

2017 marked the 50th anniversary of The Robert McLaughlin Gallery.

As we uncovered the stories and recalled the memories of what makes us us, we were able to see just how much we've grown.

From a small space above a store on Simcoe Street South to a 36,000-square-foot building, from a collection-starting gift of 37 works to a widely admired collection of over 4,600 works, from art classes held outside to a comprehensive studio space that supports a 21st Century Learning philosophy, there has been tremendous growth.

One thing that hasn't changed is that the RMG continues to be powered by people with passion who recognize the impact of the arts and work tirelessly to support it.













Kevin Dougherty Chair, Board of Directors



While winding down the final year of our 2011-2017 Strategic Plan, we undertook the development of our new 2018-2020 Strategic Plan. The last few years have been charged with challenge and change that have seen the RMG continue to emerge as a vital community resource and cultural connections hub. The coming years will reveal a continued transformation of the RMG through the framework of our new Strategic Plan into a place that will directly impact the social fabric of our community.

I encourage you to read our new Strategic Plan; you'll read about our defining Mission and Vision along with the details of three new strategic priorities that will enable the RMG to build further capacity to empower artists; contribute to a flourishing cultural and civic landscape; and deepen a holistic, integrated and purposeful approach to the RMG's work.

As I look back on the RMG's exhibitions and special events this past year, I am truly impressed by the creativity, dedication and hard work of the entire RMG team. With the RMG realizing an audience of over 35,000 this past year and with our ever-growing learning programs, events such as RMG Exposed and RMG Fridays, and exhibitions such as *Abstraction: The Rebel Cause, Then and Now: Oshawa at Play*, and *Heavy Hitters*, just to name a few, we are well on our way to realizing an audience approaching 40,000 and beyond in the coming years.

In 2017 the RMG expanded its fundraising capacity and we are already starting to see stronger financial support grow for the RMG. Moving forward this will continue to be an area of concentrated effort by staff, members, and the Board as we continue to look for ways to strengthen our financial well-being. With new financial reporting systems and tools that have enriched the capabilities of the RMG financial and leadership teams we are now better able to monitor our financial status and respond to shifts in a more proactive way.

Personally, and on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Donna for her tireless leadership and her inspired vision for the RMG. Along with her incredibly talented team, all of our volunteers and members, I am confident that the RMG can realize an elevated role and level of engagement in the community. Thank you also to the City of Oshawa, the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts for all for their continued support of the RMG. I would also like to thank all of my fellow Board members for giving generously through our fundraising campaign, as well as for giving of their valuable time and knowledge, in their own areas of expertise, in support of the RMG through the work of the Board.

It has been my absolute pleasure to serve as Chair of the RMG Board of Directors this past year and I look forward to another year of exciting challenges and change.

K. Daybuly.

Donna Raetsen-Kemp Chief Executive Officer

Looking forward, looking back



2017 was an awe-inspiring year of reflection and vision.

We enthusiastically celebrated 50 years of The Robert McLaughlin Gallery. The year was chock-a-block with programming designed to recognize this significant milestone. *Durham Reach*, *The Rebel Cause*, RMG Rewind, Strawberry Social, new acquisitions and other meaningful activities brought us together in the spirit of the RMG. It was a celebration with purpose.

Your stories! We thank you for sharing your tales of the RMG. They warmed our hearts and helped to inform the future. They made us smile and stand in awe of a remarkable past. It was wonderful to witness connections and reconnections, and pay tribute to those who have come before.

An enhanced gallery experience built audience momentum in 2017.

Working together with you, we created deeper impact. More people participated, visited and stayed longer. A greater sense of connection emerged. More diverse communities saw themselves reflected in the RMG.

Artist and community voices had greater presence and influence at all levels. New RMG patrons emerged, along with renewed and strengthened relationships. We found enhanced financial stability and strengthened our ability to monitor and respond to financial shifts.

In 2017 we turned the page, concluding one strategic plan and setting a collective intention for the future. The community voice was embedded throughout the strategic planning process. A renewed mission, vision and guiding principles anchor a bold theory of change and strategic priorities. The new strategic plan, Forging Change through Connection and Creativity, provides a launch pad for the groundwork and experimentation completed in 2017.

We have set a transformational path that leverages our strengths and amplifies our community facing role, making art and artists more accessible, connected and central to the hearts and minds, and to important social change efforts. This new direction will elevate the RMG's role and contribution to a thriving community.

