

2023-24 Annual Report



CREATING ACCESS TO ART



Cover/Inside: Installation view of *Arctic/Amazon: Networks of Global Indigeneity* during Member Opening.



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Message from the Minister

I look forward to more Nova Scotians having increased and improved access to art.

Art plays a vital role in enriching our communities, and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia has been instrumental in making it accessible to everyone. It is commendable that the Gallery has provided sustained access through free entry as well as community engagement initiatives during its closure. Support for the Gallery remains strong, and I look forward to more Nova Scotians having increased and improved access to art.

The Honourable
Allan MacMaster
Minister of Communities, Culture,
Tourism and Heritage





Message from the Board Chair

2023-24 was another great year for the AGNS. We were able to strengthen organizational governance through new appointments to the Board, which has allowed the organization to move forward on strategic initiatives that will create a stronger future for the Gallery.

I am proud of the staff's ability to continuously respond to the unexpected, as they dealt with failing building infrastructure and another Gallery closure. The team quickly responded by bringing art programming to the community to ensure the people of Nova Scotia have access to art and art experiences. This work has strengthened connections with community and high participation rates demonstrate the important role of the visual arts.

I applaud the AGNS team and the dedicated volunteers for the tremendous work that has made this year a success.

Grant Machum
Board Chair, 2023-24

This work has strengthened connections with community and high participation rates demonstrate the important role of the visual arts.





Message from the CEO

This year the AGNS team once again demonstrated resilience as we brought the world's best art experiences to Nova Scotia, while also responding to unexpected interruptions to our operations. Our team opened five new exhibitions and partnered with institutions and artists around the globe to bring world renowned art and artists to Nova Scotia. We worked with The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery to showcase artists from the

Arctic and the Amazon in the exhibition *Arctic/Amazon: Networks of Global Indigeneity* and McMichael Canadian Art Collection to present some of the most iconic Canadian and Indigenous art works, past and present, in *Generations: The Sobey Family and Canadian Art*. We collaborated with Arts Nova Scotia to exhibit Nova Scotian artists at the Western Branch, and community partners and schools across the province to bring art experiences into communities.

A particular highlight was the implementation of the free access pilot program, which allowed Nova Scotians to visit for free during *Generations: The Sobey Family and Canadian Art*.

During this pilot, the Gallery saw a 78 percent increase in visitation over the same period last year and 24 percent of those were first time visitors. We heard from people who had never visited the Gallery about how art had stirred unexpected emotions or sparked conversations between friends.

We heard from people who had never visited the Gallery about how art had stirred unexpected emotions or sparked conversations between friends.



This pilot was an important way to increase access to art and the provincial collection by eliminating financial barriers for residents of Nova Scotia.

When infrastructure issues forced the Gallery to close in February, our team re-imagined ways to bring in-gallery activities into communities, 'popping up' in perhaps unlikely venues like the Halifax Shopping Centre or on the Halifax Ferry.

The AGNS also strengthened its international reach through a partnership with the National Gallery of Canada to jointly acquire a major work by New York/Cape Breton artist Joan Jonas. The work, titled *Moving Off the Land II*, made its North American debut at MoMA in March. Jonas has spent summers on Cape Breton Island since the 1970s, an area that has heavily influenced her decades-long artistic practice.



It was a strong year for the AGNS and I look forward to working with our team and community to make 2024-25 even stronger.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Sarah Moore Fillmore".

Sarah Moore Fillmore
Chief Executive Officer

> Free Access Pilot Program



“This was my first art gallery experience. I enjoyed that it was free and being able to walk around and enjoy the pieces.” – GALLERY VISITOR

In celebration of the exhibition *Generations: The Sobey Family and Canadian Art*, the AGNS implemented a pilot program extending free access to all residents of Nova Scotia from October 13, 2023, to January 14, 2024.

This free access pilot not only played a pivotal role in enhancing access to art and cultural experiences, it also promoted interactions with art, and provided educational opportunities through the arts.

The program demonstrated support for local artists, heightened visitation rates, bolstered civic pride, reinforced the AGNS brand, and fostered enhanced community support for the visual arts.

The pilot program reflects the vision of the AGNS to increase access to art, strengthen the creative economy, and help nurture more engaged and healthier communities.



DURING THE FREE ACCESS PILOT PROGRAM THE AGNS EXPERIENCED:

78%

increase in
visitation over
the same period
last year

208%

increase in
group visitation

82%

of visits were
encouraged by
free access pilot
program

24%

were first
time visitors
to AGNS

	57,878 visits to the AGNS	5,848 program participants
	2,826 students reached in school programs	664 supporters
	950,351	people reached through social media
	516,269	website page views

1 Participant in our summer art camps. 2 Greeting guests at the Patron Preview of *Generations: The Sobey Family and Canadian Art*. 3 Nocturne installation of Jordan Bennett's *Echoes Calling Back*.



