

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Oshawa, Ontario – February 22, 2016

Winter exhibitions in Gallery A at The Robert McLaughlin Gallery

This winter, we are pleased to celebrate a series of creative and exploratory exhibitions by community artists in Gallery A, the RMG's professional exhibition and studio space providing accessible opportunities for artist-driven initiatives. Please join us for opening receptions, workshops and events to celebrate the work of artists in Durham Region.

From March 2 until 26, 2016 The IRIS Group, a collective of women artists, celebrate their 20th Anniversary as a collective with ten International Women's Day projects involving the collection of objects and writings invested with personal or symbolic meaning. In [IRIS at 20](#), members are creating new works based on the collected and archived objects from women across Canada and internationally. Join us for an opening reception during RMG Fridays on March 4 from 7-10pm and meet the artists!

In [9 Empty Rooms](#), from March 30 until May 29, 2016 Art Lab Artist in Residence Ruth Read will create an environment conceived in painterly terms while dealing with real and illusionary space. Inspired by the song by Fredrick Brooks, "Nine empty rooms" is a multi-media sculpture installation reflecting on the abandoned house, memories of the past and its occupants. Further interpretations by music and dance will be woven through the narrative. Join us for an opening reception during RMG Fridays on May 6 from 7-10pm.

Celebrate the next generation of young artists with the [Durham College Fine Arts Graduate Thesis Exhibition: 10 Emerging Visions](#) from March 31 until April 17. Meet the young artists during the opening reception at RMG Fridays on April 1 from 7-10pm.

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The Robert McLaughlin Gallery

72 Queen Street, Civic Centre, Oshawa, ON L1H 3Z3
905-576-3000 | communications@rmg.on.ca | rmg.on.ca

Connect with us! twitter.com/theRMG | facebook.com/theRMG | instagram.com/rmgoshawa

Media Inquiries: Sam Mogelonsky, Manager, Marketing & Communications | smogelonsky@rmg.on.ca

Directions: 401 to Oshawa, exit Simcoe St, North to Bagot St. Turn left at Bagot, 2 blocks to Gallery.

Gallery Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Thursday: 10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; Sunday: 12 pm - 4:00 pm.

Admission by donation. Parking available. Accessible location.

Gallery A – Winter 2016 Exhibitions Fact Sheet

IRIS at 20

An exhibition featuring IRIS Group members:

Laura M. Hair, Judith A. Mason, Mary Ellen McQuay, Janice Taylor-Prebble, Margaret Rodgers, Sally Thurlow, Wendy Wallace

March 2 - 26, 2016

Reception: RMG Fridays, March 4, 7-10pm

Artist Talk: Sunday, March 6, 1-3pm

Workshop: Sunday, March 20, 1-3pm

The IRIS Group, a collective of women artists, is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2016 with an exhibition that revisits ten International Women's Day projects involving the collection of objects and writings invested with personal or symbolic meaning. These items, with photographic on-site documentation, form part of The IRIS Group's extensive dialogue concerning women's issues.

In IRIS at 20, members are creating new works based on the collected and archived objects from women across Canada and internationally. The many faces and donated artefacts and words become part of a major installation in Gallery A, the RMG's exciting new space.

Artists' Biographies:

Laura M. Hair is an original member of the IRIS Group who is an exhibiting artist/educator. In her work she references and combines historical and nature based imagery.

Judith A. Mason is an interdisciplinary artist, curator and arts educator whose recent work is an investigation of inner psychological experience and its collective manifestations.

Since 1983, **Mary Ellen McQuay's** photo based work has been exhibited extensively, included in public and private collections, published in numerous books and magazines and won national and international awards.

Margaret Rodgers is a visual artist and writer, founder of IRIS, former art teacher at Durham and Centennial Colleges, and past Director/Curator at VAC Clarington.
<http://www.margaretrogers.ca>

Janice Taylor-Prebble, with a focus on printmaking and painting, discusses reflected human interactions. A graduate of Georgian College and OCAD + Florence, she is also a licensed electrician and has exhibited widely.

Sally Thurlow is a multi-disciplinary artist with a Fine Arts BA from the University of Toronto. Her work is held in private collections across Canada, and at The Robert McLaughlin Gallery. She is also a member of The Red Head Gallery in Toronto.

Wendy Wallace is a visual artist and educator with the Durham District School Board, a U of T, Banff Centre and UOIT alumna. She has been exploring the Badlands from Alberta to Montana for the past three summers.

RMG Fridays: Wonder Women

Friday March 4 from 7-10pm

Celebrate women in the arts! Learn more about *The Other NFB: The National Film Board of Canada's Still Photography Division, 1941-1971* with curatorial tour and join the The IRIS Group for an opening reception in Gallery A. In our Friday Film Features screening room we will be showing a short film by the Broadbent Sisters.