And finally, your funding and gifts were put to good work. We were able to wring every drop from every dollar. Thank you for making a difference.

Onward and upward...together!

THEP

Impact by the Numbers

Total Gallery Attendance

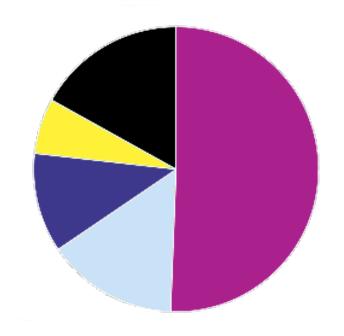
35,609

30% increase

Highest daily attendance

1,348

Attendance Summary





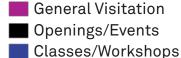
Guests enjoying the excitement of the silent auction at RMG Exposed, our annual fundraiser and auction that raises funds for free arts programming for kids.

Program Growth:

15% increase in OPG Second Sunday participants

15% growth in RMG Fridays attendance

33% increase in class and workshop participation



Outreach

School Programs

Facebook Followers

4,380
23% increase

eNewsletter Subscribers

4,443

Instagram Followers

2,739

41% increase



While we came together around the anniversary celebrations to reflect, we were also planning for the future by developing the gallery's new strategic plan. Being simultaneously focused on the past and future put us in a position to appreciate what's been accomplished while motivating us to go further.

From its inception, the gallery has been supported by community members, artists, businesses, and many others.

Again, this held true as the community came together to help us shape the strategic plan. We were greatly supported by the community who didn't hold back when it came to their insights, passions, and dreams for a regional artistic landscape.

Because of this continued community support and vision, our new strategic plan looks boldly into the future.



Visitors spend some time with Charles' Choi's exhibition in Gallery A.

I so enjoyed simply sitting on the bench in the gallery and taking in the art. I'm not an art gallery person really. But as I sat there I can tell you I did feel a connection. I found myself wondering what the artist was imagining just before they applied the brush to the canvas. I drifted off to a place where I was simply present with the din of chatter in the background. I may have found a new passion.

Go to the gallery you may find yourself lost. Like I did.

-Garth

Curatorial

In celebrating the RMG's 50th anniversary, exhibitions provided an opportunity to look to our past and what shaped the organization and then stride boldly into the present day and future.

Durham Reach was a gallery-wide exhibition that celebrated regional artists from as early in their careers as 12 years old to some who were around when the gallery first opened its doors. This exhibition spoke to the past and the foundation that has been built for us to continue to show and support artists. Rebel Cause celebrated our midcentury modernist roots. contextualizing, socially and politically, the work in the era in which it was made, connecting audiences with the artistic process and influences that inform abstraction. Ab Next continued the conversation Rebel Cause started by looking at the work of 5 emerging abstract painters from across the country, to check in on the continuum of abstraction in Canadian art.

Visitor Information commissioned 5 lens-based artists to explore, engage, and respond to Oshawa. The exhibition simultaneously looked back at the city's roots and into the promise that comes with recent development. All of the works in this exhibition have been added to the permanent collection where they will continue to tell stories about Oshawa. LEGACIES, too, looked to our past by recontextualizing the work of two of our benefactors, Isabel McLaughlin and Alexandra Luke, with contemporary artists Teri Donovan and Gwen McGregor.

Interpretive tools and resources and complementary programming were co-developed across departments in order to create holistic opportunities for guests to dive deeper, learn more, and engage with exhibitions in fuller, more personalized, and increasingly meaningful ways.



Each of these works was added to the Permanent Collection and

will continue to tell the story of Oshawa and its people.



Heavy Hitters: The Gifts that Keep on Giving

Heavy Hitters brought out big names and impactful pieces from the Permanent Collection. The exhibition celebrated the generosity of patrons who have donated to the collection so that these important works can continue to be exhibited, studied, and admired.