124
artists on view

15
exhibitions





Arctic/Amazon: Networks of Global Indigeneity installation view of Cousyn van Heuvelen, *Nitsiit*, 2019-2022.

2023-24 EXHIBITIONS

The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia's exhibition program is woven with the principles of collaboration, engagement, diversity, stewardship, and ongoing support for artists. These elements recognize the artists' profound ability to inspire us to think critically, question assumptions, and foster personal growth.





“Went to see Maud Lewis which I enjoyed fully. However, the artist that I was in awe of is Monkman.” – GALLERY VISITOR



Generations: The Sobey Family and Canadian Art

Generations: The Sobey Family and Canadian Art told the story of one family's visionary engagement with Canadian and Indigenous art. This exhibition braided together works by early European newcomers like Cornelius Krieghoff; titans of Canadian 20th century art, the Group of Seven, Tom Thomson, David Milne and Emily Carr; a rich display of works by the Quebec Impressionists, as well as Automatiste painters Jean-Paul Riopelle and Paul-Émile Borduas; and works by trail-blazing artists of today, including contemporary Indigenous artists Kent Monkman, Brenda Draney, Brian Jungen and Annie Pootoogook, as well as leading international artist Peter Doig.



Curated by Sarah Milroy, this exhibition explored the theme of the North Atlantic, its role in history, and its impact on artists' imaginations. It laid out a panorama of Canadian creativity past and present, revealing landscapes, personal narratives, and vivid revisions of Canadian history.

Organized/Circulated by:

McMichael
CANADIAN ART COLLECTION D'ART CANADIEN

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Heffel 

1, 2, 3 The AGNS, along with its members, donors, and partners, was thrilled to welcome curator Sarah Milroy and the extended Sobey family to the opening of this exhibition. **4** Visitors viewing Kent Monkman's *Intermediate Study for Miss Chief's Wet Dream*.

Arctic/Amazon: Networks of Global Indigeneity

This exhibition explored the ways in which Indigenous contemporary artists and collaborators from around the world tackle issues of climate change, globalized Indigeneity, and colonial encounters within the circumpolar Arctic and the Amazon during times of crisis.

Indigenous ways of knowing and being in relation to the land were a major source of the artists' creativity.

The works represented a politics of resistance and resurgence while also revealing their connections to the Arctic or the Amazon.

With work on view that included painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, video, and performance, the 16 artists featured in the exhibition shed light on current geopolitical and environmental issues that have informed artistic practices in these two vastly different, yet interconnected, regions.

Curated by Dr. Gerald McMaster, Lead Curator; Dr. Nina Vincent, Co-Curator; and Institutional Curator Noor Alé, The Power Plant.





“This visit, a first for a while, nourished heart & spirit.” – GALLERY VISITOR



**Centuries of Silence: The
Discovery of the Salzinnes
Antiphonal**

Opening in Namur, Belgium, this exhibition returned an incomparable treasure of cultural heritage – a manuscript that disappeared and was forgotten for centuries: the Antiphonary of the Abbey of Salzinnes.

The Salzinnes Antiphonal is an illuminated choir book in the collection of the Patrick Power Library, Saint Mary's University, Halifax. Originating from the

Cistercian Abbey of Salzinnes on the outskirts of Namur, it was made in 1554-1555 for the former cantrix and prioress, Dame Julienne de Glymes. In addition to the history of the abbey, the exhibition revealed many secrets of this remarkable manuscript. This exhibition premiered at the AGNS in 2017 before making its way to Belgium in July 2023.

Circulated by the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and curated by Dr. Judith Dietz. Artwork on loan from the Patrick Power Library, Saint Mary's University.

“The AGNS has garnered great and lasting respect in Belgium as a result of the exhibition which was echoed by the Canadian Ambassador to Belgium and Count Bernard de Traux de Wardin, a direct descendant of the de Glyme family who commissioned the Salzinnes Antiphonal.”

— EXHIBITION CURATOR, DR. JUDITH E. DIETZ





Nova Scotia Spotlight: Nelson White

The *Nova Scotia Spotlight* series highlights recent acquisitions to the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia's Permanent Collection by artists contributing to the province's cultural heritage. This year's Spotlight featured artist Nelson White and his work, *Contemplation: Aiden Ash Penwaq*: Artist/Curator.

With support from Michelin North America (Canada) Inc. and The DR Sobeys Foundation in memory of Robert W. M. Manuge.

Recent Acquisitions: Carol Wainio

This showcase of recently acquired works by artist Carol Wainio allowed visitors to experience her paintings that draw upon fables and folktales from across popular culture while adding new layers of meaning to these stories. This exhibition will remain on view into 2024-25.

Inner/Outer Space

At the Western Branch, the AGNS once again partnered with Arts Nova Scotia to showcase works from the Nova Scotia Art Bank. The exhibition featured artwork from seven contemporary artists who built resilience through a broader in-depth exploration of different kinds of relationships.

