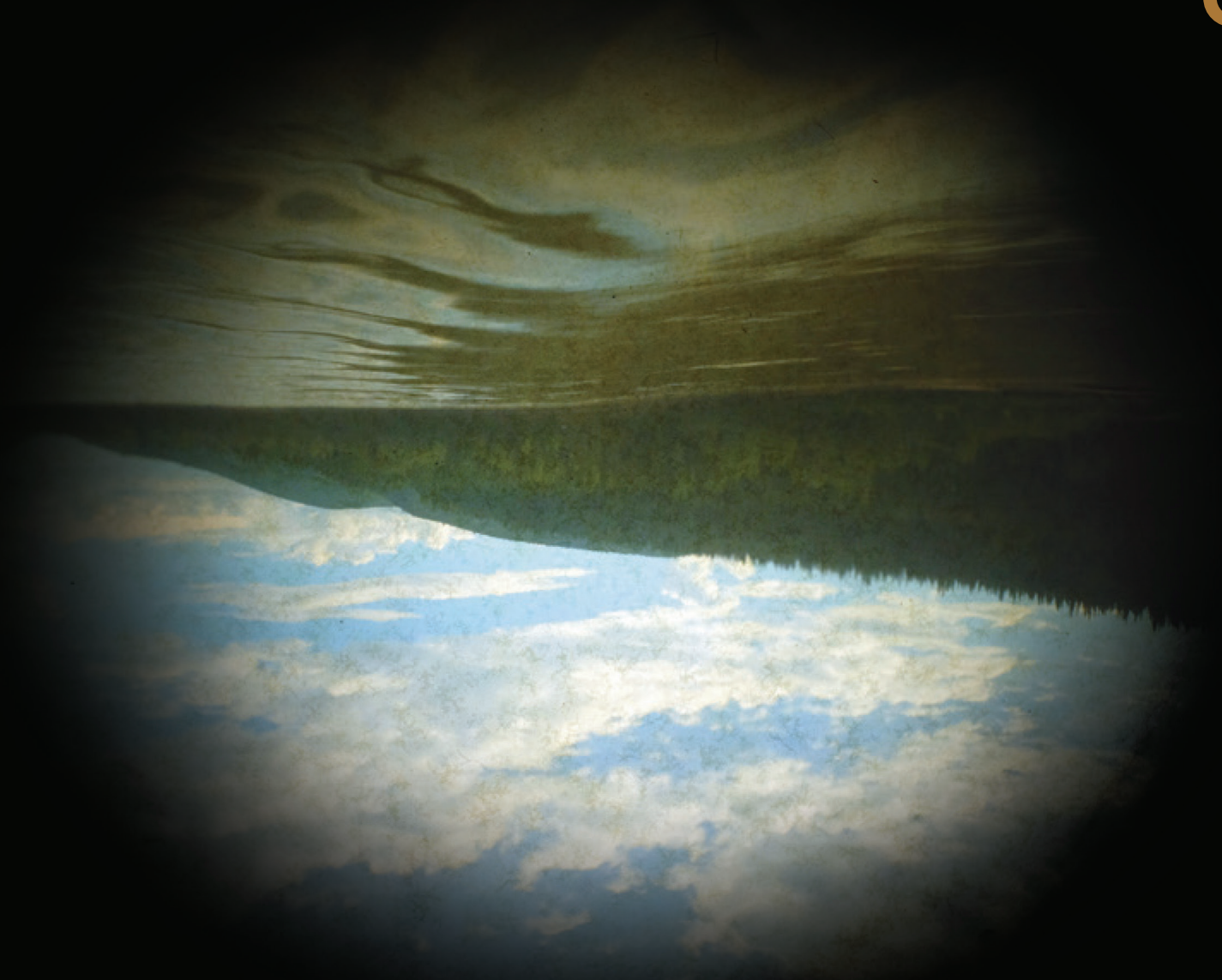




**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2016-17**



# VISION

uLethbridge 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

uLethbridge 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.

# PROFILE

At 94,000 people, Lethbridge is a small but dynamic city located on traditional Blackfoot land in Southern Alberta. uLethbridge 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. uLethbridge Gallery also reaches audiences outside Lethbridge through touring exhibitions and partnerships and our website, social media, and publications.



Cover: Donald Lawrence, *Camera Obscura George Black Projection B20jun15dpi96*, 2015.

