtesy of the National Film Board of Canada | Myles Inkster sees himself through the eyes of artist Petra Malá Miller. \*\*Images by Rod Leland Photo.







	General Community	SAAG Members	Students & Teachers	Children & Families	Artists	Sponsors & Donors
<b>Community Events</b>						
• Trap\door Fundraiser – March 6	●				●	
• CKXU Membership Drive – March 20	●					
• Skate of the Art – May 8	●					
• Electric Eye Festival – May 9 to 10	●					
• Soar Festival – June 7					●	
• Jazz Festival – Guitar Show & Shine – June 13	●					
• Canada Day Activities – July 1	●			●		
• Bright Lights Festival – November 20	●	●		●		
<b>Coulees &amp; Culture</b>				●		
February 17 to 20						
April 7 to 10						
July 27 to 31						
August 10 to 14						
<b>Craft Beer Friday</b>	●	●				●
March 6						
May 1						
July 10						
September 4						
November 6						
<b>Customer Appreciation Day</b>	●	●				
June 4 in The Shop at SAAG						
<b>Epic Art Film Camp</b>				●		
February 17 to 20						
August 4 to 7						
<b>Exhibition Discovery Room</b>	●	●				
SAAG Cinema Presents: Norman McLaren - A Retrospective						

**Images:** Chris Cran's wit and enthusiasm for trying new painting techniques made his exhibition walkthrough extra special. | Brendan Fernandes addresses the audience during his opening reception. | Kids enjoy making art in the sunshine during our summer camps. | Brown paper tablecloths bring out the creative spirit in everyone during *Craft Beer Friday*. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.







	General Community	SAAG Members	Students & Teachers	Children & Families	Artists	Sponsors & Donors
<b>SAAG Cinema</b> <i>April 22, May 9, June 17, September 9, November 25</i>	●	●			●	
<b>Shary Boyle and Christine Fellows</b> <i>Spell to Bring Lost Creatures Home – May 19</i>	●	●			●	
<b>The Shop at SAAG Featured Artist</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arianna Richardson - <i>The Hobbyist</i> – February 14 to June 26</li> <li>• Candice Purwin – June 26 to September 25</li> <li>• Mitz Takahashi – September 25, 2015 to February 13, 2016</li> </ul>	●	●			●	
<b>Sponsorship Appreciation Event</b> <i>January 22</i>						●
<b>Tender Fingers</b> <i>January 7 to April 29</i> <i>July 6 to August 28</i> <i>September 9 to December 16</i>				●		
<b>Tuesdays at Noon</b> <i>January 20 to April 21</i> <i>September 8 to December 15</i>	●	●				
<b>Writing Competition</b> <i>September 27, 2014 to February 27, 2015</i>	●	●	●		●	
<b>Writing Workshop with Sky Gooden</b> <i>September 27</i>	●	●	●		●	

**Images:** (left to right) Artists Janice Wright Cheney, Sarah Anne Johnson, Corinne Thiessen and Assistant Curator Christina Cuthbertson are all smiles at the December opening reception. Image by Rod Leland Photo. | Jackie Thibert Doherty sits among a full house of guests at this year's *Art Auction*. Image by Rod Leland Photo. | Christine Fellows and Shary Boyle treated us to an incredible performance featuring music and live animated projections. Image courtesy of the artists. | We love how kids aren't afraid to dig in and get their hands dirty in pursuit of creativity. Image by Rod Leland Photo.



# DEVELOPMENT REPORT

2015 was an exciting year for the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, and marked numerous milestones for the development program. We saw remarkable support from individuals, the corporate community, and local, provincial, and national funding bodies.