> Exhibitions

Ta'n a'sikatikl sipu'l | Confluence

This Permanent Collection exhibition, the *Mi'kma'ki Artists' Spotlight*, and the *(Tea)chings* space each saw new artists highlighted.

(Tea)chings

(Tea)chings is a space for artwork created through Indigenous-centered programming by community members of all ages. This year's *(Tea)chings* space showcased paintings created by high school students from We'koqma'q Mikmaw School on We'koqma'q First Nation, a Mi'kmaq community in Cape Breton, NS. Through a series of ArtsSmarts workshops, artist Whitney Gould and teacher Alexis Bati inspired

each student to create a painting about knowledge they hope to pass down, after studying artwork by Daphne Odjig.

ArtsSmarts brings artists and students into collaboration and is supported by Arts Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, with generous sponsorship by Scotiabank.





(I was) “surprised by the emotions that some works were able to provoke, ...and then coming out into the world and seeing things differently. It just made me happy and inspired.” – GALLERY VISITOR

Mi'kma'ki Artists'

Spotlight: Meagan Musseau

This spotlight section of *Ta'n a'sikatikl sipu'l | Confluence* celebrates the work being done by Indigenous artists across Mi'kma'ki.

Meagan Musseau is an L'nu woman from Elmastukwek Ktaqmkuk currently living in Unama'kik. Her works explore themes of kinship, harvesting, connection to territory, and matriarchal empowerment through several artistic

mediums such as basketry, textiles, land-based performance, and video.

Permanent Collection

Three group exhibitions and two individual exhibitions from the Permanent Collection were on view throughout the year, including *The Shape of Cities*, *Realism's Reach*, *Folk/Funk*, *Kent Monkman: Miss Chief's Wet Dream*, and *Deanne Fitzpatrick: The Very Mention of Home*.

Maud Lewis Gallery

The Maud Lewis Gallery continued to attract visitors from around the world. This year, a new audio tour was launched that reached over 9,000 listeners. Visitors were able to delve deeper into Maud's life in rural Nova Scotia and experience never-before-seen paintings.



New 2023-24 Exhibitions

MAY 11 – SEPT 17, 2023

Arctic/Amazon: Networks of Global Indigeneity

MAY 31 – OCTOBER 15, 2023

Inner/Outer Space

FROM JULY 21, 2023

Nova Scotia Spotlight: Nelson White

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

Ta'n a'sikatikl sipu'l | Confluence

Mi'kma'ki Artists' Spotlight: Meagan Musseau

(Tea)chings

OCTOBER 7, 2023 – FEBRUARY 11, 2024

Centuries of Silence: The Discovery of the Salzinnes Antiphonal

OCTOBER 12, 2023 – JANUARY 14, 2024

Generations: The Sobey Family and Canadian Art

FROM DECEMBER 16, 2023

Recent Acquisitions: Carol Wainio

ONGOING EXHIBITIONS

The Shape of Cities

Realism's Reach

Maud Lewis Gallery

Kent Monkman: Miss Chief's Wet Dream

Folk/Funk

Deanne Fitzpatrick: The Very Mention of Home

Guest viewing Olinda Reshinjabe Silvano, Wilma Maynas, Ronin Koshi, *Non Kenebo* (detail), 2018 at the opening of *Arctic/Amazon: Networks of Global Indigeneity*.



Participant in AGNS studio activity.