Image: Ursula Johnson, Public Performance for visiting Kainai Students as part of *Mi'kwite'tmn (Do You Remember)*, 2017.

## FAST FACTS

Connected with the Midnight Sun Camera Obscura Project, uLethbridge Art Gallery invited artist Donald Lawrence to propose a permanent outdoor art work. He decided to convert a 1920s grain bin into a pavilion-style camera obscura at the uLethbridge Coutts Centre for Western Canadian Heritage.

2017 marked uLethbridge's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Art Gallery organized two exhibitions to celebrate: *50* involved local artists responding to this landmark number in any way they chose and *Looking Back / Looking Forward* was an exhibition of work from the collection curated by Museum Studies Interns Elise Pundyk and Grace Wirzba

Director/Curator Josephine Mills brought together a research team, Level 2: Lichen Lab, that is working in partnership with uLethbridge Art Gallery to explore what is involved with effective public engagement in contemporary Canadian art galleries. Lichen Lab received a SSHRC Connections Grant and hosted a workshop in Lethbridge for 23 artists and academics to explore public engagement in relationship to the Art Gallery's upcoming "You Are Here" series.

uLethbridge Art Gallery initiated a new public programming model that involves visiting artists delivering workshops to Aboriginal and other youth groups. The workshops are connected to the artists' future exhibitions at the Art Gallery. Toronto-based Ed Pien was the inaugural artist in the program and made 3 visits to Lethbridge as he prepared for his exhibition in fall 2017.

uLethbridge Art Gallery started a new partnership with Sik-ooh-kotoki Friendship Society Lethbridge. The connection arose from community workshops that Ursula Johnson, a Mi'kmaq artist based in Halifax, delivered in January 2017 while her touring exhibition *Mi'Kwite'tmn (Do You Remember)* was at uLethbridge Art Gallery

In the past year, the Art Gallery hosted five Museum Studies interns: Kirsten Meiszingler and Sheila Shaw worked with Registrar Juliet Graham on conservation and collection management projects; Elise Pundyk and Grace Wirzba worked with Assistant Curator/Preparator David Smith on a curatorial project from the collection; and Mav Adecer assisted the Art Gallery and Level 2: Lichen Lab to prepare for the production of our inaugural podcast program.

# EXHIBITIONS

In 2016/17, uLethbridge Art Gallery expanded our approach to working with artists as long-term research partners. Artist Donald Lawrence had a major Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) grant to develop the “Midnight Sun Camera Obscura Project”. uLethbridge Art Gallery then developed an exhibition which we presented and will tour in Canada next year. We also commissioned Lawrence to produce a public art work for the uLethbridge art collection and he created a pavilion-style camera obscura at the University of Lethbridge Coutts Centre for Western Canadian Heritage. As well, the Art Gallery organized the one-day “Prairie Sun Project” at the Coutts Centre and presented a solo exhibition of Lawrence’s work in the Main Gallery.

David Smith curated two exhibitions from the art collection and mentored students Grace Wirzba and Elise Pundyk as they curated an exhibition for the university’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They chose to survey a range of people connected with uLethbridge about their thoughts on the art collection and then include comments as part of the exhibition.

## POST NO BILLS

Curator: David Smith  
Helen Christou Gallery, May 6 - Aug 19, 2016

## IMAGINED SPACE: ABSTRACT ART FROM THE CANADIAN PRAIRIES

Curator: David Smith  
Main Gallery, Jun 1 - Aug 18, 2016

## PRAIRIE SUN PROJECT

Curator: Josephine Mills  
University of Lethbridge Coutts Centre for Western Canadian Heritage, Nanton, AB, Aug 21, 2016

## MIDNIGHT SUN CAMERA OBSCURA PROJECT

Curator: Josephine Mills  
Helen Christou Gallery, Aug 26 - Oct 14, 2016 & Main Gallery, Aug 29 - Oct 20, 2016

## TRASH TALK

Curator: Josephine Mills  
Artist: Maria Madacky  
Helen Christou Gallery, Oct 21 - Dec 23, 2016

## KEPLER’S KLEPPER AND THE UNDERWATER PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

Curator: Josephine Mills  
Artist: Donald Lawrence  
Main Gallery, Oct 27, 2016 - Jan 12, 2017