Individuals are an important component in our development initiatives, supporting the gallery through membership, donations, and volunteering. In addition to helping us through membership, we would like to thank those individuals who bolster us through the donation of their time, money, 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 2015 we were fortunate to host groups such as the Lethbridge Skateboard Association, the Lethbridge Jazz Festival, and the Lethbridge Bar Association. Another avenue for diversified revenues is *The Shop at SAAG*. Offering a unique mix of accessories, art objects, and home décor items made by local, national, and

international artists and designers, *The Shop at SAAG* serves as an entry point to the gallery for many new visitors.

Major fundraising events such as *House Tours & Tea*, *Art Auction*, and *Craft Beer Festival*, experienced continued success in 2015. The 13<sup>th</sup> annual *House Tours & Tea* enjoyed one of southern Alberta's spectacular sun-filled summer days, and guests enjoyed the variety of designs and décor featured on this year's tour. The support we've received for this event over the past thirteen years has been immense, and has brought in nearly \$175,000 in revenue for the gallery since 2003. 2015 marked the last *House Tours & Tea* at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, and though we say goodbye to this event, we continue to see support growing through new initiatives at the gallery. We'd like to give special recognition to all of the homeowners, committee members, and volunteers who have been involved in making this event a great success over the years.

*Art Auction* continues to be our most successful fundraiser, and our 23<sup>rd</sup> annual auction broke records that we thought were unbreakable. Our revenues were up by 5% compared to 2014, and 75% compared to 2013. There was such a spirit of giving and philanthropy and all of the artists, donors, sponsors, volunteers, committee members and attendees deserve extra recognition and thanks this year.





*Craft Beer Festival* remained a sold-out event in its fourth year. The event brings 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. 2015 also saw the implementation of our *Craft Beer Friday* series – this bi-monthly event has been a great occasion to celebrate craft beer all year long. We would like to thank the committee members and volunteers who contribute to the success of our special events from year to year.

Sponsorship from the corporate sector has always been important to the gallery, and 2015 was a solid year, bringing in nearly \$110,000 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 contributors to multi-year agreements. We were thrilled to welcome new partners while also expanding on relationships with current sponsors. North & Company LLP has been supporting SAAG for many years, but in 2015 came on board as the presenting sponsor of *Arts Days at SAAG*. Longtime donor Bruce Thurston of Management Resource Services gave generously of his time and talent in 2015, joining us on a board retreat and leading us through a series of workshops and planning sessions. We began an exciting new relationship with Scotiabank and their Bright

Future Program, which will contribute \$15,000 and numerous volunteer hours toward our *Art Auction* from 2015 to 2017. Foster & Sons Jewellers continued their presenting sponsorship of the *Art Auction* in 2015, and along with sponsoring the event they donated a gorgeous one-of-a-kind pendant to be auctioned off, which was one of the highlights of the evening. Andrew Hilton Wine & Spirits and LA Chefs remain vital partners as our official liquor supplier and caterer, providing our event attendees with refreshing beverages and delicious food. In addition to those listed, nearly 100 organizations support a variety of initiatives. We'd like to thank those that offer benefits to SAAG members, and sponsor our public programs, special events, fundraisers, and exhibition opening receptions.

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery saw numerous successes when it came to grant applications and received funding from a wide variety of organizations and initiatives. We would like to sincerely thank the City of Lethbridge for the bridge funding we received in 2015 to allow us to focus on fund development. This money allowed us to hire Ross W. Marsh Consulting Group to help us conduct a feasibility study and develop a roadmap for fundraising in the future. Following all the work that was conducted in 2015, we are confident that 2016 – our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year – will see more success than ever before, and are thrilled to launch our *Live Art. Love SAAG.* campaign, with the goal of raising \$1 million in the next three years.

**Images:** (left to right) Homeowner Jane Edmundson walks Paige Rosner, Arianna Richardson, and Jessie Westers through her quirky living room during *House Tours & Tea*. | *Craft Beer Festival* introduced attendees to great new brews. | David Foster introduces the live portion of our annual *Art Auction*. | Bruce Thurston is all smiles during the *Art Auction*. | Images by Rod Leland Photo.