2023-24 PROGRAMS

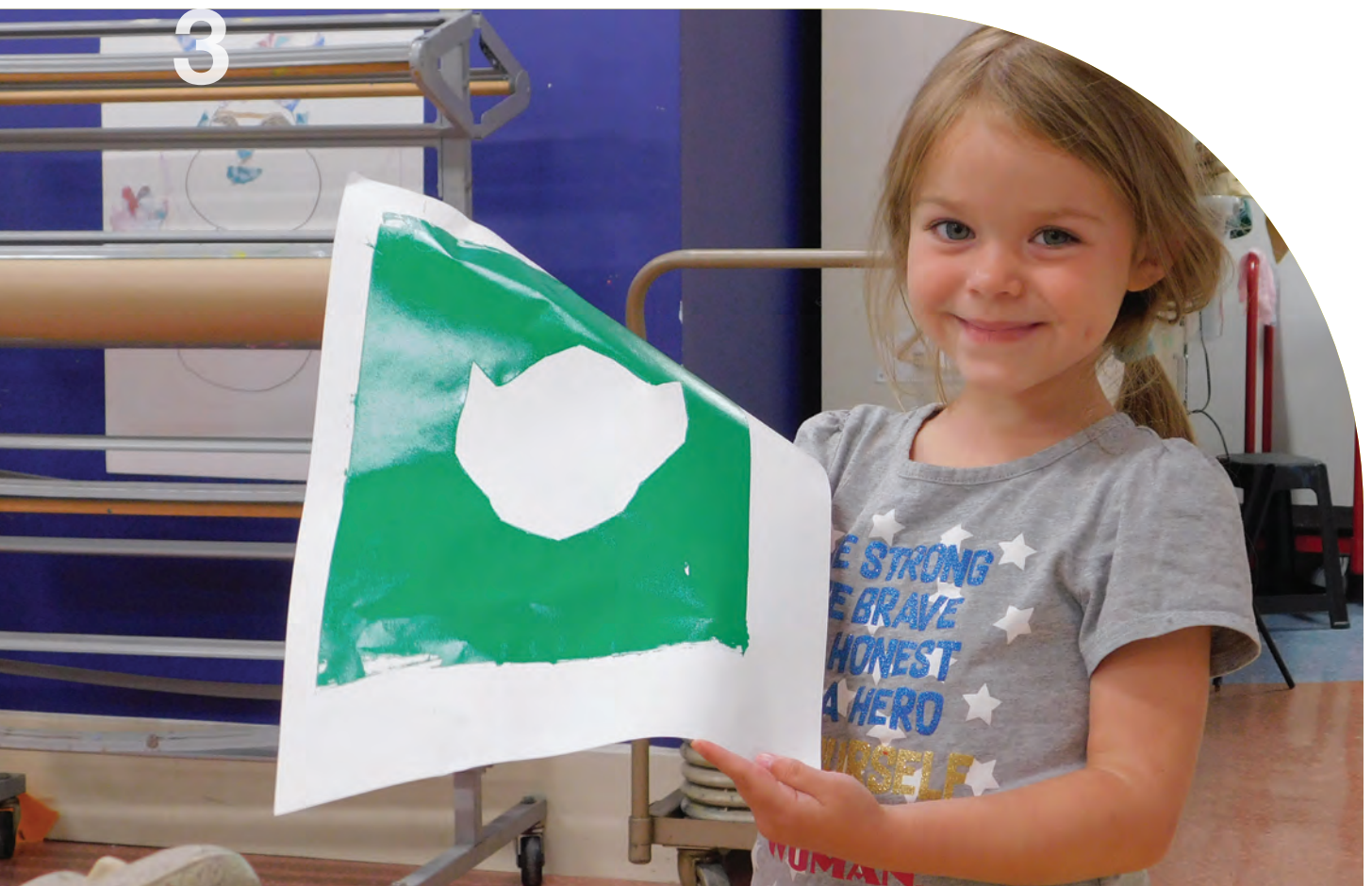
AGNS programs help make the Gallery an inclusive gathering place and enhance access to experiences with art.

This year, the AGNS hosted numerous programs for people of all ages. Through hands-on activities, lecture-style artist talks, engaging artist performances, pop-up art-making, and collaborative partner programs, audiences were able to experience art through a variety of opportunities.





“My daughter loved the AGNS day camp. The instructors were awesome and at the end of the week, she was so proud of the unique projects that she created.” —PARENT OF CAMP PARTICIPANT



Make Day!

The Make Day! program delivers art workshops that teach visitors art techniques or processes and leads them through a short activity.

Hosted by AGNS staff, artists, and art educators who bring rich technical, creative, and process-based approaches to the sessions, the hands-on activities offered during Make Day! support key exhibitions on view at the Gallery and current events.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- > Crafting fishhook sculptures inspired by the work in the exhibition *Arctic/Amazon: Networks of Global Indigeneity*, led by artist Natalie Laurin.
- > Exploring weaving with paper to introduce ideas related to Mi'kmaw Basketry.
- > Creating compositions based on paintings by the Group of Seven, led by artist Meggie Richards.
- > Wet-paper painting workshop that looked to the work of David Milne with artist Kawama Kasutu.
- > At the Western Branch, facilitator Susan Pfeiffer drew on themes from the exhibition *Inner/Outer Space* to offer various studio activities including accordion books, clay hearts, and dioramas.



March Break

The AGNS ‘popped’ up throughout communities with art-making activities during our temporary closure. Highlights included partnering with Wonder’neath Art Society to offer DIY shoe charms and Open Studio stations, button making at the Halifax North and Dartmouth North Public Libraries, art on the Alderney ferry, and a painting workshop at the Halifax Shopping Centre.

This approach allowed the AGNS to provide access to art experiences during March Break while the Gallery was closed.

Summer Art Camps

Inspired by a variety of themes, our week-long camps engaged campers in hands-on artistic experiences all summer.

BMO Free Access Thursday Nights

The AGNS welcomed guests for free every Thursday night thanks to the generous support of BMO Financial Group.

BMO Free Access Thursday Nights is presented by:



CREATIVE MINDS

This year, Creative Minds invited curators and artists to respond to current events, exhibitions, and art on view at the AGNS.

Through conversation, music, performance, or movement, Creative Minds aims to provoke new ideas, create more understanding of the power of the arts, and to champion those working to push the boundaries of their artistic profession.

Arctic/Amazon: Networks of Global Indigeneity

In conjunction with the exhibition *Arctic/Amazon: Networks of Global Indigeneity*, lead curator Dr. Gerald McMaster led a conversation with artists

Sonya Kelliher-Combs and Couzyn van Heuvelen. The artists discussed their work in the exhibition, which embodied politics of resistance, resurgence, and ways of knowing and being in relation to the lands, which are the source of their knowledge and creativity.

