

# President's Appeal 2009

# AGW



Dr. Veronika Mogyorody, President

## Art Gallery of Windsor... Partnerships Lead the Way!

"Arts and culture foster developmental, intellectual and emotional benefits unique to each individual. When arts and culture are widely available, citizens have sharper insights, greater empathy and heightened community involvement." – Community Partnerships for Arts and Culture

This year has been full of challenges and transformation for our region, province and nation. Like so many others, the Art Gallery of Windsor's Board, staff and volunteers have reevaluated their current operating practices to develop new strategies for organizational survival in today's economic climate. Now more than ever, the AGW must create a strong financial position to move forward.

To address the immediate and long-term financial challenges, a task force has been formed to bring recommendations to the Board by year end.

The presence of a strong cultural centre brings significant benefit to our region. Enriching the quality of life in Windsor-Essex County is more essential now than ever before as our region retools itself for new ways to secure economic stability. Arts and culture are essential to building a vibrant and sustainable community.

Stabilizing this institution will be a challenge, but thanks to the generous support of our members, donors, sponsors, visitors, volunteers and public funding agencies, the AGW is ready and able to weather the storms ahead and position itself for a future of possibilities.

### PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

The AGW aspires to be engaging, innovative, collaborative, creative, thought-provoking and relevant. This year's calendar of exhibitions and activities provided Gallery visitors with an assortment of exciting programs.

January's blast of cold air brought us the exhibitions *Burning Cold* and *Patrick Mahon: Cold Storage*. Both examined the myths, the challenges and conventional notions of Canada's north.

Did you know that abstract painting, which continues to challenge viewers today, found its way into art produced in Ontario as far back as the 1920s? *Kathleen Munn and Lowrie Warrener: The Logic of Nature and the Romance of Space* provided visitors with examples of early Canadian abstraction. This exhibition will soon embark on a national tour with dates already confirmed through January 2012. The AGW continued its investigation into early Canadian abstract art with *It's Alive! Bertram Brooker and Vitalism*.

Windsor Family Credit Union (WFCU) is proud to support the Art Gallery of Windsor with a new and exciting business and community partnership. WFCU has become the official financial institution of the Gallery and a community investment supporter thanks to a multi-year commitment totalling \$85,000 that includes fundraising activities and a capital program. This is a perfect match as both institutions enjoy a long and rewarding relationship with the community.



We are ecstatic to have formed this partnership. The Gallery's permanent collection of 4,000-plus works is a

valuable cultural asset that needs to be protected and preserved. It is important for our community to appreciate the importance of the AGW as a local treasure and for its national role and responsibility to promote Canada's cultural heritage.

Like many area organizations, the AGW is feeling the effects of economic changes and is working hard to create new ways to serve our community while remaining fiscally sound. WFCU is pleased to have the support of the AGW's Board of Directors who have recognized our commitment to ensure that the Gallery has the financial tools to provide artistic excitement as well as support for our local artists.

We want everyone to know that the AGW has something for everybody to enjoy. Your support, along with ours, is essential in preserving this community treasure and the works held in trust for the citizens of Windsor and Essex County. This collection belongs to all of us and together we share the responsibility to ensure its well-being so generations to come may enjoy it!

### Martin J. Komsa

President and CEO, Windsor Family Credit Union (WFCU)



Every two years the AGW organizes the *Windsor Biennial*, a major exhibition that explores contemporary art from Windsor, Detroit and surrounding communities. Attracting over 200 submissions this year, it provided an opportunity for artists, curators and the public to identify regional impulses in contemporary art.

Spring and summer provided visitors with a range of shows including *Workers Leaving the Factory*, organized with Media City, mural works by *Adrian Norvid*, *Richard Hamilton Reflects: Prints 1963-74* organized by the National Gallery of Canada, and from the AGW vaults *It's a madhouse this modern life...* featuring Canadian works from the 1980s.

This fall we examined railways with *Electric Avenue: Historic Streetcars of Windsor* and *Scott Conarroe: By Rail*, presented by Scotia McLeod, the Malicki-Simone-White Group. *Janet Werner: Is Anything Alright?* was Werner's largest solo show to date, and the inaugural studio watch program featured local artist *Victor Romão*.

MALICKI-SIMONE-WHITE GROUP



Art Rental & Sales featured numerous exhibitions by local and internationally acclaimed artists including Suzanne Konya, Ralph Gibson and Tammy Ratcliff.

### PARTNERSHIPS

Each partnership provides us with an invaluable opportunity to grow our audience, ensuring that the Gallery is a dynamic force in downtown Windsor by providing an exciting destination for our community and tourists.

### Measuring Success

Public participation rises in 2009!

Gallery visitors.....	80,000
Group tours.....	390
AGW touring show	
attendance .....	50,000
AGW members .....	1,600
Exhibitions .....	33
Education activities.....	473
Education participants.....	12,881
Volunteers.....	212
Volunteer hours .....	4,000
Venue rentals.....	115

The support provided by Tim Hortons for the *Sundays in the Studio* program is unprecedented. For the past two years the Gallery has invited families to enjoy artist-led, drop-in studio workshops based on exhibitions and community events.