50

Curator: Josephine Mills and David Smith  
Helen Christou Gallery, Jan 6 - Feb 17, 2017



## EXHIBITIONS CONT'D

### URSULA JOHNSON: MI'KWITE'TMN (DO YOU REMEMBER)

Artist: Ursula Johnson

Curator: Robin Metcalfe

Organized by Saint Mary's University Art Gallery

Main Gallery, Jan 19 - Mar 9, 2017

### SECOND NATURE

Artist: Jennifer Wanner

Curator: Josephine Mills

Helen Christou Gallery, Feb 24 - Jun 2, 2017

### LOOKING BACK / LOOKING FORWARD

Curator: Elise Pundyk and Grace

Wirzba, Museum Studies Interns

Main Gallery, Mar 16 - Jun 9, 2017

### TOURING EXHIBITIONS:

uLethbridge Art Gallery completed the work needed to prepare two exhibitions for travel later in 2017:

*The Sleeping Green: no man's land 100 years later* and *Midnight Sun Camera*

*Obscura Project*. A major aspect of this preparation work was doing the difficult photography of 40 pinhole and other photographic prints by Dianne Bos for *The Sleeping Green* publication.



Image: Donald Lawrence's *Kepler's Klepper and the Underwater Pinhole Photography Project* exhibition. Main Gallery, Winter 2016-17.

# PUBLIC PROGRAMS

uLethbridge Art Gallery committed to making significant progress in engaging with a diverse audience and reaching people who had not previously been part of our activities. We developed projects specifically with Indigenous youth in the city and on the Kainai reserve. Our innovative approach involves building strong connections with these new audiences by having visiting artists deliver in-depth workshops with youth groups as part of the artists advance research trips for upcoming exhibitions.

The new programs include establishing a first nation youth outreach program in response to the exhibition *Mi'kwite'tmn*, by Ursula Johnson. Working with the Sik-oo-h-kotoki Friendship Society, and the Right to Play program, "Youth Art Night" brings the supplies and a facilitator to the Friendship Centre at no charge to them. As well, working with Ph.D. student Maria Madacky as part of her graduate research, we initiated connections with New Canadians and piloted projects specifically for this audience. These new programs build on the range of successful programs we have developed in recent years and add to the scope of our partnerships and public engagement.

## APRIL 2016

Culture Vulture, uLethbridge Atrium  
Bead 'n' Bitch, Main Gallery  
The Drawing Bar, Main Gallery  
Knit 'n' Knatter, Main Gallery

## MAY 2016

Exploration Expo, uLethbridge Atrium  
En Plein Air, Coutts Centre, Nanton  
Culture Vulture, uLethbridge Atrium  
Bead 'n' Bitch, Main Gallery

## JUNE 2016

En Plein Air, Coutts Centre, Nanton  
Culture Vulture, uLethbridge Atrium  
Coffee's On, Main Gallery  
Knit 'n' Knatter, Main Gallery  
Sculpture Park Walk, Papokan  
Sculpture Park  
Gallery and UHall History Tour, Main  
Gallery & uLethbridge Hall

## JULY 2016

Summer Art Camps, uLethbridge  
Centre for the Arts  
En Plein Air & Festival of Arts,  
Coutts Centre, Nanton

## AUGUST 2016

Summer Art Camps, uLethbridge  
Centre for the Arts  
En Plein Air & Prairie Sun, Coutts  
Centre, Nanton

## SEPTEMBER 2016

Exhibition Reception, *Midnight Sun*  
*Camera Obscura*, Main Gallery  
Coffee's On, Main Gallery  
Bead 'n' Bitch, Main Gallery  
The Drawing Bar, Main Gallery  
Knit 'n' Knatter, Main Gallery  
Art Now: Ernie Kroeger, uLethbridge Recital Hall  
Art Now: Lea Bucknell, uLethbridge Recital Hall  
Word on the Street, Lethbridge Public Library



## PUBLIC PROGRAMS CONT'D

### OCTOBER 2016

Exhibition Reception: *Kepler's Klepper*, Main Gallery  
Culture Vulture, uLethbridge Atrium  
Bead 'n' Bitch, Main Gallery  
The Drawing Bar, Main Gallery  
Knit 'n' Knatter, Main Gallery  
Art Now: Ed Pien, uLethbridge Recital Hall  
Art Now: Karin Van Dam, uLethbridge Recital Hall  
50th Anniversary Tour, Main Gallery