Exploring Materials in Contemporary Art with Meagan Musseau

Meagan Musseau, the featured artist in the *Mi'kma'ki Artists' Spotlight* within the exhibition *Ta'n a'sikatikl sipu'l | Confluence*, discussed her artwork and the ways she uses materials to explore different themes in her practice, as well as provided an informal tour of her works in the exhibition space.

Erasure Art Collective

Erasure Art Collective (EAC) performed *BLACKOUT*, an interdisciplinary art project that recreates historical slave ads using 'erasure' or 'blackout' — a form of poetry created by erasing words from an existing text to create a visual poem. This presentation of *BLACKOUT* combined poetry with visual art, short film, a conversation between the artists with host CBC's Portia Clark, and live performance collaboration with African Nova Scotian musicians Ayo Aladejebi, Sobaz Benjamin, and Robert Leek.

EAC is an interdisciplinary arts group co-founded by Shauntay Grant and Tyshan Wright, who are committed to researching and reinterpreting archival texts using visual, poetic, and performative erasure.

This event was offered in recognition of African Heritage Month and was presented in partnership with Halifax Public Libraries, MSVU Art Gallery, and Nocturne.





An audience of nearly 200 people watched artists Shauntay Grant and Tyshan Wright perform and discuss the process of reimagining slave ads using ‘erasure’ or ‘blackout’.



ARTIST TALK:
Séamus Gallagher

The AGNS partnered with the National Gallery of Canada for the second year to host an artist talk for the Atlantic Canadian Sobey Art Award Finalist.

With an engaged audience at the Light House Arts Centre, Gallagher discussed their art practice as it ranges through photo, video, virtual reality, and

sculpture. They highlighted their most recent exhibitions at the McCord Stewart Museum and the National Gallery of Canada and then joined in conversation with their nominator, David Clark.

“I was honoured to be invited... and grateful for the opportunity to discuss my work over the past few years, and was touched to see so many community members, fellow artists, and former professors in the audience.” – SÉAMUS GALLAGHER





ADULT WORKSHOPS

The AGNS welcomed more than 200 participants this year in an expanded series of adult workshops, which included specialized artmaking and painting.

Linocut Cards and Printed Tote Bags

Artist Tayla Paul led participants through the basic techniques of linocut and design. Visitors carved their own designs and created unique greeting cards and tote bags.

Rug Hooking

Artist Deanne Fitzpatrick taught participants the basics of rug hooking. Inspired by Deanne's own abstract landscapes and bright colours, they began their own hooked rug projects.

Felted Landscapes

Looking to the Group of Seven's sweeping and colourful landscape paintings in the exhibition *Generations: The Sobey Family and Canadian Art*, participants in artist Nancy Keating's felted workshop were inspired to create their own needle-felted landscapes.

Painting & Pints

Artist Meggie Richards received a warm welcome back for the ever-popular adult painting nights, Painting & Pints. Participants loved the iconic landscape paintings of artists Emily Carr and Tom Thomson, as well as Maud Lewis favorites.

French Tours

In partnership with Alliance Française Halifax, the AGNS co-hosted two French guided tours of travelling exhibitions on view. Participants were able to experience exhibitions in a group tour, which promoted conversation, curiosity, and French language through the visual arts.

Nocturne

In partnership with Nocturne, the AGNS hosted three artist talks with Roda Medhat, Corrie Peters, and Erasure Art Collective prior to the main event.

During Nocturne, the Gallery hosted three special projects and welcomed almost 2,000 visitors. Special projects included *BLACKOUT 2.0* by Erasure Art Collective, *Echoes Calling Back* by Jordan Bennett, and *Blueberry Cake* by Melissa Peter-Paul.

Key Frames: Kent Monkman

This year, our film screening series invited attendees to experience Monkman's large-scale paintings on view in the exhibition *Generations: The Sobey Family and Canadian Art* before engaging with the artist's films that further explored topics of colonization, sexuality, loss, and resilience.

Pride Art Jam! with the Youth Project

In partnership with the Youth Project, the AGNS hosted a drop-in Pride Art Jam for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, who were invited to paint and make buttons and prints that celebrated 2SLGBTQIA+ joy and histories, led by facilitator Raphael Chipman.





Halifax Chamber of Commerce Fall Dinner

In November, the Halifax Chamber's Fall Dinner shone a spotlight on the art industry in Halifax, highlighting the profound impact arts and culture have on a city's growth, identity, economy, and social fabric. With 600 people in attendance, Permanent Collection works came to life on the big screen throughout the evening, and CEO Sarah Moore Fillmore spoke about the impact that art has on the provincial economy, place-making in our city, and on our well-being.