Exhibitions

Durham Reach January 28 - April 2

The RMG: 50 years of Contributing to Oshawa's

History

January 7 - April 28

Abstraction: The Rebel Cause, Holdings from the Permanent Collection, April 22 - August 27

ab NEXT: Contemporary Abstraction by Emerging Artists:

Colin Canary, Kelsey Galbraith, Gillian King, Caroline Mousseau, Sarah Pupo April 29 – September 3

Visitor Information:

Lise Beaudry, Michèle Pearson Clarke, Martie Giefert, Morris Lum, and Jeff Thomas April 29 – September 17

Stephanie Foden: Saudade da Bahia

May 6 - June 11

Then and Now: Oshawa at Play May 5 – September 4

Identity/Identify: Contemporary work from the permanent collection

September 2 – June 24, 2018

Legacies:

Teri Donovan, Alexandra Luke, Gwen MacGregor, Isabel McLaughlin September 9 - January 14, 2018

Heavy Hitters:

The Gifts that Keep on Giving September 23 - January 24, 2018

Painters & Patrons: Luke, McLaughlin, and Aked September 9 - January 14, 2018

Dana Claxton, The Camper July 2017 - summer, 2018

Publications

Linda Jansma and Sonya Jones: Durham Reach

Linda Jansma and Jayne Wilkinson: Visitor Information: Lise Beaudry, Michèle Pearson Clarke, Martie Giefert, Morris Lum. and Jeff Thomas

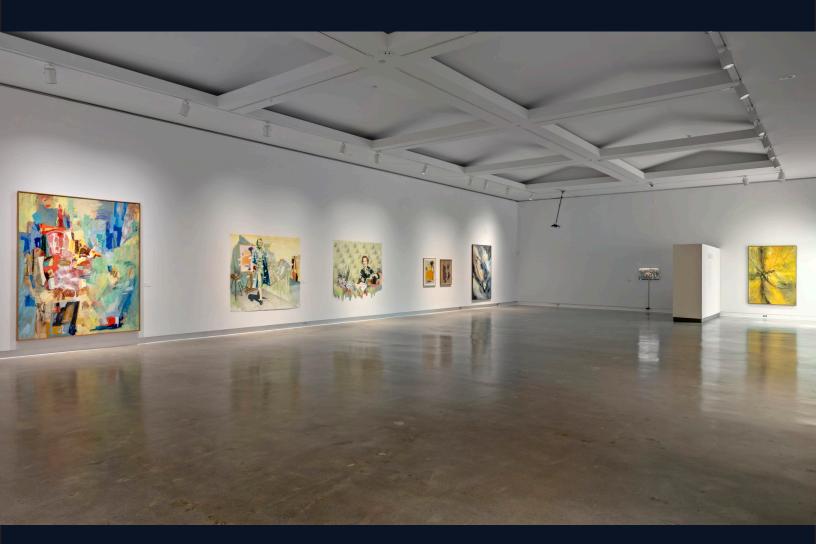
Linda Jansma and Simone Wharton: ab NEXT: Contemporary Abstraction by Emerging Artists: Colin Canary, Kelsey Galbraith, Gillian King, Caroline Mousseau, Sarah Pupo

Margaret Rodgers:

Legacies: Teri Donovan, Alexandra Luke, Gwen MacGregor, Isabel McLaughlin



The cover of the exhibition catalogue for Visitor Information. The RMG's publications are available on our website.



LEGACIES, curated by Margaret Rodgers, revisited the work of influential Oshawa artists and RMG patrons Alexandra Luke and Isabel McLaughlin through the contemporary lens of Gwen MacGregor and Teri Donovan.

LEGACIES was a curatorial highlight for me since it brought together my past research and writings on Alexandra Luke, RMG history, and my previous career at VAC Clarington.

To be able to show several works by Alexandra Luke and Isabel McLaughlin together with two contemporary artists Gwen MacGregor and Teri Donovan, connected several audiences in a way that showed a way forward artistically while honouring earlier achievements.

-Margaret Rodgers

Guest Curator, LEGACIES



This work brings into focus the RMG's ongoing commitment to engaging with abstract practices.

Jaime sees her process as one that allows her to map out ideas and emotions that underlie her personal experiences. We're thrilled to add this significant work to the RMG's collection.