### NOVEMBER 2016

Culture Vulture, uLethbridge Atrium  
Coffee's On, Main Gallery  
Bead 'n' Bitch, Main Gallery  
The Drawing Bar, Main Gallery  
Knit 'n' Knatter, Main Gallery

### DECEMBER 2016

Exhibition Reception: En Plein Air 2016, Penny Building Gallery  
The Drawing Bar, Penny Building Gallery  
Knit 'n' Knatter, Main Gallery

### JANUARY 2017

Exhibition Reception: *Mi'kwite'tmn (Do you remember?)*, Main Gallery  
Culture Vulture, uLethbridge Atrium  
Coffee's On, Main Gallery  
The Drawing Bar, Main Gallery  
Knit 'n' Knatter, Main Gallery  
Art Now: Ursula Johnson, uLethbridge Recital Hall  
Art Now: Robin Metcalfe, uLethbridge Recital Hall  
Friendship Centre Workshop, Sik-oooh-Kotoki Friendship Centre

### FEBRUARY 2017

Family PlayDay, 1st Choice Centre, uLethbridge  
Culture Vulture, uLethbridge Atrium  
The Drawing Bar, Main Gallery  
Knit 'n' Knatter, Main Gallery

### MARCH 2017

Exhibition Reception: *Looking Back, Looking Forward*, Main Gallery  
Culture Vulture, uLethbridge Atrium  
Coffee's On, Main Gallery  
The Drawing Bar, Main Gallery  
Knit 'n' Knatter, Main Gallery



Image: Artist at work at En Plein Air at the Coult's Centre in Nanton, AB, June 2016.

# PUBLIC PROGRAMMING PARTNERSHIPS & ART EDUCATION

## EXPLORATION EXPO

Saturday, May 28, 2016

University Hall & Atrium, uLethbridge  
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 DAYS

Select Sundays, Summer 2016

University of Lethbridge Coutts Centre  
for Western Canadian Heritage,  
Nanton, AB

The centre is open for artists to drop  
in and sketch, paint or photograph.

## PRAIRIE SUN CAMERA OBSCURA

Sunday, Aug 21, 2016

University of Lethbridge Coutts  
Centre for Western Canadian  
Heritage, Nanton, AB

## SUMMER ART CAMPS

Jul 4 - Aug 19, 2016

Art Education Studio, uLethbridge  
Partnership with uLethbridge  
Recreation Services to offer a 7  
week-long, half-day children's art camps  
in the Gallery and Art Education Studio.

## COUTTS CENTRE ARTS FESTIVAL

Jul 24, 2016

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

Sep 24, 2016

Lethbridge Public Library

uLethbridge Art Gallery hands-on art activity for all  
ages, in conjunction with this popular annual  
multi-agency family event sponsored by the  
city library.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY TOURS

Oct 29, 2016

uLethbridge Fine Arts

Anniversary related Open-House  
and behind-the-scenes tours of the  
ULethbridge Gallery and Collection,  
for the General Public.

## EN PLEIN AIR RECEPTION

Dec 2, 2016

Penny Building Gallery, Lethbridge  
Partnership with the Faculty of  
Fine Arts to offer an off-campus art  
reception.

## SIK-OOH-KOTOKI ARTS FORUM

Jan 20, 2017

Sik-ooH-kotoki Centre, Lethbridge  
Partnership with Sik-Ooh-Kotoki  
Friendship Society, to build a community  
network between art, artists and First  
Nations youth.

## FAMILY PLAYDAY

Feb 20, 2017

1st Choice Centre for Sports & Wellness, uLethbridge  
Partnership with uLethbridge - campus-wide art, science  
and sport activities, free to the general public, in conjunction  
with Family Day provincial holiday.



Image: Visiting artists and researchers meet at the  
Coutts' Centre for "Lichen LAb" workshop, Spring 2016.



# PUBLIC PROGRAMMING PARTNERSHIPS & ART EDUCATION CONT'D

## OPOKAA'SIN ACTIVITY

Mar 8 & 20, 2017

Opokaa'sin Child Development Centre, Lethbridge  
ULethbridge Art Gallery hands-on art activity for the  
First Nations child after-school program.