African Heritage Month Gala

In February, the AGNS was proud to be a community partner of the African Heritage Month Gala, organized by the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia. This year's theme was Celebrating Black Excellence in Arts and Culture. The AGNS presented a video work by Erasure Art Collective and artworks by African Nova Scotian artists and artists of the African diaspora from the Permanent Collection were projected as a dynamic background for the event.



Western Branch Exhibition Celebration

In celebration of the exhibition *Inner/Outer Space* at the Western Branch, the AGNS welcomed visitors to meet and learn from artists featured in the exhibition. Artists Melanie Colosimo, Cecil Day, Shauna MacLeod, and Onni Nordman shared insights about their work and process.

Unfinished Work: blk scotian; blk art Podcast

The AGNS launched season two of *Unfinished Work: blk scotian; blk art* this year. Hosts Kordeena Clayton, Kate MacDonald, and I'thandi Munro dug into conversations with guests about their “Scotian connection”, and explored how artists are connected to this place through family, artistic practice, homelands, and ancestral journeys.

Guests featured this season: Cyndi Cain, NAT chantel, Kye Clayton, Manny Dingo, Francesca Ekwuyasi, Andre Fenton, Kevin Ormsby, Vanessa ‘Nessy’ Thomas, and Marqeis “Kekebeatz” Williams.





ArtReach & ArtsSmarts

The ArtReach and ArtsSmarts programs provide opportunities for artists to work with teachers and students in workshops that integrate the arts into their curriculum, explore multi-disciplinary techniques, and engage with the Permanent Collection.

This year, the AGNS hosted 170 ArtsSmarts sessions and ArtReach engaged more than 2,800 students.

For one ArtReach project, artist Merredith MacDonald worked with 100 high school students in an ongoing collaboration at the Unam'aki Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design.

Through the exhibition *APSKWA'TOQ*, on the intersection of activism and craft, students explored the monarch butterfly which has been on the province's endangered species list since 2017.

ArtsSmarts/ArtReach is supported by:





“Thank you so much for this program! Lux has been an amazing facilitator and helped me appreciate and understand art in a deeper way.” – ARTFUL AFTERNOON PARTICIPANT

Autism Arts – Halifax and Yarmouth

Over the last 18 years, Autism Arts, in collaboration with Autism Nova Scotia, has welcomed children, youth, and young adults to weekly art classes designed to create opportunities for those on the autism spectrum through a variety of meaningful experiences through art. This year, we welcomed participants in Halifax, led by artist Agne Kubiliute and in Yarmouth, led by artist Jay LeBlanc.

Artful Afternoon

Since 2014, the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia and the AGNS have been delivering Artful Afternoon, a series of monthly workshops for individuals with dementia and their partner in care. Facilitated by artist Lux Habrich, participants engaged in hands-on art activities inspired by interactive gallery tours or virtual presentations.

Autism Arts is presented in partnership with:



Artful Afternoon is supported by:



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THE WINDSOR FOUNDATION



Patron Preview of *Arctic/Amazon: Networks of Global Indigeneity* in May 2023.

2023-24 SUPPORTERS

Increasing access to art is central to our vision and guides our work. We're grateful for the generosity of individuals, foundations, and businesses who help make this possible so that more Nova Scotians can access art and art experiences without barriers.



The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia gratefully acknowledges our community of supporters for contributions made between April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024.

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We are deeply grateful to each of you for laying the groundwork for the hundreds of thousands of people who engaged with the AGNS through programs, exhibitions, and the Permanent Collection.

NAMES IN BOLD INDICATE 10+ CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF GIVING.

Every effort is made to ensure proper recognition of each supporter. Contact donations@agns.ca regarding any omissions or corrections.

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National Gallery of Canada

Nova Scotia Art Bank

Nova Scotia Department of
Communities, Culture, Tourism
and Heritage

Nova Scotia Department of
Education and Early Childhood
Development

Nova Scotia Regional Centres
of Education

NSCAD University

McMichael Canadian Art
Collection

Mi'kmaw Native Friendship
Centre

MSVU Art Gallery

Nocturne

Prismatic Arts Festival

Saint Mary's University

The Power Plant
Contemporary Art Gallery

Unama'ki Cape Breton
Centre for Craft & Design

Wonder'neath Art Society

Writers' Federation of
Nova Scotia

YMCA

Youth Project



For more than 40 years, Diane Swanzey impacted the lives of countless school children as a volunteer docent. Diane continues to make a difference since retiring as a volunteer. Her annual gift now helps support P-12 school groups to visit the AGNS for free.



“We are thrilled to continue our support of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and help to improve and facilitate increased access to art for Nova Scotians. Contributing to programs and initiatives that strengthen the AGNS’ curatorial vision will elevate the work of the Gallery both now and in the future.” — ROB SOBEY, CHAIR, THE DR SOBEY FOUNDATION





Installation view of the exhibition *Joan Jonas: Good Night Good Morning*, March 17, 2024 - July 6, 2024. The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Photo: Jonathan Dorado. Digital Image © 2024 The Museum of Modern Art, New York

2023-24 ACQUISITIONS

This year, we were honoured to acquire 52 artworks from 31 artists. We continue to work on expanding and further diversifying the provincial collection to broaden our narrative, fortify the work of artists within the region, and better reflect the AGNS vision and brand.



