

CURATORIAL REPORT

Submitted by Ewa Chwojko-Srawley

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Website: I have had meetings with Amanda Grey, and we keep exchanging several e-mails regarding this subject. The website is still a work in progress. It is not yet functioning correctly. I have submitted two pages of corrections, changes, and additions that need to be made. I am now waiting for Amanda Grey to implement these changes. So far only Google calendar (which is not a part of the website) is updatable, and so I update what I can on the calendar.
- The exhibition *Georgina 200* (February 10 – March 18) was a huge success. It was followed by an exhibition of the paintings of Helen Barcza, entitled *Helen's World*. At this exhibition, three paintings were sold on the opening day! There were also good sales at the store.
- The current exhibition is entitled *Life Spirits*. It is an exhibition of Indigenous art from the private collection of Dr. Paul Morgan. I organized a big exhibition of works by Indigenous artists representing the Odawa, Ojibwe, Potawatomi, Oji-Cree, Mississaugas, Chippewa, and Algonquin cultures. There is on display a wide variety of techniques, from watercolours, acrylics and oils, to prints.
Dr. Morgan gave a detailed and fascinating presentation of each exhibit to the audience that gathered for the opening reception. There were some thirty people present, which is a good audience. I should like to discuss ideas to try to increase this to forty or so people for each opening reception.
- The Toronto artist Claire d'Aurore had an exhibition at the Sutton library (Peter Gzowski branch). It opened on April 11, and replaced the exhibition *At Home With Monsters; A Cabinet of Curiosities* by Keswick High School students.
- The next exhibition that is planned for the Peter Gzowski branch library is of works by Tom Zsolt. Details are being finalized. I will give more information on this in my next report when it is available.
- Planning is ongoing for the travelling exhibitions of works by Albert Chiarandini and Tom Zsolt. For details please refer to the minutes of the Collection Committee.
- I am working closely with Steve Silverman, who is representing the *Newmarket Group of Artists*, for the show which opens on June 24. Over 30 artists will participate, exhibiting works in a wide variety of media. The theme of the exhibition is 'Water'. The exhibition will probably be entitled *The Shades of Water*. I will provide more details in my next report.

- The schedules to the exhibitions for 2019 and 2020 are complete. I am working with each artist (or group of artists) on details. There will of course be our standard exhibitions: the Juried Arts Show, the KidzArt exhibition, and the Keswick High School Exhibition, as well as a good number of Indigenous exhibitions. I will write more on the contents and variety of these schedules in the next report.
- There was an off-site exhibition in Newmarket which began in early spring: *The Chiarandini Retrospective* opened on March 18 in the Newmarket Old Town Hall Gallery. The opening reception was planned as a ‘Gala Event’, with songs sung in Italian (accompanied on their new Steinway grand piano), music by Paganini played on the violin and a presentation on Chiarandini’s life and work. The exhibition finished very successfully. There are more events planning at that venue for Chiarandini I and Zsolt. Please refer to the minutes Collection Committee minutes for details.
- The spring edition of The Palette was printed on March 21 (the first day of spring!). I am working on the summer edition which will should be ready to be printed by June 21. All board members please note: the deadline for you to submit your article for the summer edition of the Palette is Sunday June 10!
- I am reworking the database in order to be able to print information about the Permanent Collection from it. I also need to extend its capabilities to include shelving references in the collection room. Up to now this has not been possible because there was no way to make the positions of each artifact unique on the shelves. However, I am now working with Sabrina Chianelli (see next bullet point) to create a system whereby each artifact has its own place. When that is done, I can include the information in the database.
I will report more fully on this in the next report.
- I have been spending a lot of time coaching and supervising Sabrina Chianelli, and it has been time well invested. She is doing this work as a part of her courses at college, and so she has a vested interest in learning a lot!
- The Collection Room is being reorganized and rationalized. I am doing this with the help of my new Junior Assistant Curator Sabrina Chianelli (unpaid intern student). She is proving to be an excellent and invaluable help! As mentioned in the previous point, there is a need to give each artifact its own unique position on the shelf. This is a logistic problem because paintings must not be placed front-to-back (danger of damage), and to remove one has always required a lot of reorganization.
- Meetings with the collection committee are ongoing. Topics that are on the table are the external exhibitions and the use of space in the Gallery.
- I am organizing a meeting for the artists/members of the Georgina Arts Centre and Gallery. I will present on the dos and don’ts of Art management, from the curatorial point of view, and how to use social media to promote art to as wide an audience as possible. The date for this event is June 3.

- There was an Art Talk fundraiser at the Link on Sunday April 8, 2018. The format of this show was unusual because I decided to have half-and-half music and art. The music was mostly provided by Tricia Haldane (soprano) and Steven Kettlewell (piano), both from Toronto. They agreed to perform without fee (we paid their travel expenses only). Steeve also provided music on his violin. The presentation was given by Steeve and myself. The format seemed to be very successful, and I shall consider whether future presentations could lend themselves to a similar arrangement.

- As usual, diverse tasks have included:
 - Creating marketing materials
 - Submitting free ads
 - Creating promotional materials for social media
 - Documenting Gallery events/classes etc. for the Palette and social media

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