Image: Art Camp leader Daisy Graham with campers,  
Summer, 2016.

# COLLECTIONS

The Art Gallery staff undertook two major conservation projects in the past year. Assisted by STEP summer student, Grace Wirzba, staff worked on the outdoor sculpture in the Papokan Sculpture Park. The project included condition reporting each of the twelve sculptures and creating a future maintenance plan to assure the care and conservation of the campus-wide park. As well, the de-installation of Michael Snow's *The Audience* from the University of Lethbridge Atrium has been a significant undertaking for the staff. The sculptures were returned to our storage facilities and Art Gallery staff and interns worked to condition report, clean and conserve each individual work. Work continues as *The Audience* is slotted to be re-installed later in 2017.

uLethbridge Art Gallery completed our database upgrade by launching the public component of our electronic database, eMuseum.

## ACQUISITIONS 2016-17

In 2016 uLethbridge Art Gallery acquired a series of 8 sculptures and 1 work on paper made by 8 Canadian sculptors. The was made to celebrate the life of a young Lethbridge artist, David Lanier, who passed away in 1990. Sale of the sculpture editions went towards the memorial "Big Hat No Cattle" scholarship at NSCAD. The sculptors were Glen McKinnon, Catherine Ross, Dennis Gill, Robin Peck, Wanda Ellerbeck, John McEwen, Thierry Delva, and John Greer.

Also in 2016 the gallery acquired a drawing by Kamloops artist, Donald Lawrence.

In summary, the gallery acquired 10 objects by 9 contemporary Canadian artists in 2016.

In 2017 uLethbridge Art Gallery acquired 10 watercolour works on paper by local artist Karen Brownlee.

