

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE ART GALLERY



VISION

The U of L Art Gallery serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas. Through the art works we present and collect, we spark dialogue, support interdisciplinary discussion, and invite contemplation. We are a meeting point for people from on and off campus. Located at a university, we are able to conduct and support research and investigate complex and difficult ideas in-depth.

MISSION STATEMENT

The U of L Art Gallery has a dual responsibility to serve the general public and the campus community. The Art Gallery is a key component of the university's public face and reaches audiences from Lethbridge, within Alberta, and across the country while also playing a central role for learning and community engagement at the university. By making artworks and the activities of the Art Gallery highly visible, we attract members of the public to campus, giving them access to contemporary and historical exhibitions, to professional visual arts programming, and to research produced at the Art Gallery.

STRATEGIC PLAN

At 94,000 people, Lethbridge is a small but dynamic city located in Southern Alberta on the traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy. The U of L Art Gallery is a crucial part of the city's renowned art community and houses one of the most significant art collections in Canada with over 14,000 objects. We partner with art galleries in Alberta and across Canada on exhibitions and events; assist smaller organizations in the region by providing expertise and technical support; and we foster in-depth exploration of our programs by partnering with groups on campus, in the city, and across the country. The U of L Art Gallery also reaches audiences outside Lethbridge through touring exhibitions and partnerships as well as our website, social media, and publications.

Cover Image: Michelle Silvestre leads our June Sculpture Walk tour of Papokan Park.
Image: *Still Alive*. Curated by David Smith. Main Gallery, May 27 - September 4, 2015.



Image: *Renewal Is*. Curated by Maria Livingston.
Main Gallery, March 17 - May 12, 2016.



UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE ART GALLERY

RENEWAL IS

MARCH 17 - MAY 12, 2016
CURATED BY MARIA LIVINGSTON

ADMISSION IS FREE. ALL ARE WELCOME.

FAST FACTS

The Art Gallery hired recent U of L graduate Maria Livingston to curate *Renewal is*, an exhibition that showcased local and emerging Indigenous artists in Southern Alberta. Livingston had interned with the Art Gallery as part of earning her B.A. in Native American Studies.

In the exhibition *A Necessary Fiction: My Conversation with Nicholas de Grandmaison* Ottawa-based artist Jeff Thomas expanded his renowned practice of responding to historical material in public archives related to Indigenous peoples. Thomas produced a new body of work in relation to the University's extensive archives on the artist and his First Nations subjects. The legacy of the BMO Financial Group's gift of art work by Nicholas de Grandmaison was crucial in making this project happen.

Public engagement activities continued to be a priority and the Art Gallery added three main new types of events: campus sculpture walking tours in partnership with campus Wellness, kids summer art camps in partnership with Recreation Services, and "Bead 'n' Bitch" sessions in the gallery.

This year the Art Gallery went over a million dollars in total grants received since the recovery from administrative problems began in 2001. As of this year, the Art Gallery has received a total of \$1,012,162 in federal and provincial grants.



Image: *Work In Progress*. Helen Christou Gallery,
January 8 - February 19, 2016.

EXHIBITIONS

In 2015/16, the U of L Art Gallery presented a series of exhibitions that focused on drawing. The exhibitions primarily consisted of work from the U of L Art Collection and included a solo curatorial project by graduating Art History Museum Studies major Kaitlynn Smart. The *art + people = x* project for this year involved local and student artists responding to drawings in the collection. Renowned artist Jeff Thomas responded to the holdings of Nicholas de Grandmaison and this strong focus on Aboriginal voices in relation to historical collections was further developed by Maria Livingston curating our first exhibition of emerging Indigenous artists. The Art Gallery continued a strong program of touring exhibitions with *Seth: Dominion* going to the Dunlop Art Gallery in Regina and the Evergreen Cultural Centre in Coquitlam as well as a condensed exhibition from the *Complex Social Change* series travelling to the Doris McCarthy Art Gallery, University of Toronto Scarborough.

