

CURATORIAL REPORT

Submitted by Ewa Chwojko-Srawley

January 22, 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The new website is ready. I have not yet assessed it. I have been updating the old website in the meantime.
- The Juried Art Show exhibition (Main Gallery) closed on January 15 2018.
- The exhibition AT HOME WITH MONSTERS; A CABINET OF CURIOSITIES by Keswick High School students opened January 20 2018. Almost 100 people attended the opening reception.
- The 2018 exhibition schedule is complete. There are 2 segments open for Indigenous artists. I am waiting for a response from Lauri Hoeg (the Gallery Indigenous advisor) regarding contracting Indigenous artists.
- There are artists lined up for the 2019 exhibitions – submissions are being reviewed, and artists invited, etc.
- There is one off-site exhibition planned, the Chiarandini Retrospective in the Newmarket Old Town Hall Gallery. I have had meetings regarding planning, partnering, etc.
- An off-site KidzArt exhibition was installed on January 16 at the Peter Gzowski Library, Sutton.
- I am currently working on the next show – GEORGINA: 200 YEARS – which opens on February 18 2018.
- I have started developing contents for the spring edition of The Palette. Please provide your submissions. **March 10** is the deadline.
- Volunteer work: the Toulouse-Lautrec fundraiser was a very successful event, raising just over \$1 000 for the gallery. Another Art Talk fundraiser is planned for Sunday April 8 2018.
- As usual, tasks have included:
 - Creating marketing materials
 - Submitting free ads
 - Promoting Gallery events and exhibitions at Rogers TV
 - Updating the web site and brochures
 - Creating promotional materials for social media
 - Attending meetings
 - Documenting Gallery events/classes etc. for the Palette and social media.

Main Gallery and Alcove Gallery



About 100 people attended the opening reception for the exhibition AT HOME WITH MONSTERS; A CABINET OF CURIOSITIES by Keswick High School students. This is the third year of partnering with Amanda Miller, the Keswick High School art teacher and Head of the Art Department. This year the exhibition is much bigger because it includes works by students from grades 9, 10, 11 and 12.

This exhibition attracted a new audience, in particular a younger audience, because the exhibitors included ages from 14 to 18, and they brought their friends to attend the opening. This is a great opportunity for these young artists to exhibit in a professional space, and makes for a perfect conclusion to their school art project! The exhibition has become a regular feature of the Gallery presentations.

Off-site exhibition at the Peter Gzowski Library, Sutton.

A big selection from the works that were created by the young participants of our summer art



camp is now on display at the Peter Gzowski library in Sutton. It includes painting, collages and paper-mache sculpture. The students were aged 5 to 14 years old. Partnering like this with the local

libraries is good because a wider audience is made aware of the Gallery (people in the library will see the display and often will ask the front desk what it is). It is also good for cross-promotion, etc.

Off-site exhibition in Newmarket

A big retrospective exhibition of Albert Chiarandini's paintings is planned to open in March, at the Old Town Hall Art Gallery in Newmarket. Planning is well under way for this event. The exhibition will include works from our Permanent Collection and paintings from private collections. Partnering with the Newmarket Gallery will give excellent exposure to our Collection, and will bring attention to our Gallery. We already have many visitors from that area, coming especially for concerts and art talks, because the distance from Newmarket to Sutton is short enough for people to consider it a worthwhile afternoon outing.



This kind of off-site exhibition does require a lot of planning and careful preparation (transporting delicate paintings, insurance, hanging the exhibition, etc.), but it is worth undertaking for the increased visibility of our own Gallery.

Website, Social Media

As always, there is on-going work on the website, social media, and promotion through RogersTV, newspapers, and online community calendars. I make sure that social media is kept flowing (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn). The website in particular requires a lot of time to keep it up to date. Updating the front page information is my current priority, since this is the 'point of entry' that every visitor will see; and if someone just wants a quick synopsis of what is happening at the Georgina Arts Centre and Gallery on any day, the front page should be able to provide that.



I had been waiting on making updates to the web site because of the imminent change to the environment. I will therefore continue to do minimal updates to the current site until such time as the new one is ready. I have many ideas for the new site, that will make the name of the Gallery

more widely known. Ideally, tourists who come to Georgina will find the name of the Gallery in any information they look at, either on the internet or in printed format.

Other Exhibitions, 2018 – 2019



Exhibitions in the Main Gallery and the Alcove Gallery are planned for 2018, and for most of 2019. I am already receiving works for the *Georgina: 200 Years* show which opens February 18 2018. It will feature works in a variety of media, primarily, but not exclusively, by the artists belonging to the GEORGINA CREATIVE Group. I invited new artists who depict

Georgina, and we have a combination of professional and amateur artists. I will feature photographs from our Permanent Collection by internationally-renown artist, Tom Zsolt, who is a resident of Georgina. In addition there will be a display of artifacts from Georginians, especially farming tools, since it is primarily a farming community. Our exhibition will be a part of the bigger celebration of the 200th anniversary of Georgina.

Art show – fundraiser



We gave another show in the series ‘Art Scandals’ on Sunday January 21 2018. This one was dedicated to Toulouse-Lautrec. As usual, I presented it, together with my husband Steve.

In spite of the fact that it was mid-winter, and we almost always get smaller audiences at this



time of year, we had over fifty people buy tickets, as well as a good number of lottery tickets purchased. In all, the event made just over \$1 000 for the Gallery.

I want to emphasize that, although I am including this event in the curatorial report, it is not a part of my curatorial work. Steeve and I volunteer our time and work in order to raise money for the Gallery, and our group of 'kitchen volunteers' donate food, drink, and their time and work, to produce wonderful fare for the intermission! Two members of the board purchased tickets and attended the event.

Ewa Chwojko

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