# SAAG SUPPORTERS

## Individuals

### Friends Circle | Up to \$249

Melinda Appenheimer  
Leila Armstrong  
Sonja Batty  
Dorothy Beckel  
Tammie & Yale Belanger  
Norma Boulton & Brian Murray  
Cheryl Bradley & Lorne Fitch  
Janice Brown  
Philip & Jenifer Butterfield  
Stuart & Bobbi Cullum  
Denise & Richard Davidson  
Jon & Barb Doan  
Valerie & Everett Doherty  
Barb & Greg Goodman  
Friederike Granzow  
Kara Granzow & Tom Perks  
Aaron Hagan  
Lorelei Harasem & Duane Petluk  
Robin Hepher  
Kathy Hopkins  
Bryan & Anita Horrocks  
Tweela Houtekamer  
Elizabeth & Gordon Jong  
Ryan Kelly  
Lorraine Leishman  
Dawn Leite  
Cecile & Charles McCleary  
Susan McDaniel  
Guy & Tracy McNab  
Cheryl Meheden  
Katie Nakagawa  
Fabiola Perez  
Kelly Philipp  
Henriette Plas & Frank Larney  
Rose Primachuk  
Peta Rake  
E.K. & Iris Richardson  
Jessica Robinson  
Joan Rogers  
Lyal & Dawn Sakamoto  
Jean Sheppard  
Dilene & Donald Sorochan  
Kasia Sosnowski  
Carey Spanbauer  
Chris Spearman  
Penny Stein  
Cory & Carrie Thibert  
Natalie Vandenberg  
Kathryn & Ronald Yoshida

### Curator's Circle | \$250 – 499

Kristin Ailsby  
Cindy Baker  
Morgan Bath  
Dagmar Dahle  
Kimiko Epp  
Carla Ferrari  
David Foster  
Marianne Gerlinger  
Nicole Hembroff & Aaron Trozzo  
Pat Horrocks  
Edward Jurkowski & Colleen Bakker  
Dale Ketcheson  
Heather Macdonald-Sorochan  
& Glenn Sorochan  
Megan Morman  
Peter Mueller  
Jeremy Pavka & Karly Mortimer  
Dell & Lauren Pohlman  
Janice Rahn  
Arianna Richardson  
Scott Rogers  
Theo Sims

### Director's Circle | \$500 – 999

Andrea Amelinckx & Rene Ives  
Kyle Baines  
Troy & Karen Basarab  
Victoria Baster  
Tanya Bell  
Blair Brennan  
Kristen Campbell  
Adrian Cooke  
Christina Cuthbertson  
& Dana Woodward  
Jennifer Davis  
Dr. Leslie Dawn  
Amy Dodic  
Ryan Doherty & Jackie Thibert  
Doherty  
Chai Duncan  
Julie Duschenes  
Mandy Espezel  
Don Gill  
A. Jensen  
Jody Johnson  
Ivka Kadezabek  
Mary Kavanagh  
Melanie Kjorlien  
Ike & Diana Lanier

Darcy Logan  
Petra Malá Miller  
Jonathan Massey  
April Matisz  
Tess Mitchell & Ross Kilgour  
Justin Nagy  
Shanell Papp  
Karen Reid  
Naomi Sato  
Marilyn Smith & Darrell Alexander  
Jeffrey Spalding  
Elaine Stocki  
Kelleen Tait  
Corinne Thiessen  
George & Carole Virtue  
Collin Zipp

### President's Circle | \$1000 – 2499

Joseph Anderson  
Christopher & Jennifer Babits  
Michael Campbell  
Pam Clark  
David Cocks & Karla Mather-Cocks  
Leanne Elias  
Brendan Fernandes  
Olive Green  
Brad & Trudy Hembroff  
Marilyn & Vaughan Hembroff  
Herb Hicks  
Antonia Hirsch  
Shawna & Lonny Hoy  
Jerrad & Maren Kubik  
Johnna Kubik & Doug McCallum  
Jenn Marsh  
Annie Martin  
Eric Metcalfe  
David Miller  
Graeme Patterson  
Catherine Ross  
John Savill & Dawn King-Hunter  
Tim & Christie Schipper  
Bruce Tait  
Bruce & Wendy Thurston  
Nicholas Wade