The Art Gallery produced a total of 9 exhibitions in 2015/16 with 6 exhibitions that consisted of work from the collection. All the exhibitions were curated in-house and we did not bring in a touring exhibition. As well, we toured 2 exhibitions to 3 art galleries in Canada.

Total number of (collection and non-collection) artworks shown: 304

Total number of Artists: 121

Canadian Artists: 100

Albertan Artists: 47

Local Artists: 28

International Artists: 27

(Non-collection) Artists whose work was shown in exhibitions in the Gallery:

Total number of works shown in the Gallery: 122

Total number of Artists: 28 artists

28 are Canadian

26 are Albertan

25 are local

Total number of collection artwork exhibited in-house: 182

93 artists

Total Canadian Artists shown: 72

Total Albertan Artists shown: 21

Total local Artists shown: 3

Total international Artists shown: 27



EXHIBITIONS continued

Still Alive: Still Lives from the Collection

Works from U of L Art Collection

Curator: David Smith

Main Gallery, May 27 - September 4, 2015

Helen Christou Gallery, June 12 - August 28, 2015

Pictures of the Floating World

Works from U of L Art Collection

Curator: David Smith

Helen Christou Gallery, September 4 - October 23, 2015

A Necessary Fiction:

My Conversation with Nicholas de Grandmaison

Artist: Jeff Thomas Curator: Josephine Mills

Main Gallery, September 17 - October 29, 2015

The Sleeping Green: no man's land 100 years later

Artist: Dianne Bos Curator: Josephine Mills

Helen Christou Gallery, October 30 - December 23, 2015

Exhibition on tour in France and Canada 2017 - 2019.

The Sleeping Green: no man's land 100 years later

Artist: Dianne Bos Curator: Josephine Mills

Helen Christou Gallery, October 30 - December 23, 2015

Exhibition to tour in France and Canada from 2017 to 2019.

See Attached

Artists: Dianne Bos & Sarah Fuller

Curator: Josephine Mills

Main Gallery, November 5, 2015 - January 14, 2016

EXHIBITIONS continued

En Plein Air 2

Dr. Foster James Penny Building, Downtown Lethbridge
December 5 - 23, 2015

Community artists engaging with the U of L's Coutts
Centre for Western Heritage just outside of Nanton,
Alberta. Co-sponsored by the U of L Art Gallery, the
U of L Faculty of Fine Arts and the U of L Alumni
Association.

“The Drawing Series”

Work in Progress

Works from U of L Art Collection

Curator: Andrea Kremenik

Helen Christou Gallery, January 8 - February 19, 2016

Works for “The Drawing Series & Drawing Bar”.

Works for the Drawing Bar

Works from U of L Art Collection

Curator: Kaitlynn Smart, Museum Studies Intern

Main Gallery January 21 - March 10, 2016

Works from the Drawing Bar

Curators: Josephine Mills and David Smith

Helen Christou Gallery, February 26 - April 15, 2016

Work by local artists. Part of the *art + people = x* series.

Eric Dyck, Artist-In-Residence for “The Drawing Series”

Project Wall, Main & Helen Christou Galleries

January 8 - April 15, 2016

Artist-In-Residence and Social Media feeds, coinciding
with “The Drawing Series”.

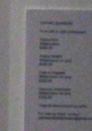
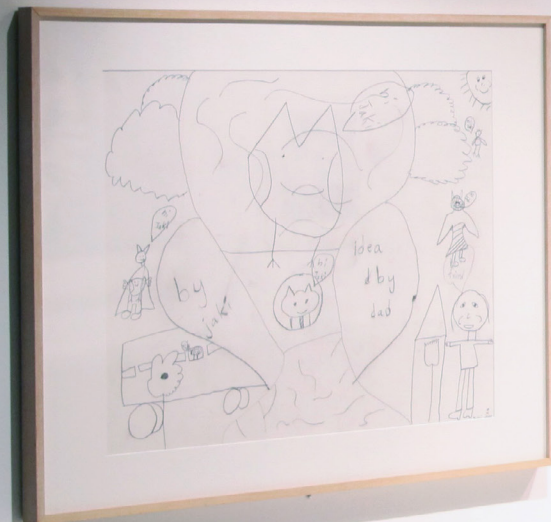


Image: *Works From The Drawing Bar*. Helen Christou
Gallery, February 26 - April 15, 2016.