**Tim Hortons**

#### Transit Windsor...

#### Make Your Next Stop the AGW!

This summer the AGW and Transit Windsor announced an innovative new partnership. All valid bus pass holders are invited to take a FREE ride in the form of complimentary admission to the Gallery.



#### University of Windsor & St. Clair College

MFA grads from the University of Windsor's School of Visual Arts were showcased at their exhibition *Without*. The AGW also presented *Untitled*, an exhibition of recent work by the graduating class of St. Clair College's graphic design program.

#### FREE Wednesdays

Thanks to TD Commercial Banking, every Wednesday is fun and FREE for the entire family. We're thrilled to see new visitors taking advantage of this audience development initiative. During July and August, visitors enjoyed events and activities including a tour of the Odette Sculpture Garden, a concert by the American Wind Orchestra and Canada Day celebrations.



Thanks to CKLW for promoting this initiative.



#### Red Bull Air Race World Championship

This event provided our region with a most exciting and profitable opportunity, with the AGW playing a central role. Once again, our prime location, spectacular views and atmosphere made us the City's and Red Bull's only choice for public and corporate events. Thousands enjoyed the Red Bull Pilot Activation, photo exhibit and more!

Our multi-year partnership with



The Great-West Life Assurance Company provides the Gallery with the funding to produce an interactive visitor guide and *Kidz'hibit*, an exhibition that features works created by kids at the AGW.

The Gallery is proud to continue our ongoing relationship with the Windsor International Film Festival and BookFest Windsor, both of which provide our community with diverse, outstanding programs and excitement. The media spotlight continued this year as the AGW welcomed TVOKids *Don't Stand Still* tour and CBC's *The National* to Windsor!

Your donation is more important than ever this year! 2009 will be remembered as the year the Gallery faced a drastic decline in revenue due to significant financial losses experienced by the AGW Foundation investments. This year's allocation based on the performance of the endowment is \$536,000 less than last year. The AGW management undertook a review of revenue and expenditures and began the task of regaining financial stability. The good news is that gains are being made in the stock market allowing the AGW Foundation to anticipate a higher allocation in 2010; additional name-space opportunities are being secured; the AGW received an increase in its Ontario Arts Council funding and the energy savings initiatives implemented in 2008-09 are significant and, in fact, remarkable! It is anticipated that our City of Windsor funding will remain consistent with 2008-09 levels. Revenue generation through corporate and individual support, facility rentals, travelling exhibitions, the Uncommon Market Gift Shop and Art Rental & Sales remains steady. We have many reasons to be optimistic and hopeful — this community has supported the Gallery for over 65 years, a truly remarkable indication of our importance and value. Thank you!

#### ARTRAGEOUS 2009

Thanks to a superhuman committee — chaired by the one and only Pam Rodzik with the support of over 300 guests, 53 corporate and individual sponsors, donors, raffle and live-auction participants — Artrageous 2009 raised over \$112,000 to support operations and programming.

#### THE NAME-SPACE FAMILY GROWS!

On June 3, the *Julia and Matthew Rodzik Lounge*, located on the third floor, was officially named and presented to Julia. Thanks to John and Pam Rodzik for their donation and the generous spirit in which this gift was given.

Thanks to the many donors who supported the establishment of *The Jane E. Brindley Creative Centre* just outside the second floor studio. During Jane's term as Board President (2004-06), her leadership contributed greatly to the Gallery and our community. This dynamic, interactive space pays tribute to Jane's creativity, passion for the arts and education.



from Scott Conarroe: *By Rail*  
Scott Conarroe (Canadian, b.1974); *Canal & Trestle & Freeway, Cleveland OH* 2008; pigment print; Courtesy Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto

#### THE VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIP

This year, the AGW Volunteers organized *Tea For Two or More*, the *Green Thumb Fair*, *Kids' Day at the AGW*, and the *Bridge and Fashion Show*. Always ready with a helping hand, our volunteers assist with Gallery mailings, as Info Desk attendants, at the Gift Shop and Art Rental & Sales, openings and hostess duties. Thank you!

#### YOUR DONATION IS IMPORTANT!

My thanks to the Windsor Family Credit Union for their generous gift to kick-off this year's appeal. The Gallery looks forward to a long and rewarding working relationship with the WFCU.

It has been an incredible year at the AGW with outstanding programs and special events, including *Artrageous 2009* and *Pop Art Invasion*, hosted by Barry and Stephanie Zekelman, kid's activities, film screenings, community events, and of course, lots and lots of great art!

The community is our most important and generous partner. We need your support more than ever. Donate today!

Dr. Veronika Mogyorody, President

Donations received by December 31, 2009 may be claimed on this year's income tax submission.

Best wishes and thanks to Gilles Hébert as he takes the position of Executive Director at the Art Gallery of Alberta. He helped make the fabric of the Gallery stronger, and contributed to raising its profile and viability within the community and beyond.

# AGW

## Art Gallery of Windsor

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