Acquisitions

Gifts

Jaime Angelopolous, Canadian b. 1982 Pepolos 2015 Plaster, steel, paint, foam 76.5 x 46.5 x 17.1 cm

Teemful 2014 Conte and oil pastel on paper 128.0 x 79.0 cm Gift of the artist

David Blatherwick, Canadian b. 1960 Trigger 2002 oil on canvas 197.6 x 197.6 Gift of the artist

Douglas Coupland, Canadian, b. 1961 Slogans for the Early Twenty-First Century (Blank, red) 2012 acrylic on board 55.9 x 43.2 cm Anonymous Gift

Slogans for the Early Twenty-First Century (If sentience emerges don't expect it to like us very much) 2012 acrylic on board 55.9 x 43.2 cm Anonymous Gift

Slogans for the Early Twenty-First Century (Blank, violet) 2012 acrylic on board 55.9 x43.2 cm Anonymous Gift

Slogans for the Early Twenty-First Century (Flag as inappropriate) 2012 acrylic on board 55.9 x 43.2 cm Anonymous Gift

Slogans for the Early Twenty-First Century (Voting feels useless and no longer seems to address real life) 2012 acrylic on board 55.9 x 43. 2 cm Anonymous Gift

George Hawken, Canadian, 1946-2016

Pink Chair 1989

Watercolour, chalk pastel and graphite on paper
156.0 x 151.5 cm

Gif t of the Estate of George Hawken

Derrick Piens, Canadian

Transparency in Formation 2015
steel, paint
Gif t of the artist

Purchases

All works purchased with the financial support of the Isabel McLaughlin Acquisition Fund and the Canada Council for the Arts Acquisition Assistance Program, 2017

Lise Beaudry, Canadian b. 1972 From the Filing Cabinets 2017 video 14:00 minutes

The Stack 2017 photographs 175. x 50.6 x 27.9 cm

People & Dogs 2017 Artist bookwork 15. 1 x 29.2 x .5 cm

Michéle Pearson Clarke, Trinidadian/Canadian, b. 1973 I'm Thinking of Ending Things 2017 2 channel video, original score by Mark Savoia 7:04

Acquisitions con't.

Martie Giefert, Canadian, b. 1975 *Unifor Union Hall* 2016 digital C-Print 50.7 x 160 cm

ACE Facility, Hydraulic Floor 2016 digital C-Print 50.7 x 110.6 cm

ACE Facility, Wind Tunnel 2016 digital C-Print 50.7 x 105.5 cm

Legion Hall 2016 digital C-Print 50.7 x 172.0 cm

UOIT Sound Room 2016 digital C-Print 50.7 x 103.5 cm

Morris Lum, Canadian, b. 1983 Untitled Diptych 1 2017 archival pigment print 61.0 x 152.5 cm

Untitled Diptych 2 2017 archival pigment print 61.0 x 152.5 cm

Untitled Diptych 3 2017 archival pigment print 61.0 x 152.5 cm

Untitled Diptych 4 2017 archival pigment print 61.0 x 152.5 cm

Untitled Diptych 5 2017 archival pigment print 61.0 x 152.5 cm

Jeff Thomas, US/Canadian, b. 1956 Crossing Place 2005/2017 pigment print on archival paper 74.7 x 203.5 cm Birds Eye View: Medicine Crow and the Birdman 2009/2016 pigment print on archival paper 74.7 x 176.0 cm

Mississippian Earth Mound & Birdman Figurine 2015 pigment print on archival paper 74.7 x 211.5 cm

The Dancing Grounds 2016 pigment print on archival paper 74.7 x 210.7 cm



Learning & Engagement

This year we excitedly introduced 21st Century Learning Practices to our programming. In the timeline of the RMG's development from past to present, this marks a change which drives holistic and meaningful learning opportunities where participants engage with exhibition content in order to navigate big issues.

Teaching the skills and processes required to think critically, creatively, and collaboratively, and to communicate will engage our community in bigger conversations with more impactful endings.

Another year of OPG Second Sunday programming provided the platform to engage with families and young learners further. This year we've left the studio and taken to creating directly in the spaces that inspire the programming - right in the exhibitions. We're pleased to see families coming back and to be welcoming new families each time.

Gallery A and Art Lab continue to engage and support emerging artists by providing space for creatives to hash out new ideas, be responsive, and grow their practice. These values are at the core of this space, and will be as we refresh this program in 2018.

As we continue to co-develop classes, workshops, and other programming, we too are learning. The reciprocity of this exchange is exciting and energizing and we look forward to continue working on programming that is increasingly relevant and responsible.













"My son just completed March Break Camp at the gallery and it was amazing. He had so much fun and the art that was sent home after the week is really special.



Community Development

The 50th Anniversary showed us how meaningful and impactful the connections with our community are.

