

## CURATORIAL REPORT

Submitted by Ewa Chwojko-Srawley

April 14, 2019

*for period January 22 - April 14, 2019*

**Note: In March 2018 it was decided that the curatorial reports should be submitted every three months instead of monthly. Therefore, this report covers the period stated above.**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### Exhibitions, January–April

There were two main exhibitions:

- *From the Turtle Island Collection of Indigenous Art*, collection of Dr. Paul Morgan (Jan.27–Feb.24)
- *Reflections from the Artist's Garden*, by Georgina artist, Ellen Downe (March 3–April 7)
- The current exhibition, *SHOW & TELL*, has just opened on Sunday, April 14

#### Satellite Galleries

- Photographs by Karen Watson, Peter Gzowski Library
- Paintings by Elizabeth McLean, Pefferlaw Library. This follows an exhibition of her work at the Central Library in Keswick
- Three new shows will start in May

#### Exhibition Schedules

- Schedule of the 2020 exhibitions are complete and artists have signed the contracts
- The gallery has received several submissions for exhibitions in 2021 and 2022

#### Curatorial Initiatives

- Together with volunteer Jackie Diasio, I proposed, and offered organizational help for, an exhibition entitled *Recycled Art*, scheduled for the August-September 2019 timeframe
  - I developed and am distributing a plan for promotional materials for this competition
  - I meet with Jackie Diasio this week to discuss logistics
- I asked members if they would be interested in an event called *Tea with the Curator*. The response was positive, so I am starting at the end of May, then in June. The schedule will be monthly. By donation, suggested \$5 minimum.
- I am planning a Fashion fundraiser show for October

#### Promoting our Artists and the Gallery

Ongoing activity—see the full report for details.

## **The Palette**

The Spring edition is available in paper format at the front desk of the Arts Centre and will be available on the website as soon as possible. Many of our patrons inquired about online version, so I saved each page of the publication in a jpg format and posted on Facebook.

**NOTE:** The deadline for the submission of articles for the summer edition is Monday, June 10, 2019. Please note this date and submit a paragraph or two.

## **Newmarket Initiative**

There is a gathering of art professionals at the art gallery in Newmarket on Wednesday, May 15. I am co-organizer of this event. I am preparing a presentation on our gallery. Works from our Permanent Collection will be on display.

This is excellent promotion for Georgina, to expand the awareness of it as a tourist destination

## **Social Media**

There are regular daily posts on 3 platforms—Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. I provide images and information for this.

## **Alcove Gallery Exhibition**

I have started running a parallel exhibition in the Alcove Gallery, devoted to works from the Permanent Collection. The first was with the Ellen Downe exhibition, which has just finished. I hung four works by Albert Chiarandini, three by Tom Zsolt, two by York Wilson, one by Kay Murray Weber, and, for the first time, prints. I have not been able to display our significant collection of prints (Marcel Bellerive and Stanley Lewis) because they were not framed. Money to buy frames became available from selling the book I co-authored on Chiarandini.

## **Art Talks**

Urged by many members of the community I have developed 3 new art talks which will take place on three Mondays: April 29, May 6 and May 13. This undertaking is essentially volunteering; unpaid preparation time is around 100 hours per class.

## **Website**

The current website is updated as much as possible.

## **Diverse Tasks**

There are several tasks that are ongoing and daily. See the list in this report for details.

## *End of Executive summary*

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## Social Media

I submit material for regular posts on a daily basis on 3 platforms—Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Interaction with the users is constant, and we always get a lot of comments! For example, the latest Facebook metrics show that the gallery has over 1300 followers, and Twitter has over one thousand followers!

## Website

I update it as much as possible. For the new website I have prepared a detailed outline of links and page hierarchies to give to the developer. When the framework is in place, I will populate the different sections with information about events, artists, etc.

## Exhibitions, January–April 2019

- *From the Turtle Island Collection of Indigenous Art*, collection of Dr. Paul Morgan (Jan.27–Feb.24). One of the highlights of the opening reception was a lengthy and fascinating talk by Dr. Morgan, tracing the history of the works on display.



- *Reflections from the Artist's Garden*, by Georgina artist, Ellen Downe (March 3–April 7).