### Patron's Circle | \$2500 – 4999

Bev Burke  
Levi Cox  
Chris Cran  
Jeffrey De Jong

Neil Foster  
 Allan Harding MacKay  
 Rod Leland  
 Billy McCarroll  
 Elspeth Nickle & Ron Teather  
 Dan Sorochan & Lisa Mitchell  
 Gord Tait  
 Janice & Glenn Varzari  
 Cara Varzari & Quintin Pike  
 Carol Williams

**Benefactor's Circle | \$5000 +**

An Te Liu  
 Glen MacKinnon  
 Mary-Anne McTrowe  
 Myra Sorochan  
 Ralph Thrall III & Rae-Ann Thrall

**Corporate**

**Friends Circle | Up to \$249**

Art Gallery of Alberta  
 Art Gallery of Calgary  
 Big Rock Brewery  
 Bikram Hot Yoga  
 Blueprint Records  
 Borderline  
 Canadian Art Magazine  
 Classique Dancewear  
 Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre  
 Excel Flight Training Incorporated  
 Fort Whoop-Up Interpretive Centre  
 Galt Museum & Archives  
 Granville Island Brewing  
 Hang-Ups by the Framemakers  
 Harvest Vintage Imports  
 Intrigue Lingerie  
 La Di Da Lane Photography  
 Lagunitas Brewing  
 Lethbridge Jazz Society  
 Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra  
 Lethbridge Volkswagen  
 Mendel Art Gallery  
 Mill Street Brewery  
 Mocha Cabana  
 Mr. Lube  
 Mystique Home Décor  
 Nicholai Home Fashion  
 Nickle Arts Museum  
 Nikka Yuko, Japanese Garden  
 Nutter's Bulk & Natural Foods

Pita Pit  
 Plum  
 Radiance by Renata  
 St. Ambroise Brewing  
 Streetside Eatery  
 The Keg Steakhouse + Bar  
 The Populess Company  
 The Sous Chef  
 Tool Shed Brewing Company  
 United Distributors of Canada  
 University of Lethbridge  
 Faculty of Fine Arts  
 Urban Grocer  
 Walter Phillips Gallery  
 Wild Rose Brewery

**Curator's Circle | \$250 - 499**

Craft Beer Importers Canada  
 Davidson & Williams LLP  
 Downtown Lethbridge  
 Earthlings Inc.  
 Edible Elegance  
 Empress Theatre  
 Fairfield Appliances  
 Fernie Brewing Co.  
 FloorRight Interiors Ltd.  
 Goose Island Brewery  
 Hironaka Employee Benefits Inc.  
 Integrity Dental  
 Johnson Wealth Management  
 MacLachlan McNab Hembroff  
 McKillop Insurance & Registry Services  
 Sign City  
 Sleeman Brewery  
 Songer Architecture  
 Village Brewery

**Director's Circle | \$500 - 999**

49th Parallel Group  
 Advance Glass & Aluminum  
 Catwalk Salon & Spa  
 Charlton & Hill  
 Gentlemen III Menswear  
 Hosack Denture Clinic  
 Lethbridge Periodontal Associates -  
 Dr. Troy Basarab  
 RBC Dominion Securities  
 Subaru of Lethbridge  
 Troy's No Frills  
 Young, Parkyn & McNab