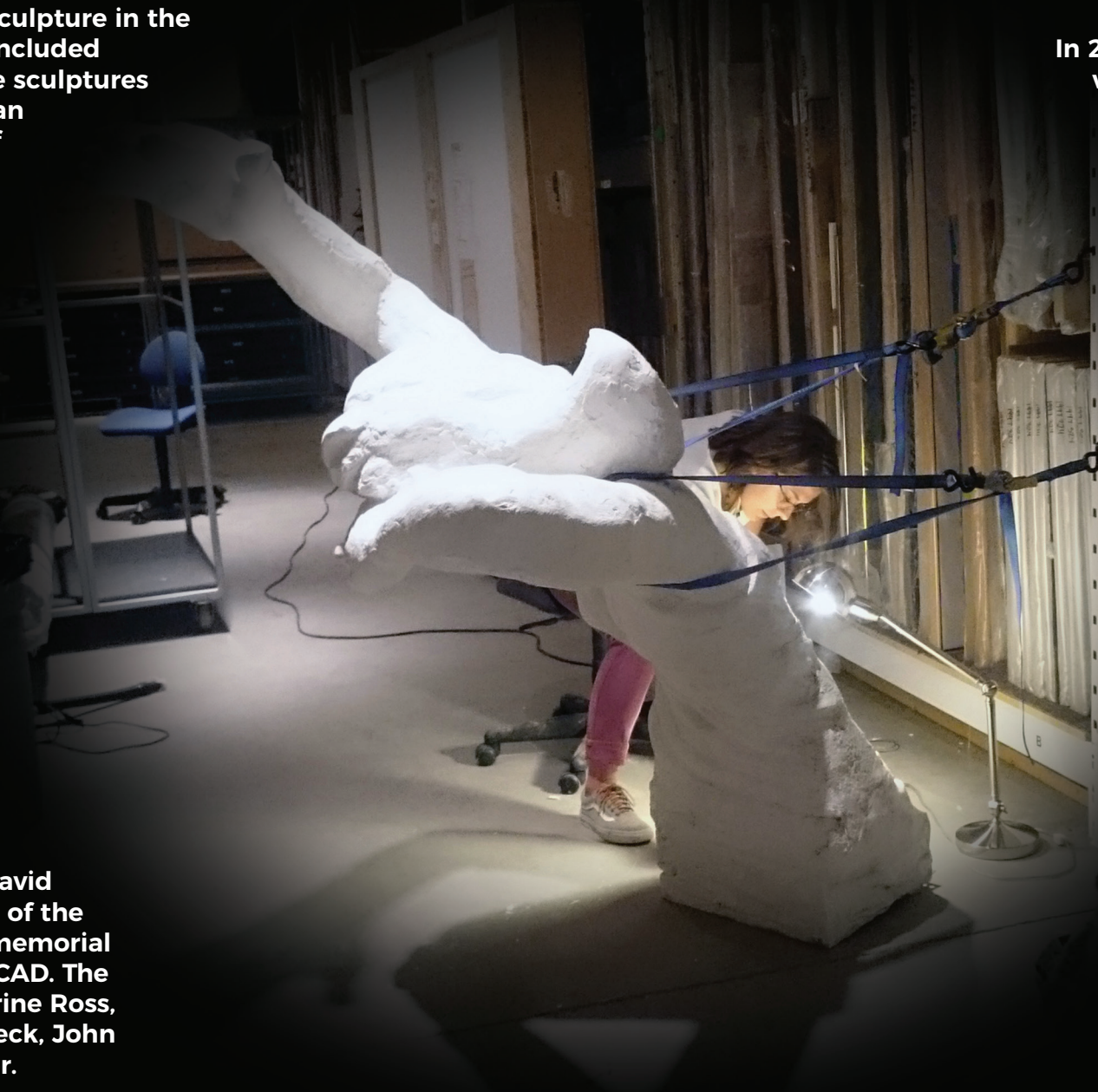


Image: Museum Studies Intern Grace Wirzba cleans a Michael Snow sculpture for re-installation in the Centre for Arts Main Atrium.

## COLLECTIONS CONT'D

### COLLECTIONS INTERNS

Fall 2016: Kirsten Meisenger,  
Grace Wirzba, Elise Pundyk  
Winter 2017: Sheila Shaw

### ACQUISITIONS 2016

Total objects acquired: 10  
Created by Canadian artists: 10  
Created by Albertan artists: 3

### ACQUISITIONS 2017

Total objects acquired: 10 objects  
Created by Canadian artists: 10  
objects  
Created by Albertan artists: 1  
Created by International artists: 0  
objects

### IN-HOUSE EXHIBITIONS COMPILED FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION APR 2016 - MAR 2017

Post No Bills  
May 6 – Aug 19, 2016  
Imagined Space: Abstract Art from  
the Canadian Prairies  
Jun 1 – Aug 18, 2016

Total collection shows: 2  
Total collection works shown: 44  
Total local collection works shown: 8  
Total Albertan works shown: 9  
Total Canadian works shown: 31  
Total international works shown: 10  
Total Canadian Artists: 17  
Total International artists: 10

## LOANS

University of Toronto, 2016 - Jul 2017:

1 work by Eric Cameron

Esker Foundation, Jan - May 2016:

2 works by Jack Bush

McMichael, Jun 2016 - Jan 2017:

2 works by Jack Bush

SAAG, Jan - Apr 2017:

1 work by Jeffrey Spalding

### EXTERNAL EXHIBITIONS COMPILED FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION APR 2016 - MAR 2017

Total works shown: 6  
Total local works: 1  
Total Albertan works: 2  
Total Canadian works: 6  
Total Canadian artists: 3



Image: Museu Studies Interns Elise Pundyk and Grace Wirzba talking to the media about their co-curated show "Looking Back / Looking Forward".

## ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

uLethbridge Art Gallery accessed some new grant funding in the past year: we received our first Exhibition Circulation Fund grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage with \$15,000 to support bringing in the touring exhibition *Mi'kwite'tmn (Do You Remember)* and we received a Summer Training Employment Program (STEP) grant to hire a summer student, Grace Wirzba, to assist with collections projects.

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) implemented a new cap on the Post-Secondary grant and thus our funding from the AFA went down to \$25,000 - a cut of \$10,000 from the previous year. The Canada Council for the Arts postponed implementing their new programs and thus our operating grant from them continued at the same amount for an extra year.