WORKS FROM THE DRAWING BAR

FEBRUARY 25 - APRIL 29, 2016
art + people = x series



EXHIBITIONS continued

Renewal is

Work by local Aboriginal artists

Curator: Maria Livingston

Main Gallery, March 17 - May 12, 2016

Touring Exhibitions

Seth: Dominion

Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, SK

April 17 - July 5, 2015

Evergreen Cultural Centre, Coquitlam, BC

July 25 - Oct 18, 2015

Complex Social Change

Doris McCarthy Art Gallery, University of Toronto

Scarborough, Scarborough, ON

October 21, 2015 - January 23, 2016



PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The U of L Art Gallery has built a diverse program of activities on campus and in the city. These include partnerships on and off campus as well as projects designed to attract specific audiences to the main gallery. In 2015/16, we added to the slate with evening Bead 'n' Bitch events where people could learn the basics of Blackfoot beading techniques; working with the Wellness unit on campus, student staff gave noon-hour walking tours of sculpture around the university; and the Art Gallery partnered with Recreation Services to bring back kids art camps.

Image: Deserae Yellow Horn facilitates our first "Bead 'n' Bitch ". March 31, 2016.

PUBLIC PROGRAM SERIES

In 2015/16, the Art Gallery presented a total of 81 public programming events.

April 2015		July 2015	
Coffee's On at the Gallery	Main Gallery	Summer Art Camp	U of L Centre for the Arts
Sculpture Walk	Papokan Sculpture Park	En Plein Air & U of L Fine Arts Festival	Coutts Centre, Nanton
The Drawing Bar	Main Gallery		
Culture Vulture Saturday	U of L Atrium	August 2015	
Knit 'n' Knatter	Main Gallery	Summer Art Camp	U of L Centre for the Arts
		En Plein Air & Prairie Sun Camera Obscura	Coutts Centre, Nanton
May 2015		September 2015	
Sculpture Walk for "Jane's Walk"	Papokan Sculpture Park	Art Now Artist Talk: Jeff Thomas	U of L Recital Hall
Culture Vulture Saturday	U of L Atrium	Reception: <i>A Necessary Fiction</i>	Main Gallery
Knit 'n' Knatter	Main Gallery	Word on the Street	Lethbridge Public Library
Exploration Expo	U of L Atrium	Coffee's On at the Gallery	Main Gallery
En Plein Air	Coutts Centre, Nanton	The Drawing Bar	Main Gallery
Coffee's On at the Gallery	Main Gallery	Culture Vulture Saturday	U of L Atrium
		"Prairie Tales" Screening	Main Gallery
June 2015		Knit 'n' Knatter	Main Gallery
Culture Vulture Saturday	U of L Atrium		
En Plein Air	Coutts Centre, Nanton		



Image: "Knit 'n' Knatter", February 29, 2016.

Image: "Coffee's On at the Gallery" during the *See Attached* exhibition, November 18, 2015.