**President's Circle | \$1000 - 2499**

94.1 CJOC  
 Ad-Caddy  
 Allied Arts Council Lethbridge  
 FWBA Architects  
 Galco Homes  
 KPMG  
 Kubik & Company  
 Lethbridge Toyota  
 Management Resource Services  
 National Salvage  
 Pratt & Whitney Canada  
 Spriddle's Golf Shop  
 The Penny Coffee House  
 Three Legged Dog Design  
 Tony Barrett - Intern Architect: AAA  
 Two Guys And A Pizza Place  
 Umami Shop  
 University of Lethbridge  
 Printing Services

**Patron's Circle | \$2500 - 4999**

Flowers on 9th  
 L.A. Gallery  
 Rod Leland Photography

**Benefactor's Circle | \$5000+**

Andrew Hilton Wine & Spirits  
 Foster & Sons Jewellers  
 LA Chefs  
 MNP LLP  
 North & Company LLP  
 Scotiabank  
 TD Canada Trust  
 University of Lethbridge

**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  
 Heart of Our City  
 Musagetes Foundation

THANK YOU!

# VOLUNTEER REPORT

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery is fortunate to have the support of highly skilled and dedicated volunteers who eagerly contribute to a wide array of gallery operations. As we approach our 40<sup>th</sup> year, the need for volunteers is as strong as ever. With extensive public programming, challenging exhibition installations, and increasingly popular events, we rely on our dedicated volunteers to help execute many of these ambitious projects.

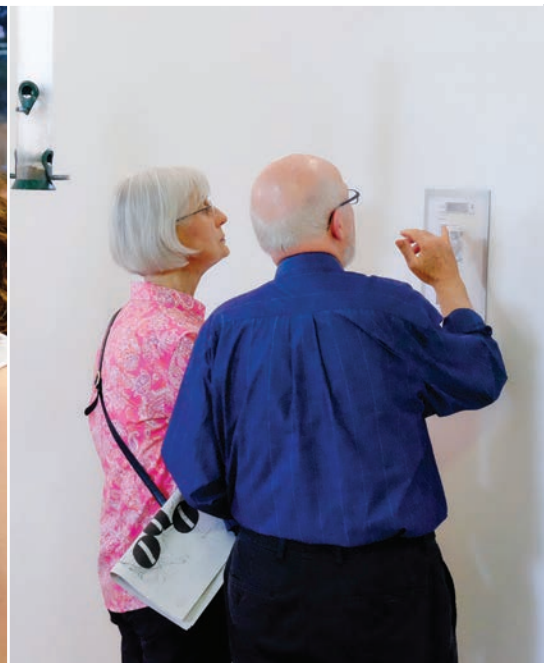
In 2015, SAAG volunteers contributed over 1000 hours of their time to help us fulfill our mandate. We were excited to welcome a number of University of Lethbridge students who joined our volunteer roster, including Fine Arts student Jessica Fisher. She has volunteered for all of our fundraisers and opening receptions since joining

the crew, and her positive attitude and willingness to help is truly appreciated. Fisher, along with fellow student Courtney Green, are working with our curatorial team on the development of an exhibition, which will open during *Art's Alive and Well in the Schools* in 2016. This is just one example of the positive experiences that can stem from volunteering at SAAG.

Palmer Acheson and his wife Lise Zimmerman have been longstanding SAAG supporters. This year, we tapped into Palmer's love of beer and spirits as he joined our bartending team for events such as *Craft Beer Friday*, *SAAG Cinema*, opening receptions, and more. His passion and knowledge of the products has brought a new vibrancy to our bar and he is loved by our community and everyone on the SAAG team

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In addition to these highlighted volunteers, we would like to thank everyone who generously dedicated their time to the Southern Alberta Art Gallery in 2015. The help we receive throughout the year - during exhibition installations, opening receptions, special events, and major fundraisers - is appreciated more than we can say.





## THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO GENEROUSLY DONATED THEIR TIME TO SAAG IN 2015

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Palmer Acheson  
Melinda Appenheimer  
Morgan Bath  
Jared Burton  
David Cocks  
Jeremy Duchan  
Sharon Ferrari  
Carla Ferrari  
Jessica Fisher  
Jaz Griffiths  
Brandon Hearty  
Robin Hephner  
Kris Hodgson  
Bev Hosack  
Shannon Ingram

Pat Jensen  
Ivka Kadezabek  
Sandy Kadir  
Ross Kilgour  
Dawn King-Hunter  
Cecilia Kurtz  
Mike Mahon  
Mckenzie Matthews  
Jeff Merritt  
Piper Merritt  
Leiflynn Mund  
Elspeth Nickle  
Shelby Ost  
Madison Reamsbottom  
Ahrea Robinson

Dryden Roesch  
Isa Rodrigues  
Paige Rosner  
Myra Sorochan  
Ryan Stevenson  
Tanner Strachan  
Kasia Sosnowski  
Ron Teather  
Chandra Thiessen  
Corinne Thiessen  
Bruce Thurston  
Ian Thompson  
Cara Varzari  
Carol Williams  
Dana Woodward

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**Images:** (left to right) Arhea Robinson, Mckenzie Matthews, Shelby Ost, and Jessica Fisher share a champagne toast before *Art Auction*. | Lise Zimmerman and Palmer Acheson get in close for a look at Scott Rogers' *Where Is Our Twentieth Century Promised*. | Jeff Merritt has been a long time volunteer and you can be sure to meet him behind the bar at SAAG events. | *Art Auction* wouldn't be complete without our gorgeous Vannas! | Images by Rod Leland Photo.



# 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. It is through these endeavours that we advance our mission and vision in local, national, and international spheres.

National and regional art magazines such as *Canadian Art*, *Border Crossings*, and *Galleries West*, are main avenues for disseminating exhibition information. The extensive coverage we receive in these publications speaks volumes to the quality of our programming. In 2015, 80% of our exhibitions made *Canadian Art's* weekly "Must-Sees" list, and Chris Cran, Graeme Patterson, Sarah Anne Johnson, and Zin Taylor were the subjects of major features in Canada's leading art magazines. Additionally, Brendan Fernandes was included in *Forbes* magazine, and *Huffington Post* listed him as one of "17 Visual Artists You Should Know in 2016." Antonia Hirsch's *Negative Space* was reviewed in the *Toronto Star* and *Esse*, and An Te Liu was acknowledged by the *Toronto Star* and the *Globe and Mail*.

In addition to national and local advertising efforts, SAAG's exhibitions and public programs are regularly featured locally through the Lethbridge

*Herald*, *Arts Bridge*, *CKXU* radio, *Shaw TV*, and *Global TV*. Our long-standing *GALLERY* newsletter and weekly *eNews* continue to be important platforms for reaching our audiences. We have also developed a well-rounded social media strategy. Our Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram profiles reach wide audiences and enable us to connect with galleries, art lovers, and businesses across the globe. Our Facebook and Twitter profiles have each seen a 25% growth in followers over the past year, and our reach and activity on Instagram and YouTube have expanded significantly since their introduction into our social media strategy.

As we move into 2016 we continue to develop new strategies for communicating with our diverse audiences. SAAG's brand is synonymous with high quality, in large part, due to a professional communications team. With graphic design by Dana Woodward of *Three Legged Dog Design*, and photography by Rod Leland of *Rod Leland Photo*, we continue to present beautiful and sophisticated marketing and promotional content to our varied publics.

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery is a leading contemporary art gallery that continues to attract the attention of artists, visitors, and media outlets across the country and beyond.



# THE SHOP AT SAAG REPORT

*The Shop at SAAG* offers a unique mix of accessories, art objects, and home décor items crafted by local, national, and international artists and designers. Aligning closely with our exhibition programming, our *Feature Artist in The Shop at SAAG* series continues to foster the work of contemporary artists and designers. Three times per year we launch an exclusive line of artist-driven products with a unique storefront display.