RMG Rewind was an intimately set gathering which invited the community to come together to tell stories and share memories of their time with the RMG. The stories shared were sentimental and humorous, as patrons of all ages gathered together to reflect on their affinity for the RMG. We even got to hear the behind-the-scenes stories and secrets from the founding of the gallery. The Strawberry Social was another heart-felt event. In the resurrection of an old gallery tradition, friends of the gallery came together for a feast of strawberries, art, and community.

While our hearts were warmed with all of the love the RMG received from those who we've impacted in the past, we look forward to building new relationships with our communities. RMG Fridays continues to be a regional hit, bringing bigger numbers and more excited audiences than ever before. These monthly events are now co-produced with members and representatives of our communities to ensure programming is more holistic and diverse, showcasing the talent and force of our communities. Other events like The Art of Black Lives Matter served to discuss the power of art in social justice practice, stand in solidarity with our communities, connect with new audiences, and realize the potential we have for meaningful change.

The introduction of volunteer-led programming for volunteers offered the opportunity to build greater connection and community. Events like Art Cards bring volunteers and staff together in a casual and creative space that sparks creative, collaborative ideas.























Volunteers

Patricia Bayus Steven Bland Ann Boutchko Joanne Briggs Teresa Costanzo Brendan Coughlin Karen Dixon Michael Drolet **Hedore Gionet**

Sue Hall Angela Harrison Alex Hutchinson Carol Jerome Barbara Kirner

Carrie Grimley

Deb Ladd Ursula Lee Kimberley Wint Licianny Matos

Gerald Wayne McLeod Rebekah McMillan Isabelle Nowell Natalie Rawe Anne Read

Sangavi Sankarkumar

Nicole Sharp Tricia Van Oostveen Debbie Waker Alessandra Cirelli Adam Andrews

Timothy Cadan Isabel Rowden

Amelia Rose Rankine

Colin Burwell Karen Burwell Liz Lecky

Kyla Wells

Griselda Gonzalez-Arellano

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Ali Shaikh Rhea Smith Sam Shearman Natasha Powell **Braedon Mathers** Kevin Dougherty Cheryl Blackman Gerard O'Neill Shashi Bhatia Tracy Greig



The RMG would like to recognize Sue Hall's 25 year volunteer commitment and thank her for all of her support.

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Canadian Museums Association
City of Oshawa
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Government of Ontario



Long-time supporters and friends of the gallery, Lisa Weiss and Mary Nurse, speak about the work that goes into raising a gallery at our 50th anniversay celebrations.

John Howard Society of Durham Ontario Arts Council Ontario Arts Foundation Ontario Museums Association

+ over 350 individual and family members

2017 leaves us equally inspired by the past and the possibilities that the future holds.

Equipped with knowledge of the past and a refreshed sense of direction that prioritizes the stories, experiences, and needs of our communities, we look forward to being symbiotic in educating the community and being educated in return. We look forward to co-developing more engaging and responsible programming, and we look forward to empowering art, artists, and the community at large to think, feel, and understand in new ways.

We've come a long way in the last 50 years and with new energy and continued community support, we look forward to growing and learning as part of the community.



The RMG has become one of Oshawa's finest artistic and cultural supporters. With a great collection of art, diverse curating, and a great venue for both visual artists and live music (the acoustics are amazing!) the monthly First Fridays program has become the "must attend" event here in the heart of Durham. Inspiring!

Stephen B.

Facebook Review

Staff

(as of December 31, 2017)

Donna Raetsen-Kemp, Chief Executive Officer

Administration & Communications

Roanna Green, Manager of Finance & Administration Stephen Dick, Manager, Protection Services Lucas Cabral, Communications + Digital Media Lead Carla Sinclair, Manager of Community and Volunteer Development Melanie Brooks, Development Manager Elsy Gould, Visitor Services and Membership Co-ordinator Cheryl-Ann Zamulinski, Event Co-ordinator

Exhibitions & Collections

Linda Jansma, Senior Curator Sonya Jones, Associate Curator and Curator of the Thomas Bouckley Collection Jason Dankel, Preparator

Learning & Engagement

Saira Knowles, Manager of Learning & Engagement Leslie Menagh, Gallery A Co-ordinator Jennifer Treleaven, Family & Learning Lead Jessica Gouldthorp, Learning & Engagement Assistant

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(as of December 31, 2017)

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To view the RMG 2017 audited financials please email us at communications@rmg.on.ca or call 905-576-3000