> Acquisition Highlights

Joan Jonas, *Moving Off the Land II*

This year, the AGNS had an incredible opportunity to jointly acquire a major work by New York artist Joan Jonas with the National Gallery of Canada. This work, titled *Moving Off the Land II*, made its North American debut at MoMA in March 2024.

Jonas began her career in New York's vibrant downtown art scene of the 1960s, where she was one of the first artists to work in performance and video.



1



2



“I’m really happy that my work was acquired by the National Gallery of Canada and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. I’ve lived in Cape Breton, Canada in the summers since 1970. I’ve been so inspired and nourished by the people and the landscape...” — JOAN JONAS, ARTIST

With Manhattan as a home base, Jonas has sought retreat in the highlands of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, since the early 1970s, an area that has heavily influenced her decades-long artistic practice.

Moving Off the Land II presents the ocean as a threatened ecosystem, a repository of mythology, and a site for transformational encounters with animal life. The work, which draws inspiration from Jonas’ time spent by the ocean in Cape Breton, is a multi-media presentation that includes videos, theatre structures, print reproductions, cast glass, and Murano glass mirrors.

This joint acquisition was made possible with funds from the Sobey Foundation and The DR Sobey Foundation, along with support from Canadian philanthropist Michael Nesbitt, a Distinguished Patron of the National Gallery of Canada, for NGC’s National Engagement initiative.



Acquisition Highlights



Maud Lewis
Eddie Barnes and Ed Murphy,
Bay View, 1965. Oil on pulpboard,
32.1 x 35.0 cm. Gift of Mary
Carmichael, Halifax, Nova Scotia,
2023, with assistance from the
Sheldon and Marjorie Fountain
Endowment Fund
2023.8



Ernest Lawson
View of Grant Family Cottage,
Otter Lake, Muskoka, Ontario,
c 1929-1930. Oil on canvas board,
30.7 x 41.0 cm. Gift of the Estate of
Andrew Ignatieff, Toronto, Ontario,
2023, with assistance from the Dr.
S.T. Laufer and Mrs. Irmgard Laufer
Endowment
2023.14

Alex Livingston

Magnificence, 2023. Archival digital print mounted on aluminum Dibond, 2/3, 109.7 x 130.0 cm. Purchased with funds provided by Fred and Elizabeth Fountain, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2023
2023.7



Cecil Day

Cranberries and Pitcher Plants,
2020. Linocut on wove paper, 4/6.
55.2 x 75.4 cm (plate) ; 61.2 x 85.8
cm (support).

Fall Cinnamon Fern, 2017. Linocut
on wove paper, 4/4, 54.6 x 75.7 cm
(plate) ; 60.8 x 86.7 cm (support)

The Ditch, 2018. Etching on wove
paper, 1st state, 1/5. 54.3 x 75.3 cm
(plate) ; 62.2 x 86.0 cm (support)