This year's first feature artist was Arianna Richardson. Her collection, *Hobby Shop* expressed consumer counter-culture through sellable products. She explored the orchestrated nature of Canadiana that writhes beneath a superficial, often humorous veneer. These products manifested as limited edition souvenirs, craft kits, and tinsel therapy kits. They were accompanied by a 24' gold tinsel therapy window display. UK based illustrator, Candice Purwin, created *W H O O P* - a graphic folk ballad about small town living. Presented as a triptych of narratives, it takes place under the shadow of the High Level Bridge in Lethbridge and explores different attempts to escape the place you're from. Purwin also illustrated a triptych of prints featuring

characters from *W H O O P*. Finally, Montreal's mid-century inspired furniture designer, Mitz Takahashi created timeless housewares including clocks, guitar hangers, and office supplies donning the essence of the coulees through tone and graphics. We also offered his larger furniture pieces for order through a catalogue, using his signature shelf in *The Shop* for his display.

*The Shop at SAAG* also had great success in community partnerships. We were pleased to host a pop-up shop with Lethbridge Feminist 'zine collective Fourth Wave Freaks, who created a line of accessories that celebrated feminism and queer politics and featured a retrospective display of their 'zine. We partnered with Magpie Vintage Market to host the *Holiday Market at SAAG*. An expansion of our previous *Holiday Happy Hour*, this year's market proved to be our most successful shop event yet, grossing over triple the profit of any previous year to date and hosting nearly 1200 attendees.

*The Shop* continues to support artisans of unique beauty and ethical industry. As our collection of products grows in size and quality, we work to increase our visibility in the community, and invite more visitors and shoppers to SAAG.

**Images:** Scott Rogers and Brendan Fernandes became fast friends while they installed their exhibitions this summer. Image by Rod Leland Photo. | Our *GALLERY* newsletter reaches a wide audience including visitors, members, and arts institutions on a national and international scale. | Feature artist Arianna Richardson's tinsel window made an incredible impact on the décor of *The Shop at SAAG*. Image by Rod Leland Photo. | Candice Purwin's collection of prints and graphic novels paid homage to Lethbridge. Image by Rod Leland Photo.





# TREASURER'S REPORT

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery Association (“the Association”) generated weaker financial results in 2015 than in previous years. Despite the financial challenges facing the Association it continued to deliver exceptional programming in the community to meet its mandate.

The Association’s 2015 revenue sources were as follows:

## SAAGA 2015 GROSS REVENUES

Excluding City of Lethbridge Imputed Rent and Utilities



The Association had some success in the pursuit of grants during the year. In 2015, the total grants obtained were \$580,446. This was an increase from the \$572,123 in total grants received in 2014. 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 to the Association 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.

Referring to Notes 7 and 8 of the 2015 Financial Statements, additional financial highlights from 2015 fundraising activities include:

- The *Art Auction* was another successful event with a net surplus of \$30,265. This figure excludes event related sponsorships and donations.
- The Association participates in other fundraising activities, which resulted in a net surplus of \$97,852

The 2015 fiscal year was challenging for the Association. While reserves exist from strong fiscal results in previous years, continued funding reductions from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts will put additional strain on the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ryan Stevenson CPA, CA**  
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, 2015, 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, 2015. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated March 7, 2016 (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, 2015 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, 2015.

The misstatement of the audited financial statements is described in our qualified audit opinion in our report dated March 7, 2016. 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 7, 2016



**Chartered Accountants**



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## SOUTHERN ALBERTA ART GALLERY ASSOCIATION Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2015