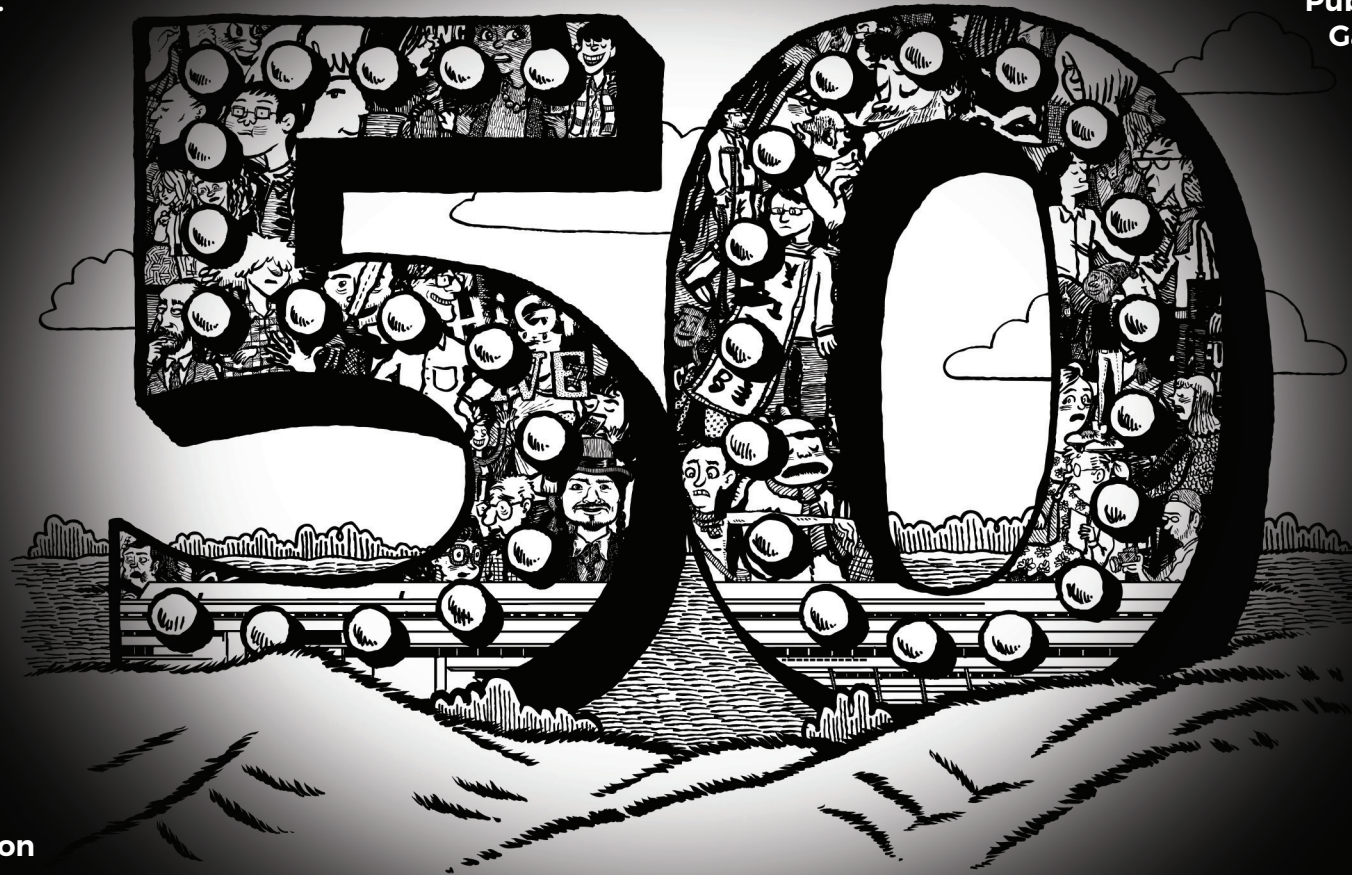
uLethbridge Art Gallery received an AFA Cultural Relations Grant of \$25,000 to prepare the exhibition *The Sleeping Green: no man's land 100 years later* for a tour to the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris followed by several venues in Canada. As well the Art Gallery received \$3,500 with our first grant from the Strategic Research Fund, uLethbridge's Office of Research Services to support this exhibition and the production of a publication.

**Total amount of grant funding: \$117,006**

**Total visits to the Main Gallery: 18,896**

**Total participation in activities: 3,703**

**Total attendance at all exhibitions and events: 38,273**



## 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**

**Gallery Assistant: Kirsten Meiszing**

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

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

The University of Lethbridge holds the most comprehensive collection of Nicholas de Grandmaison's artwork and consequently received a request for images and content from the Russian Art Magazine ЗОЛОТАЯ ПАЛИТРА or *Zolotaya palitra (Golden Palette)* who wanted to dedicate an entire issue to the artist. The Art Gallery contributed an essay titled, "Portraits from the West: Nicholas de Grandmaison's Role in Canadian Art History" written by Curatorial Assistant Andrea Kremenik. The essay explores the Russian born artist's career in the context of Canadian history and includes numerous images from the University of Lethbridge Art Collection and Archives.

Kremenik, Andrea. "Portraits from the West: Nicholas de Grandmaison's Role in Canadian Art History." In ЗОЛОТАЯ ПАЛИТРА *Zolotaya palitra (Golden Palette)* #2, 2016. Edited by Tatiana Solomennaya (Moscow: Golden Palette Russian Art Magazine, 2016), 39-45.

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 ULETHBRIDGE ART GALLERY:

Mav Adecer  
Kirsten Meiszinger  
Elise Pundyk  
Sheila Shaw  
Grace Wirzba

## GRADUATE STUDENT

Maria Madacky started a Ph.D. and continued providing public programs as part of her Graduate Assistantship funding. As well, she began developing programs with New Canadians as part of her planned Ph.D. research.

## 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

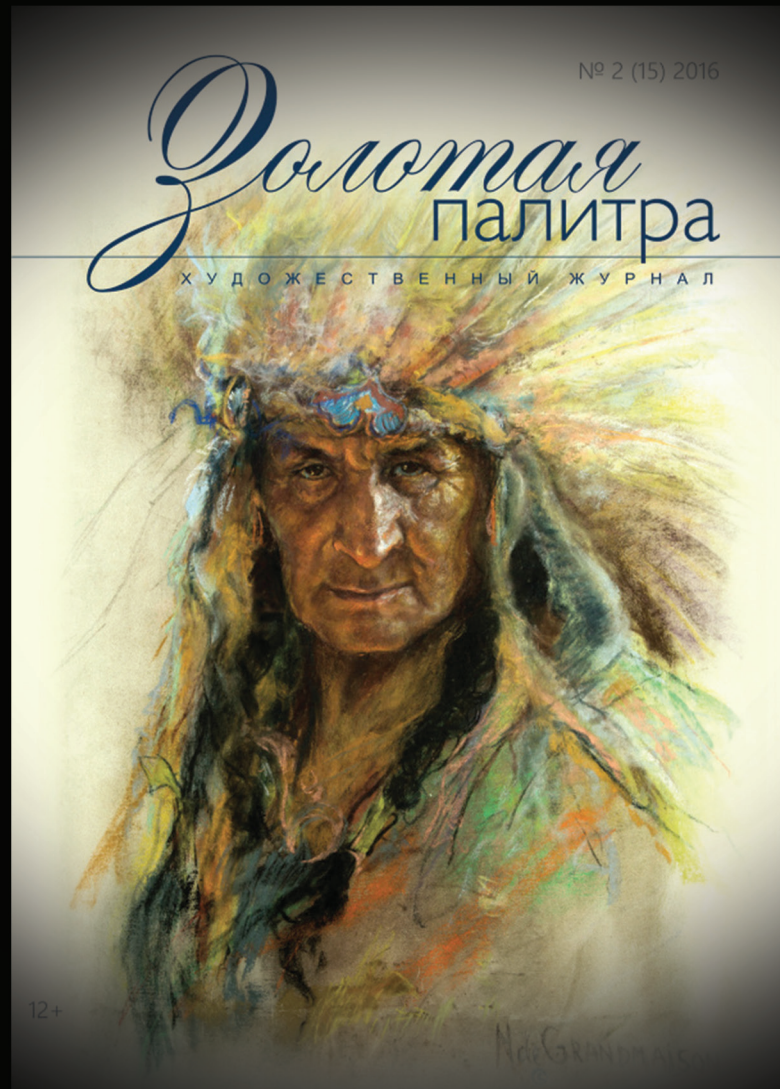


Image: Cover of Russian magazine "ЗОЛОТАЯ ПАЛИТРА" [trans. *Zolotaya palitra (Golden Palette)*] #2, 2016 with contribution from Collections Assistant Andrea Kremenik.

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Canadian Heritage

Patrimoine canadien

Canada



Canada Council for the Arts

Conseil des Arts du Canada

University of Lethbridge



Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

the CAMERA project



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY



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