The IRIS Group: Artist Talk

Sunday, March 6, from 1-3pm

Join us for an artist talk by the IRIS Group, featuring members Laura Hair, Mary Ellen McQuay, Margaret Rodgers, Janice Taylor-Prebble, and Sally Thurlow.

IRIS at 20 Workshop

Sunday, March 20 from 1-3pm

Inspired by the *IRIS at 20* exhibition, this workshop will be led by IRIS members. Working with clay, ink, and other mixed media, participants take inspiration from the IRIS collection of objects on exhibit in Gallery A. Supplies included. Space is limited. Registration required. \$25 Members/ \$35 Non-Members

Ruth Read: 9 Empty Rooms

March 30 - May 29, 2016

Art Lab Artist in Residence: March 30 – April 22

Gallery A Exhibition: April 19 – May 29

Introduction: RMG Fridays April 1, 7-10pm

Reception: RMG Fridays May 6, 7-10pm

An interest in structure and articulation is an underlying factor in all of Ruth Read's work. It has led directly to her interest in life drawing, portraiture, painting and installation sculptures, which incorporate the proportions of the human figure. She creates an environment conceived in painterly terms while dealing with real and illusionary space.

The viewer's visual participation is engaged by using familiar objects that direct the mood of the work through an association of ideas.

Inspired by the song by Fredrick Brooks, "Nine empty rooms" is a multi-media sculpture installation reflecting on the abandoned house, memories of the past and its occupants. Further interpretations by music and dance will be woven through the narrative.

Artist Biography:

Ruth Read received her BFA (sculpture) from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Since then she has exhibited in both group and solo shows at The Station Gallery, Whitby, the Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, the Visual Arts Centre, Clarington, and the Latcham Gallery, Stouffville, as well as other galleries in Ontario and St. John's, Newfoundland. She has taught art classes at The Station Gallery, the Haliburton School of the Arts, the Visual Arts Centre, Clarington and for Fleming College.

**Durham College Fine Arts Graduate Thesis Exhibition: 10 Emerging Visions
March 31, 2016 - April 17, 2016**

Reception: RMG Fridays April 1, 7-10pm

The students in Durham College's Fine Arts Advanced program are, like all creatively engaged artists, involved in the continual process of identifying and pursuing meaningful subjects that pertain to their own evolving bodies of work.

Utilizing experimental freedom and the research and development of distinct strategies relevant to their practice, the student artist learns to further define and focus their unique interests and engage in ever more profound studio work.

**RMG Fridays: Hip-HOpera
Friday April 1, from 7-10pm**

Learn about the 4 cornerstones of Hip-hop, then mix it up with a stunning performance by singers from the Oshawa Opera. Durham Folklore Storytellers perform as we close the exhibition *Their Stories: Unidentified Portraits from the Thomas Bouckley Collection*. Make your mark in the studio with us as we experiment with graffiti! Celebrate the opening of the *Durham College Fine Arts Graduate Thesis Exhibition* in Gallery A and meet Art Lab resident Ruth Read.

About Gallery A:

The goal of Gallery A and The Art Lab is to foster and support a thriving arts community. Programs provide accessible opportunities for artists and arts communities to present and discuss artwork, collaborate, share ideas and be inspired. They are artist-driven, self-guided and flexible.

Unlike the rest of The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, these spaces are not curated. Instead, artists may apply to use these spaces through a competitive process and applications are selected by a committee of ~~artists~~ previous participants from the Durham Region. Priority is given to underrepresented artists and projects that encourage experimentation, collaboration and align with the RMG's Statement of Purpose.

With the support of the Aked Endowment and funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage, the RMG is embarking on an exciting new initiative aimed at fostering a thriving local arts community.

Credit Line

Organized by Gallery A at The Robert McLaughlin Gallery.

Please note the credit line must be used on all published materials.

For all press inquiries, please contact:

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The Robert McLaughlin Gallery

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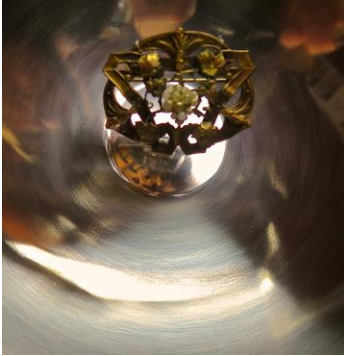
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Directions: From Toronto, 401 East to Oshawa, exit Simcoe Street, North to Bagot Street. Turn left at Bagot, 2 blocks to Gallery. Parking available.

Gallery Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Thursday: 10:00 am - 9:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; 12 pm - 4:00 pm. Admission by donation.

Gallery A – Winter 2016 Exhibitions Contact Sheet

****Please note that all images must be accompanied by complete credits****



L.M.Hair/M.Rodgers: Installation Detail



IRIS Group members



Ruth Read, The Garden in Winter



Durham College Thesis Exhibition: 10
Emerging Visions

For access to high resolution images, please contact:
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smogelonsky@rmg.on.ca | 905-576-3000 x109