	General Fund	Education Fund	Capital Assets	Permanent	Other Works of Art	Endowment Fund	2015	2014
<b>Assets</b>								
<b>Current</b>								
Cash	230,031	23,748	-	-	-	-	253,779	394,447
Accounts receivable	248,452	-	-	-	-	-	248,452	117,035
Inventory	19,112	-	-	-	-	-	19,112	17,581
Prepaid expenses and deposits	9,721	-	-	-	-	-	9,721	11,457
	507,316	23,748	-	-	-	-	531,064	540,520
<b>Capital assets</b>	-	-	110,248	-	-	-	110,248	125,113
<b>Endowment investments</b>	-	-	-	-	-	205,676	205,676	202,100
<b>Collections</b>	-	-	-	99,590	13,543	-	113,133	113,133
	507,316	23,748	110,248	99,590	13,543	205,676	960,121	980,866
<b>Liabilities</b>								
<b>Current</b>								
Accounts payable and accruals	134,552	-	-	-	-	-	134,552	197,134
Deferred contributions	94,513	-	-	-	-	-	94,513	99,080
	229,065	-	-	-	-	-	229,065	296,214
<b>Net Assets</b>								
Unrestricted	278,251	-	-	-	-	62,037	340,288	279,019
Restricted	-	23,748	-	-	-	143,639	167,387	167,387
Equity in assets	-	-	110,248	99,590	13,543	-	223,381	238,246
	278,251	23,748	110,248	99,590	13,543	205,676	731,056	684,652
	507,316	23,748	110,248	99,590	13,543	205,676	960,121	980,866

Approved on behalf of the Board



Director



Director



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

*As at December 31, 2015*

	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Education Fund</i>	<i>Capital Assets</i>	<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Other Works of Art</i>	<i>Endowment Fund</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2014</i>
<b>Revenue</b>								
Alberta Foundation for the Arts	180,189	-	-	-	-	-	180,189	198,267
Canada Council for the Arts	155,000	-	-	-	-	-	155,000	155,000
City of Lethbridge	237,800	-	-	-	-	-	237,800	157,000
Employment grants	1,890	-	-	-	-	-	1,890	6,735
Other grants	5,567	-	-	-	-	-	5,567	55,121
Fundraising and other	297,042	-	-	-	-	-	297,042	401,161
Imputed rent	214,245	-	-	-	-	-	214,245	153,988
Donations and sponsorship	131,686	-	-	-	-	-	131,686	131,688
Imputed utilities	34,663	-	-	-	-	-	34,663	-
Endowment fund gain	-	-	-	-	-	5,597	5,597	17,391
	<b>1,258,082</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,597</b>	<b>1,263,679</b>	<b>1,276,351</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
Salaries and related expenses	399,315	-	-	-	-	-	399,315	408,247
Exhibition and public programming	189,912	-	-	-	-	-	189,912	386,667
Fundraising and related expenses	168,925	-	-	-	-	-	168,925	203,565
Facility	214,158	-	-	-	-	-	214,158	178,037
Administration	156,071	-	-	-	-	2,021	158,092	125,303
Marketing and communications	63,981	-	-	-	-	-	63,981	73,576
Amortization	-	-	19,888	-	-	-	19,888	19,966
	<b>1,192,362</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,888</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,021</b>	<b>1,214,271</b>	<b>1,395,361</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before other items</b>	<b>65,720</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(19,888)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,576</b>	<b>49,408</b>	<b>(119,010)</b>
<b>Other items</b>								
Loss on disposal of capital asset	-	-	(3,004)	-	-	-	(3,004)	-
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>65,720</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(22,892)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,576</b>	<b>46,404</b>	<b>(119,010)</b>

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

*As at December 31, 2015*

	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Education Fund</i>	<i>Capital Assets</i>	<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Other Works of Art</i>	<i>Endowment Fund</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2014</i>
Net assets beginning of year	220,558	23,748	125,113	99,590	13,543	202,100	684,652	803,662
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	65,720	-	(22,892)	-	-	3,576	46,404	(119,010)
Purchase of capital assets	(8,027)	-	8,027	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets, end of year	<b>278,251</b>	<b>23,748</b>	<b>110,248</b>	<b>99,590</b>	<b>13,543</b>	<b>205,676</b>	<b>731,056</b>	<b>684,652</b>

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