Gift of the Artist, Port Maitland,
Nova Scotia, 2023
2023.19-21

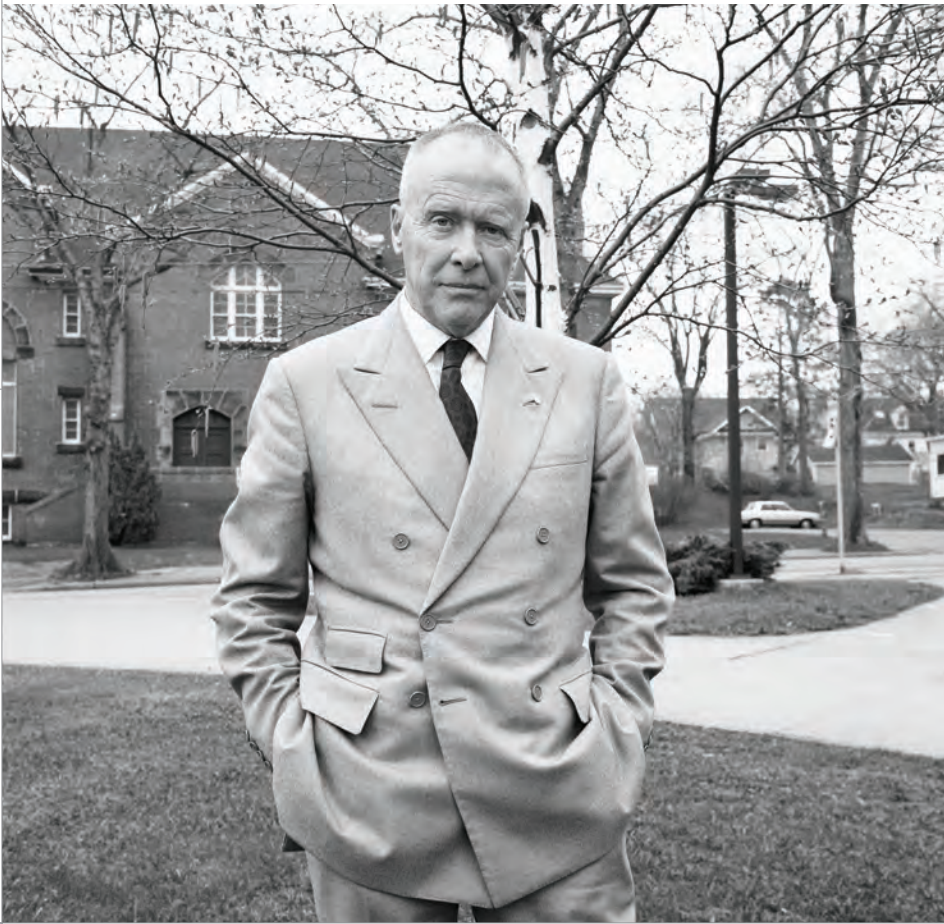
> Acquisition Highlights

Lady Alice Blake Croke
(after John Cunningham)
An Encampment of Mi'kmaq, 1802.
Watercolour on paper, 26.2 x 36.5 cm.
Given in appreciation of
Dr. Mora Dianne O'Neill, 2024
NTL2021.14



Henry M. Rosenberg
Upper Canard (Nova Scotia), 1931.
Watercolour on wove paper, 25.3 x
17.6 cm. The John and Norma Oyler
Collection. Gift of John and Norma
Oyler, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2023
2023.43

Robert Duchesnay
Alex Colville: Portrait #1, 1989.
Giclée print on cotton fine art paper,
A/P. 45.5 x 45.5 cm (image); 53.0 x
53.0 cm (support). Gift of the Artist,
Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, 2023,
with assistance from the Professor
Higgins Endowment Fund
2023.15



John E. R. Devlin
Design of a door into a long library
(detail), 2023. Gold leaf, silver leaf,
paper, 40.6 x 17.8 cm. Gift of the
Artist, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia,
2023, with assistance from the
Dr. S.T. Laufer and Mrs. Irmgard
Laufer Endowment
2023.9



Guest viewing the work of Emily Carr during the opening of *Generations: The Sobey Family and Canadian Art*.



2023-24 FINANCIALS

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Statement of Financial Position

Year ended March 31	2024 \$	2023 \$
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash	933,394	2,147,135
Accounts Receivable	414,115	285,968
Inventory for Resale	328,374	226,019
Investments – Endowment	6,699,764	5,495,167
	8,375,647	8,154,289
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	1,153,050	2,280,729
Deferred Revenue	1,550,092	608,745
Retirement Health Benefits Obligation	292,700	276,000
	2,995,842	3,165,474
Net Financial Assets	5,379,805	4,988,815
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible Capital Assets, Net	34,407	63,345
Prepaid Expenses	73,038	45,333
Other Assets	36,021	75,929
	143,466	184,607
Accumulated Surplus	5,523,271	5,173,422
Accumulated Surplus comprises of		
Accumulated Operating Surplus	4,085,863	4,031,972
Accumulated Remeasurement Gains	1,437,408	1,141,450
	5,523,271	5,173,422

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus

Year ended March 31	2024 \$	2023 \$
REVENUE		
Operating	3,701,548	3,519,941
Programming	642,952	690,800
Gallery Shop	623,738	625,031
Other Income	526,325	241,350
Capital Campaign	–	37,149
	5,494,563	5,114,271
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries and Benefits	3,005,489	2,850,391
Programming	734,654	536,299
Administration	556,904	429,212
Gallery Shop	340,844	338,471
Acquisitions	330,098	53,979
Development and Marketing	296,541	281,576
Western Branch	111,235	109,118
Visitor Experience	28,847	43,349
Building Operations	7,122	38,719
Capital Campaign	–	199,342
Building Project	–	28,547
	5,411,734	4,972,003
	82,829	142,268
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	28,938	24,557
Surplus Before Unusual Adjustments	53,891	117,711
Retirement Health Benefits Past Service Costs	–	(267,900)
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	53,891	(150,189)
Accumulated Operating Surplus, Beginning of Year	4,031,972	4,182,161
Accumulated Operating Surplus, End of Year	4,085,863	4,031,972

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Statement of Remeasurement Gains

Year ended March 31	2024 \$	2023 \$
Accumulated Remeasurement Gains, Beginning of Year	1,141,450	1,312,259
Unrealized Gains (Losses) Attributable to Investments	251,546	(271,402)
Net Realized Gain (Loss) Reclassified to Statement of Operations	44,412	100,593
Net Remeasurement (Losses) Gains for the Year	295,958	(170,809)
Accumulated Remeasurement Gains (Losses), End of Year	1,437,408	1,141,450



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(as of March 31, 2024)