PUBLIC PROGRAM SERIES continued

October 2015

Open House at the Gallery
Sculpture Walk
The Drawing Bar
Art Now Artist Talk: Andrew Wright
Drop In & Draw
Knit ‘n’ Knatter

Main Gallery
Papokan Sculpture Park
Main Gallery
U of L Recital Hall
Main Gallery
Main Gallery

November 2015

Art Now Artist Talk: Dianne Bos & Sarah Fuller
Reception: *See Attached*
The Drawing Bar
Culture Vulture Saturday
Knit ‘n’ Knatter
Coffee’s On at the Gallery

U of L Recital Hall
Main Gallery
Main Gallery
U of L Atrium
Main Gallery
Main Gallery

December 2015

Reception: *En Plein Air ‘15*

Penny Building Gallery

January 2016

Reception: *Works for the Drawing Bar*
Knit ‘n’ Knatter
Coffee’s On at the Gallery
The Drawing Bar
Culture Vulture Saturday

Main Gallery
Main Gallery
Main Gallery
Main Gallery
U of L Atrium

February 2016

Opoka’asin Child Centre
Refugee Children Art Activity
Refugee Children Art Activity
Family Play Day in 1st Choice Centre
Refugee Children Art Activity
Experience U of L Fine Arts Day
The Drawing Bar
Culture Vulture Saturday
Knit ‘n’ Knatter

Opoka’asin Centre
Lethbridge Family Services
Lethbridge Family Services
1st Choice Centre Track
Lethbridge Family Services
Main Gallery
Main Gallery
U of L Atrium
Main Gallery

March 2016

Reception: *Renewal is*
Culture Vulture Saturday
Coffee’s On at the Gallery
Bead ‘n’ Bitch

Main Gallery
U of L Atrium
Main Gallery
Main Gallery

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING PARTNERSHIPS & ART EDUCATION

Exploration Expo

Saturday, May 23, 2015, University Atrium & University Hall, U of L
Partnership with the Faculty of Arts & Science offering a day of art and science activities to the public, featuring a family art activity and Gallery open-house.

En Plein Air 2015

Sundays, May - August, 2015, Coutts Centre for Western Canadian Heritage
This U of L Centre near Nanton, Alberta, open for artists to drop in and sketch, paint or photograph: May 24, June 21, July 26 and August 16.

Summer Art Camps

July 6 - August 21, 2015, Art Education Studio, U of L
Partnership with U of L Recreation Services to offer 7, week-long, half-day children's art camps in the Gallery and Art Education Studio.

Coutts Centre Arts Festival

Sunday, July 26, 2015, Coutts Centre for Western Canadian Heritage
Partnership with the Faculty of Fine Arts offering a day of art, drama and music, including: hands-on art activities for all ages, Shakespeare-in-the-Garden, and artists at work.

Word on the Street

Sunday, September 20, 2015, Lethbridge Public Library (Downtown)
U of L Art Gallery hands-on art activity for all ages, in conjunction with this popular annual multi-agency family event sponsored by the Public Library.

En Plein Air Reception

Saturday, December 5, 2015, Penny Building Gallery, Downtown Lethbridge
Partnership with the Faculty of Fine Arts and the U of L Alumni Association to offer an off-campus art reception and all-ages art activity.



Image: *Pictures of the Floating World*. Curated by David Smith. Helen Christou Gallery, September 4 - October 23, 2015.

COLLECTIONS

The legacy of two major recent gifts were central in exhibitions in 2015/16: the outstanding historical Japanese prints donated by Jim Coutts were featured in the Helen Christou Gallery and Jeff Thomas responded to, and selected work from, the BMO financial group's donation of Nicholas de Grandmaison portraits for his exhibition.

In the past year, the Art Gallery hosted six Museum Studies interns: Celina Osborne-Dasilva, Jessica Fisher, Deserae Yellow Horn, and Elise Pundyk worked with Registrar Juliet Graham on conservation and collection management projects while Kaitlynn Smart worked with Assistant Curator/Preparator David Smith on a curatorial project from the collection and Star Crop Eared Wolf assisted Guest Curator Maria Livingston.

HIROSHIGE ANDO
Japanese, 1797 - 1858
Yoshiwara, from the series The 53 Stages
of the Tōkaidō Highway, n.d.
Ink on paper
From the University of Lethbridge Art
Collection; gift of Mr. Jim Coutts,
Nanton, Alberta, 2013.