- The current exhibition, *SHOW & TELL*, has just opened on Sunday, April 14. This was a new initiative from me, and it proved to be one of



the most successful. Present at the opening reception were 35 of the 39 exhibiting artists, together with their friends and families, for a total of over 60 people! The format was that each artist stood by their work and talked about it for a few minutes. Everyone loved it, and the format will be repeated next year.

## Satellite Galleries

There has been great activity at all the satellites:

- At the Peter Gzowski Library, Sutton: photographs by Karen Watson
- At the Pefferlaw Library: paintings by Elizabeth McLean. This follows an exhibition of her work at the Central Library in Keswick.
- Three new shows will start in May. At the central library in Keswick there will be an exhibition of paintings by Piri Pandey; at the Peter Gzowski Library in Sutton there will be an exhibition of paintings by Albert Chiarandini from our Permanent Collection; and at the Pefferlaw library, there will be another exhibition of paintings by Elizabeth McLean.



### General comment:

The activity at the satellite galleries has been continuous over the twelve-month period April 2018–April 2019. As I hang the shows, there are always some patrons on the library who come and tell me how much they enjoy these displays. It is also an excellent way to promote awareness of what the Georgina Arts Centre is doing, and to promote our local talents.

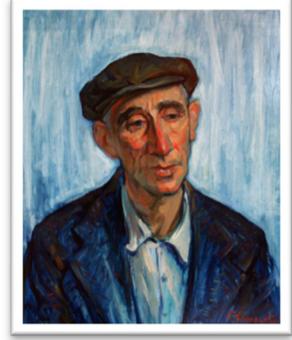
### Exhibition Schedules

Schedules of 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 that recur each year: The Juried Arts Show, the Georgina Creative Group Exhibition, and the KidzArt exhibition.

The schedule of the 2020 exhibitions includes several Georgina artists: Tom and Jennifer Zsolt, Thelma Sellers and Friends, Lisa and Sabrina Chianelli, Paula Coop and Wayne Smile. Indigenous artists include Sherry Crawford.

Following the success of the current show (*Show and Tell*) there will be a similar event in 2020. The topic will be *Artists Preserve History*, and it will be limited to the theme of Georgina—its life, history, people, etc.

One other I want to mention is an exhibition of the work of the photographer Leah Denbok, who will share an exhibition of her work together with Albert Chiarandini's paintings of homeless people.



The gallery has received several submissions for exhibitions in 2021 and 2022. Most of the submissions are from local artists and York region artists, so there will be a preponderance of local talent on our walls in the years to come!

### Promoting our artists

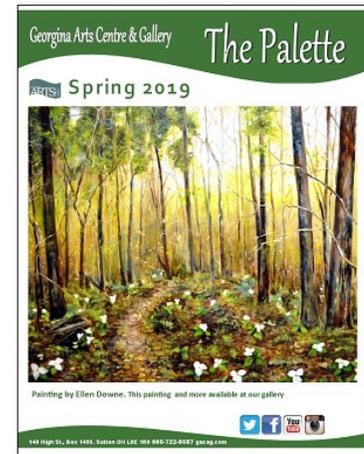
1. To create more 'community' among our member artists, I am compiling biographies and images that I shall (eventually) put on our website. This is ongoing work, and will expand as new artists join our gallery community.
2. Roger's *Georgina Life* producer, Jeremiah Breton, reached out to initiate artist visits, etc. Several have been interviewed and more are scheduled. I have been contacting artists and providing names to Jeremiah.
3. I was asked by Michele McLean from Metroland Media to write a regular column for York Region Newspapers on the exhibitions and artistic events. Great promotion; free for us!
4. I am exploring new ways to promote exhibitions and gallery events by signs placed in strategic places financed by local business.
  - Two artists who will exhibit in October have agreed to pay for one such sign

## The Palette

The winter edition of The Palette it is available in paper copy in the gallery shop as well as on Facebook in a .jpg version.

Work for each edition includes gathering material, authoring articles, editing submitted material, soliciting texts, organizing information, designing the layout, and manipulating and formatting graphics. I do the technical part using the computer software called *Publisher*.

- Board members please note: If you would like to submit material for the summer Palette the deadline is Monday, June 10, 2019.



## Other

As usual, diverse tasks have included:

- Creating marketing materials
- Writing promotional texts for local media
- Submitting free ads, online and newspaper
- Creating promotional materials for social media, and in-house
- Documenting Gallery events/classes etc. for promotional purposes.

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Ewa Chwojko  
April 14, 2019