



ANNUAL
REPORT
2018-19

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 99,700 people, Lethbridge is a small but dynamic city located on the traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy 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 15,000 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: Dr. Margaret (Marmie) Hess at her Spencer Creek Ranch near Cochrane Alberta.

Image: Tom Thomson, *Cliffs Near Petawawa*, 1916, oil.

FAST FACTS

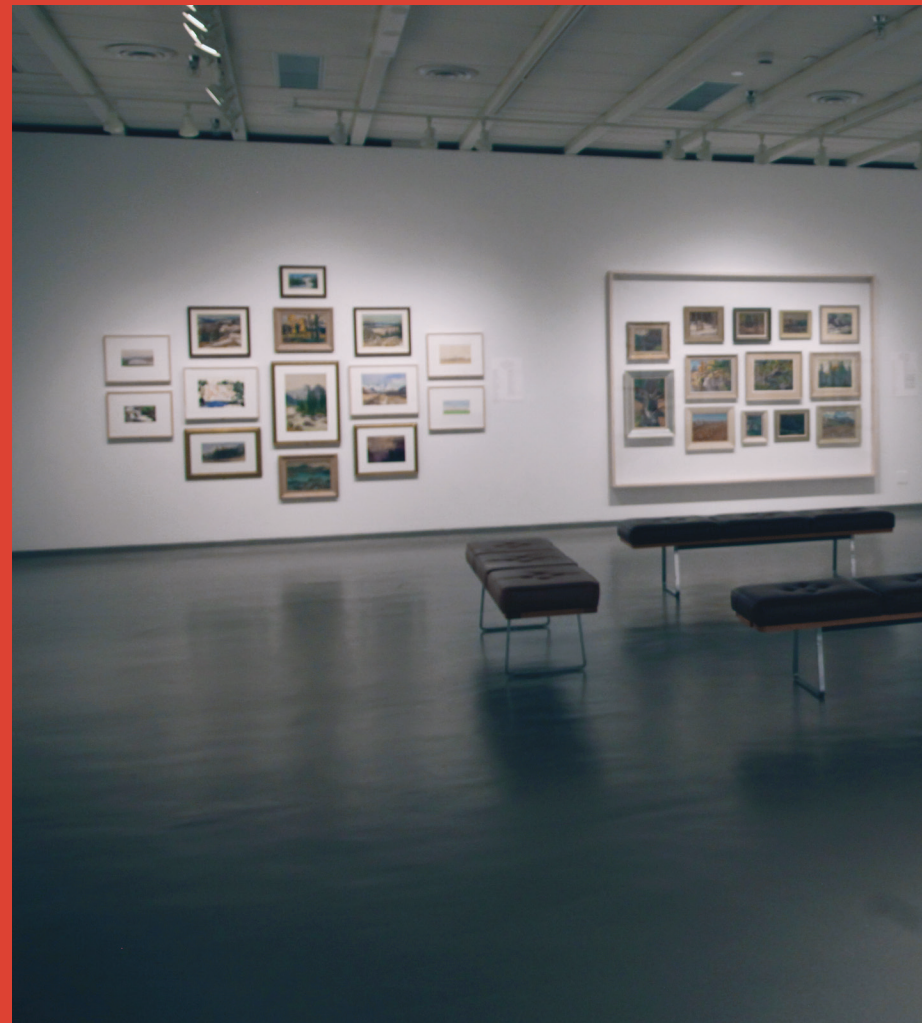
Total Attendance Overall: 168,203

In June 2018, the Art Gallery was delighted to announce that we received a majority of the art collection from the late Dr. Margaret “Marmie” Perkins Hess. In honour of this generous gift we renamed our main gallery the “Dr. Margaret “Marmie” Perkins Hess Gallery”. The bequest of 1,070 works of art includes work from across Canada and by international artists, with over half the total donation consisting of work by Indigenous artists.

The 2018 summer exhibition in the Hess Gallery and the Christou Gallery coincided with the announcement of the Hess bequest and showcased a cross section of the newly acquired Canadian, Indigenous and International art. This exhibition contained 112 pieces and represented just over 10% of the total gift. Throughout the rest of the year, the gallery presented five more exhibitions with work from the collection and showed another 67 works from the Hess collection, bringing the total to nearly 17% of the gift exhibited in the first year.

In November we began an initiative to revitalize our Instagram presence in the hopes of attracting more people to the online presence and activities of the Art Gallery. The project was assisted by student Summer Jennings, who is an Art History/Museum Studies major with a minor in Marketing. Since January we have increased our following from approximately 400 to 1050, a “follower” increase of 162%. The amount of follower engagement has also increased by 57.5%, with more people liking and commenting.

The Art Gallery’s strategy to work in longer term partnerships with artists is continuing to pay off. In September, we presented *The Everyday Future*, by Québec-based artist José Luis Torres. The installation and public-site program invited Lethbridge citizens to think about the experience of displacement whether for refugees or those fleeing natural disasters. Torres is originally from Argentina and this exhibition was informed by his experiences and by workshops that the



UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE ART GALLERY

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

highlights from the collection of
Dr. Margaret (Marmie) Hess

June 14 - September 7, 2018

Curated by David Smith
Works from the uLethbridge Art Collection

ADMISSION IS FREE. ALL ARE WELCOME.

artist held with Middle School Youth Group from Lethbridge Immigrant Services. In November, we opened *Refugio* by artist Sarah Fuller. This exhibition brought together her interest in photography and performance as well as nature and the environment. Visitors were able to enter a small-scale theatre Fuller based on the famous Paris diorama by Louis Daguerre (one of the inventors of photography), but instead of the sublime alpine scenes common in the original 19th Century version, Fuller’s installation invited visitors to think about things that disappear and reappear through the tale of two rare insects that live in remote locations, one in Australia and the other in the Canadian Rockies.

EXHIBITIONS

Total Attendance: 25,579

ANIMATING THE ARCHIVE: STORIES FOR THE COLLECTION

Works by students in the Indigenous Studio course and from the collection

Curator: Kylie Fineday with David Smith and Josephine Mills

Mar 29 - Jun 4, 2018

RECENT ACQUISITIONS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COLLECTION OF DR. MARGARET (MARMIE) PERKINS HESS

Works from the uLethbridge Art Collection

Curator: David Smith

Jun 14 - Sep 7, 2018

COLLECTED BY DR. MARGARET (MARMIE) HESS: WALTER PHILLIPS

Works from the uLethbridge Art Collection

Curator: David Smith

Sep 13 - Oct 19, 2018

THE EVERYDAY FUTURE

Artist: José Luis Torres

Curator: Josephine Mills

Sep 20 - Oct 27, 2018

WAR & PEACE

Works from the uLethbridge collection

Curator: David Smith

Oct 26 - Dec 21, 2018

REFUGIO

Artist: Sarah Fuller

Curator: Josephine Mills

Nov 8, 2018 - Jan 10, 2019

EN PLEIN AIR '18

Community artists engage with the Coutts Centre property.

Co-sponsored by the U of L Art Gallery, the U of L Faculty of Fine Arts and the U of L Alumni Association.

Dec 6 - 21, 2018

Image: *Animating the Archive*, works from UofL Fine Arts students created in response to the art collection, curated by Kylie Fineday, Museum Studies Intern with Josephine Mills and David Smith, Hess Gallery, March 29 - June 4, 2018.



Image: Darlene St. Georges, *Embodied Landscapes*, Christou Gallery, curated by Josie Mills, January 4 - February 22, 2019.



EXHIBITIONS cont'd

EMBODIED LANDSCAPES

Artist: Darlene St. Georges
Curator: Josie Mills
Jan 4 - Feb 22, 2019

COLLECTED BY DR. MARGARET (MARMIE) HESS: MAXWELL BATES

Works from the uLethbridge collection
Curator: David Smith
Jan 17 - Mar 14, 2019

FROM THE COLLECTION

Works from the uLethbridge Art Collection.
Curator: Kirstan Schamuhn,
Museum Studies Intern
Mar 1 - Jun 7, 2019

STORIES FOR THE COLLECTION

Curated by Jaylyn Potts, Museum Studies Intern with Josephine Mills and David Smith
Works from students in Jackson 2bears' Indigenous Art Studio
Mar 21 - Jun 6, 2019

TOURING EXHIBITIONS

Total Attendance: 139,988

Venue: McMaster Museum of Art
Exhibition Title: *The Midnight Sun Camera Obscura Project*
Curator: Josephine Mills
Exhibition Dates: May 10 - Aug 18, 2018
Artwork: Works by 7 Canadian artists and 1 European artist. Contributing artists were Alberta artist: Dianne Bos; British Columbia artists: Lea Bucknell, Ernie Kroeger, Donald Lawrence, Holly Ward and Kevin Schmidt; Ontario artist: Andrew Wright; and German artist: Carsten Wirth.

Venue: Art Gallery of Hamilton
Exhibition Title: *The Sleeping Green: no man's land 100 years later*
Curator: Josephine Mills
Exhibition Dates: Apr 7 - Sep 23, 2018
Artworks: 36 artworks by Alberta artist, Dianne Bos.

Image: Dianne Bos, *The Sleeping Green: No man's land 100 years later*, Art Gallery of Hamilton, curated by Josie Mills, April 7 - September 23, 2018.



THE ART COLLECTION: BY THE NUMBERS

Image: Lawren S. Harris, *Algoma Sketch LIV - Beaver Drowned Algoma*, circa 1920.

EXHIBITIONS

Total Artworks Shown: 225
Total Alberta Artworks: 79
Total Canadian Artworks: 230
Total FNMI Artworks: 105
Total International Artworks: 13

COLLECTION LOANS

Total Artworks Shown: 7
Total Canadian Artworks: 7

TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

Total Travelling Exhibitions: 2
Total Venues: 4
Total Canadian Artists: 11
Total Alberta Artists: 1
Total International Artists: 1

HESS BEQUEST

Total Hess Bequest: 1072
Total Canadian Artworks: 345
Total Canadian FNMI Artworks: 585
Total International Artworks: 129
Total Unknown Nationality: 13

OTHER ACQUISITIONS

Total Canadian Artworks: 2
Total Canadian FNMI Works: 1
Total International Artworks: 6



LOANS

Venue Esker Foundation, MacKenzie Art Gallery
Exhibition title: *Agnes Martin: The Mind Knows What the Eye Has Not Seen*

Curated by: Bruce Hugh Russell and Naomi Potter, with Elizabeth Diggon.

Dates: Sept 22 - Dec 21, 2018 and Jan 26 - Apr 21, 2019

1 work by Canadian artist, Agnes Martin (series of 30 prints, "On a Clear Day")

Venue MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, SK, and Confederation Centre for the Arts, Charlottetown, PEI and touring
Exhibition title: *Victor Cicansky: The Gardener's Universe / L'univers d'un jardinier*

Curated by: Timothy Long and Julia Krueger

Dates: Sept 22 - Dec 21, 2018, Jan 26 - Apr 21, 2019 and Dec 2019 - Apr 2020

4 works by Canadian artist, Victor Cicansky - "Shirt with Rose", "Cabbage with Hailstones", "Tuesday Afternoon", and "A Windy Day".

Venue: Moosejaw Museum and Art Gallery, Moosejaw, SK, Esplanade Art Gallery, Medicine Hat, AB, and touring
Exhibition Title: *A Prairie Vernacular / Un Vernaculaire des Prairies*

Curated by: Jennifer McRorie and Joanne Marion

Dates: May 30 - Sep 1 2019, Oct 26 - Jan 4, 2020

2 works by Canadian Artists: Ivan Eyre, "Purple Fish", and William Kurelek, "Faith of my Fathers"

Venues: (Touring Exhibition) Red Deer Museum and Art Gallery, & Kenderdine Art Gallery at the University of Saskatchewan

Exhibition Title: *The Writing on the Wall: Works of Dr. Joane Cardinal-Schubert, RCA*

Curator: Lindsay Sharman

Exhibition Dates: May 5 - Aug 12, 2018 & Feb 1 - Apr 27, 2019

Artwork: One painting, "Homage to Smallboy: Where Were You in July Hercules", by Alberta artist, Joane Cardinal-Schubert

Image: Loaned Agnes Martin prints on display at Esker Foundation, Calgary, Alberta for *Agnes Martin: the mind knows what the eye has not seen*, September 22 - December 21, 2018.



PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Total Attendance: 1,752

Total Attendance Tours & Special Events: 498

Total Attendance Artist Presentations: 386

APRIL 2018

Culture Vulture Saturday

The Drawing Bar

Knit 'n' Knatter

MAY 2018

José Luis Torres - Lethbridge Immigrant Services Youth Workshops (3)

En Plein Air

Culture Vulture

The Drawing Bar

Knit 'n' Knatter

JUNE 2018

Coffee's On Launch: *Recent Acquisitions*

Alumni Reception

En Plein Air '18

Culture Vulture

Knit 'n' Knatter

JULY 2018

En Plein Air '18

Knit 'n' Knatter

Art Camp (4 weeks)

Destination Exploration Camp - Mariah Besplug Group

AUGUST 2018

En Plein Air '18

Knit 'n' Knatter

Art Camp (3 weeks)

Kite Flying - Tokyo Women's University Exchange

Gallery Tour - Seasons Retirement Community

SEPTEMBER 2018

Coffee's On Launch: *Jose Luis Torres: The Everyday Future*

Word on the Street - Lethbridge Public Library

Culture Vulture

The Drawing Bar

Knit 'n' Knatter

The Everyday Future: Spanish Language Walking Tour with artist Jose Luis Torres

Youth Group Gallery Tour & Workshop - Lethbridge Immigrant Services

The Everyday Future - Camper Trailer in the Grove

Image: Gallery Tour - Seasons Retirement Community, August 20, 2018.



PUBLIC PROGRAMS cont'd

OCTOBER 2018

The Everyday Future - Camper Trailer at Casa
The Drawing Bar
Knit 'n' Knatter
Bhutanese Senior Citizen Tour & Workshop -
Lethbridge Immigrant Service

NOVEMBER 2018

Coffee's On Launch - *Sarah Fuller: Refugio*
Culture Vulture Saturday
The Drawing Bar
Knit 'n' Knatter

DECEMBER 2018

The Drawing Bar
Knit 'n' Knatter

JANUARY 2019

Coffee's On Launch: *Recent Acquisitions*
Culture Vulture Saturday
The Drawing Bar
Knit 'n' Knatter
Blackfoot Imaging Workshop - Iikaiskini Gathering
Place

FEBRUARY 2019

The Drawing Bar
Knit 'n' Knatter
Family Play Day

MARCH 2019

Coffee's On Launch: *Animating the Archive*
Culture Vulture Saturday
Knit 'n' Knatter
Beading Workshop - Indigenous Awareness Week
Artist Trading Cards - U of L Health Centre



ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The Art Gallery staff put in a tremendous effort to process the Hess Bequest. They documented and condition reported 959 of the art works and then sent the information for appraisal. Each artwork took 2 staff spending 30 minutes per work just for the condition reporting and cross-referencing with the master list from the bequest.

During 2018/19, there were 3 exhibitions featuring art works from the Hess bequest and this required matting and framing of the works as well as research to support each exhibition.

Another highlight from this past year, Andrea Kremenik and Juliet Graham worked with University IT and undertook significant upgrades to our TMS collections database. At the same time the Banner database, which linked with the university's Financial Services department, was discontinued and Andrea and Juliet provided training for staff from Financial Services and developed a training manual for future employees.

Total Exhibition Attendance: 25,579

Total Touring Exhibitions Attendance: 139,988

Total Programs & Events Attendance: 2,636

Total Number of Public Programs: 56

Total Number of Class and Group Tours: 39



STAFF

Permanent and contract staff:

Director/Curator:
Josephine Mills

Administrative Manager:
Jon Oxley

Registrar:
Juliet Graham

Fine Arts Technician:
Chad Patterson

Preparator/Assistant Curator:
David Smith

Curatorial Assistant:
Andrea Kremenik

Public Programmer:
Maria Madacky

Gallery Assistant:
Kirsten Meiszinger

We received a STEP grant and hired Eric Almberg to run our summer art camps and we received a Young Canada Works grant and hired Kylie Fineday to assist with collections projects for the summer.

Public Program Assistants: Eric Almberg, Kylie Fineday, Daisy Graham, Olive Graham and Stephanie Wilson





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Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

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Canada



University of
Lethbridge