HIROSHIGE ANDO
Japanese, 1797 - 1858
Mariko, from the series The 53 Stages
of the Tōkaidō Highway, n.d.
Ink on paper
From the University of Lethbridge Art
Collection; gift of Mr. Jim Coutts,
Nanton, Alberta, 2013.

Remembering the Mound Builders



Father's Day



COLLECTIONS continued

New acquisitions

For the calendar year 2015, the Art Gallery acquired 7 art works that came from 3 living Canadian Artists:

- 1 from Lethbridge (3 objects)
- 1 from Alberta (1 object)
- 1 from Ontario (3 objects)

Loans

The U of L loaned a total of 75 works in 2015/16 to 6 different Canadian art museums:

- 20 works by Canadian Artists
- 20 works by European Artists
- 35 works by American Artists

COLLECTIONS continued

Conservation

In the past year, the Art Gallery had conservators outside of Lethbridge work on two of the important works in the collection. Edmonton paintings conservator Cyndie Lack worked to stabilize and clean Joyce Weiland's sculpture *Young Woman's Blues* (1964). Thanks to the assistance of the Vancouver Art Gallery, conservation team Fraser/Spafford-Ricci cleaned and repaired Georges Braque's print, *Fox* (1911) before it went on display in their exhibition "MashUp: the Birth of Modern Culture".

U of L Art Gallery staff and interns worked on the oldest beer bottle from the Sick Brewery in the Galt Museum and Archives collection, from 1905, and one of the first designs produced by the brewery. The upper label on the bottle had popped off the bottle after its recent donation to the collection. The bottle had been found in a wall by contractors working on a Lethbridge building and as a result, the label was dirty and torn. To re-adhere it needed to be washed, flattened and reattached using isinglass, an adhesive made from the swim bladder of a sturgeon or cod. Fun fact: isinglass is also used for clarification in the production of beer, so it probably would have been used inside this bottle too!

Image: Edmonton paintings conservator Cyndie Lack works to stabilize and clean Joyce Weiland's sculpture *Young Woman's Blues* (1964).



ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The Art Gallery's grant funding remained stable despite the economic turbulence. This was the final year of the three-year cycle with the Canada Council for the Arts and thus our operating grant continued at \$50,000 per year. The Art Gallery received an increase in our Post-Secondary grant from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and was awarded \$35,000. 2015/16 was a benchmark year: the Art Gallery went over a million dollars in total grants received since the recovery from administrative problems began and Director/Curator Josephine Mills was hired. The Art Gallery has now received a total of \$1,012,162 in federal and provincial grants since 2001.

Total visits to the Main Gallery: 18,521

Total participation in activities: 4,414

Total attendance at all exhibitions and events: 39,567

STAFF

Permanent and contract staff:

Director/Curator: Josephine Mills

Administrative Manager: Jon Oxley

Registrar: Juliet Graham

Gallery Technician: Chad Patterson

Preparator/Assistant Curator: David Smith

Curatorial Assistant: Andrea Kremenik

Public Programmer: Maria Madacky

Public Program Assistants: Michelle Sylvestre, Grace Wirzba, and Deserae Yellow Horn

Guest Curator: Maria Livingston

15 volunteers gave a total of 118 hours of their time supporting Art Gallery activities.

Professional Activities:

Juliet Graham is a member of the Canadian Association for the Conservation of Cultural Property.

Josephine Mills is a member of the Canadian Art Museums Directors Organization.

Undergraduate Museum Studies Interns gaining course credit for work at the U of L Art Gallery:

Kaitlynn Smart

Celina Osborne Dasilva

Elise Pundyk

Jessica Fisher

Deserae Yellow Horn

Star Crop Eared Wolf

Members of the Art Gallery Advisory Committee:

Standing members

Chris Horbachewski, Vice-President Advancement (Chair of the committee)

Ed Jurkowski, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts

Term members

Bruce McKay

Ted Stilson

Image: U of L Art Gallery Main Entrance, 2015.



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

Canada



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada

