

John B. **Aird** Gallery  
Galerie John B. **Aird**

**ROBERT HOULE:**  
Looking for the Shaman  
June 12 - July 6, 2019

2018-2019  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

OCTOBER 2019

[airdgallery.org](http://airdgallery.org)

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**Director/Curator:**  
Carla Garnet • [director@airdgallery.org](mailto:director@airdgallery.org)

**Charity Business Number: 85850 5191 RR0001**

## About the AIRD

Originally opened in 1975 and formerly called the Macdonald Block Gallery in the heart of Queen's Park, the seat of the Government of Ontario in Toronto, Canada. Due to fiscal restraints, the gallery was directed to close, but due to the efforts of **Canada's legacy art societies – Ontario Society of Artists (OSA), Sculptors Society of Canada (SSC), the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour (CSPWC), the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (RCA), and the Ontario Crafts Council**, the gallery re-opened as an independent not for profit organization in 1985. The gallery was named the **John B. Aird Gallery in honour of the 23rd Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (1980-1985)** and his support for arts and culture.

The John B. Aird Gallery is **one of the few remaining public art galleries in Toronto**. For over 30 years we have been connecting people and ideas – offering a space for contemporary art to be displayed, discussed and enjoyed.

The Aird is a **non profit, registered charity** supporting artistic expression, public dialogue and lifelong learning. We believe visual culture inspires, engages and amplifies communities. Toronto's arts and culture industry contributes over \$11B to the city's economy. We do our part to stimulate and support artists from a diverse range of backgrounds and disciplines. We provide the canvas for visual culture

**OUR MISSION**  
The Aird is a generous, safe contemporary art exhibition space where visual culture can be shared and explored by an audience as diverse as its makers."

## MANDATE

To fulfill its mandate, the Aird Gallery Board strives to encourage excellence in visual art; to provide an accessible exhibition space in downtown Toronto with professional curatorial standards for the presentation of work; to focus on the works of contemporary artists; to present a variety of media, disciplines and styles; and to provide opportunities for study and education in conjunction with the exhibitions.

The John B. Aird Gallery is a not for profit charitable organization that serves the public and the art community. As a charity, all of our events and activities go toward charitable causes.

*Charity Business Number: 85850 5191 RR0001*

to be realized, explored and appreciated amongst those that love it most. We leave no one behind.

As a point of destination and home to Canada's legacy art societies, we have featured thousands of artists from across Canada. We have provided exhibition space for the Ontario Society of Artist (OSA), Sculptors Society of Canada (SSC), and the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour (CSPWC). We look forward to continuing this journey and doing our part to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of our country's art community.

# President's MESSAGE

October 30, 2019

## “The only thing that is constant is change.”

As I look back over the last 16 months, I am reminded that change is what's always constant. As human beings we are creatures of habit, often needing to know the process, outcomes and conclusions. Sometimes the way we craft our paths work for us, but more often than what we like, we're surrounded with doubt, ambiguity and uncertainty. The last year has definitely been a challenging time for the Aird Gallery. A year ago we were uncertain if we will have a new home. What will happen to our legacy that we've built for over 33 years? How do we keep our voices heard, and how will this impact Toronto's art community, especially local artists who depend on spaces to display their canvases and stories?

I've had time to reflect on my time as President and member of the board, the successes we gained and the lessons learned along the way. Four years ago, when I was approached by the former board to act as the President, I was nervous and filled with apprehension. At that time, I was six years into my term as a board member, knew the gallery operations quite well, and felt I simply just need to keep things as status-quo and operate per usual. Little did I know that over the next four years, the Aird Gallery would be experiencing a massive change both in what we program, who we program for and how we will achieve this if we did not have a home.

We were thrilled to have successfully negotiated with the Province of Ontario to secure a new and future permanent exhibition space back at the Macdonald Block Complex upon completion of reconstruction five to six years from now. Our biggest challenge was how do we keep the Aird alive, relatable and relevant without a “swing” space.

As you know the number of public galleries are declining and we were at risk of becoming another statistic of this trend. Galleries are meant to be bricks and mortar, and without having a physical space, the Aird would be in jeopardy of sustaining its voice.

Fast forward to today, and I am proud to welcome you to our new home (for now). The last year was not easy and was filled with uncertainty and numerous challenges that I did not expect to encounter. However, it was through these obstacles and learning experiences that I have become a better person, both professionally and personally. I would not have had a great learning experience without a passionate and working Board of Directors who equally believed in our mandate and how much this gallery meant to us. This sentiment (goes without saying) extends to our Director/Curator whose passion and standards for excellence in visual arts is paramount. I've learned so much from you Carla - thank you.

It takes a small army to run an organization - a dedicated army that truly cares about the interest of the arts community. Thank you to the entire Board, founding societies, docents and volunteers, and “Friends of the Aird” who brought their wholeselves to get to where we are today. As I end my term with the Aird Gallery, I wish you all more power over the next few years and I look forward to continuing to be an Aird champion moving forward.

### JOWENNE HERRERA

President | Board of Directors  
John B. Aird Gallery

ANDREW HARWOOD:

Featured Artist

Mistletoe Magic, 2018

## The John B. Aird Gallery Board of Directors are volunteers from the community and representatives from three art societies that exhibit at the Aird.

In 2018-19, the 15-member volunteer board was comprised of professionals from diverse sectors - from the art and design community, academia, public service and non-for-profit.

Each and every board member brings their expertise to the gallery to direct day-to-day operations, exhibitions and programming, fundraising and sponsorship, partnerships and development and help shape our strategic direction for the future.

# 2018-2019 Board of **DIRECTORS**

# 2018 **DIRECTOR/ CURATOR'S REPORT**

## **EXECUTIVE**

### **Jowenne Herrera** President

Visual Artist, Graphic Designer  
& Civil Servant, Ontario Public Service

### **Maggie Broda** Treasurer

Visual Artist, OCADU Alumni President

### **Christopher Johnson** Secretary

Former President Word on the Street



## **DIRECTORS**

### **Janet Hendershot** OSA Representative

The Ontario Society of Artists (OSA), Visual Artist

### **J. Mac** SSC Representative

The Sculptors Society of Canada (SSC), Sculptor

### **Gill Cameron** CSPWC Representative

The Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour,  
(CSPWC), Visual Artist

### **Brian Fior**

Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Public Service

### **Elka Weinstein**

Professor, Museum Studies, University of Toronto

### **Iain Downie**

Sculptor, Visual Artist

### **Gillian Reddyhoff**

Civil Servant, City of Toronto  
(Former Curator, Archives of Ontario)

### **Heather Ingram**

Civil Servant, Ontario Public Service

### **Julie Hinton Walker**

Visual Artist, Docent Volunteer Lead

### **Bill Grigsby**

Principal, Reactor Art + Design

### **Jane Weninger**

Senior Planner, City of Toronto

### **Steve Khan**

Program Manager, Ontario Trillium Foundation

The Aird hosts 11 exhibits per year, along with an annual fundraiser. These exhibits provide participation opportunities for approximately three hundred artists per year. Many older artists have exhibited at the gallery, but in recent years younger artists and newcomers have been exhibiting with us regularly. The Aird prides itself on being inclusive, hosting several large group shows, and two or three annual Arts Council and/or CONTACT funded exhibits that pay CARFAC fees.

All project management is carried out by the Aird's director/curator, supported by a 14-person volunteer Board of Directors made up of artists, arts professionals, academics, and other professionals who contribute their time and expertise.

Project budgets include fees, rentals, donations, grants, fundraising and volunteer hours as appropriate. Our exhibition partners, including the University of Toronto Museum Studies Program, Dawson College, CONTACT, Charles Street Video, Ontario Society of Artists, Sculptors Society of Canada and the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour, make direct financial contributions.

The gallery does not receive core operational funding but is supported, in part, by subsidized rent offered by the province.

An Aird Gallery exhibition has been featured as a primary CONTACT show since 2016. Our public engagement programming is highly valued by CONTACT, and the Aird's past website pages for festival shows are frequently revisited. CONTACT provides

extensive promotion locally, nationally and internationally in print, online and through various news outlets. CONTACT hosts a well-attended annual gala reception and several media events and produces a large printed catalogue which includes an impressive multi-page spread for each of its primary galleries. These include a 500-word essay by the exhibit curator and several pages featuring full-colour images of the artist's work.

During Aird's 2018 "Bill Jones: Waking Dream" CONTACT show, curated by its director/curator, approximately 2,000 people visited the gallery over 6 weeks. These attendance figures were calculated from regular gallery attendance, the gala opening reception and 3 public engagement offerings.

In 2018 the Aird received Toronto Arts Council and Ontario Arts Council Visual Arts Project Grants for the presentation of "Robert Houle, Looking for the Shaman" organized by Carla Garnet. A final report was submitted documenting the extent to which the funding was used to produce the show, commission original writing by Elwood Jimmy and to present public engagement /educational programming. The Aird's "Patrick DeCoste: 13 Moons and a Canoe" exhibit, curated by Carla Garnet toured to the Thames Art Gallery for a 3-month run in 2018. The tour continues to the Tom Thomson Gallery for a 4-month run in 2019/2020 and on to the University of New Brunswick Art Centre in 2021.

### **CARLA GARNET**

Director | Curator  
John B. Aird Gallery

# 2018 EXHIBITIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

In 2018 the Exhibitions Committee worked closely with our **Director/Curator, Carla Garnet**, to present a balanced program of **12 exhibits**, including our major fundraiser, which reflected the Aird's continued commitment to artistic excellence in the visual arts.

In addition to hosting three exhibitions organized by some of our esteemed founding societies: **the Ontario Society of Artists (April – May)**, **the Sculptors Society of Canada (September)**, and **the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour (October)**; the Aird organized two open juried exhibitions. The first, the always highly anticipated **Aird Drawing show**, was held in February and juried by Annie Wong and Shantel Millar. In July the Aird's second call for entry exhibition **My World, My Community**, proposed submissions that would explore a broad landscape of social issues and identities from an intersectional perspective. We were most pleased to welcome Marilyn Fernandes and Julius Poncelet Manapul as jurors for this well received exhibit.

The Aird also strives to provide opportunities for diverse voices and approaches, including a conscious desire to better represent the work of Indigenous artists. Continuing the positive direction achieved in 2017, it was unanimously decided to support our Director/Curator in the mounting of: **Robert Houle Looking for the Shaman in June - July**. Curated by Carla Garnet, the exhibit was awarded grants by both the **Toronto Arts Council and the Ontario Arts Council**. Meanwhile, **13 Moons and a Canoe by Métis artist Patrick DeCoste** which was curated in-house by Carla Garnet and originally mounted by the Aird in the fall of 2017, travelled to the **Thames Art Gallery** in Chatham where it was hosted by this venerable southwestern Ontario gallery for a 7-week run.

Over the past few years, the Committee has also worked to support the Aird's goal of building long-term and sustainable relationships with its partners and collaborators. This resulted in the gallery being selected for the third time by the **Scotiabank CONTACT**

**Festival of Photography** for the presentation of **Bill Jones: Waking Dream** a digitally based exhibit curated by Carla Garnet with assistance from curatorial intern, Taryn Foss. Other familiar faces on the Aird's roster for 2018 included **L. E. Glazer** whose exhibit: **Iconic Canada**, was curated by Carla Garnet and comprised 22 of his digital paintings. We also welcomed back students from the **University of Toronto Museum Studies** program in March to present: **The Views are Different from Here**. This exhibit which was curated by Amanda McNeil and Nikita Lorenzo was also supported by the **City of Toronto's Employment & Social Services Division**. Meanwhile, in August, we were fortunate enough to host the **Dawson College of Fine Arts Faculty (Quebec)** for its exhibit, **UnCommon**. Curated by faculty member Natlie Olanick, the event drew a multi-provincial audience and speaks to the Aird's reputation outside of Ontario.

To round out the 2018 program the gallery's collaborative relationships were again in evidence with the Aird being selected as one of two venues for **Digital Animalities**, an exhibit curated by Matthew Brower and Giovanni Aloï.

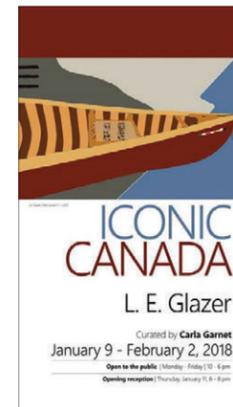
It is very much hoped that the work accomplished in 2018 and the momentum established in achieving some of our key goals, will lay the groundwork for a diverse and engaging exhibition program next year as we wind down our long-held tenure in the Macdonald Block and look forward to new challenges.

**Gillian Reddyhoff**  
Chair, Exhibitions Committee  
John B. Aird Gallery

**John B. Aird Gallery Exhibitions Committee:**  
Gillian Reddyhoff, Chair  
Gill Cameron, CSPWC  
Janet Hendershot, OSA

# 2018 EXHIBITIONS + PROGRAMMING

## January



The Aird started off the new year with an exhibition of by L.E. Glazer, curated by Carla Garnet, featuring iconic images of Canada, reminiscent of the Hudson's Bay Trading Company.

## April



The Ontario Society Of Artists (OSA) hosted its 145th Annual Open Juried Exhibition. Over 45 works were accepted for this popular annual juried exhibition.

## February



In February, the Aird celebrated its 19th year of DRAWING – a juried exhibition showcasing the versatility of drawing and techniques used by diverse contemporary artists.

## May



In May, for the fourth year in a row, the Aird was a primary exhibition as part of the 22nd Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival. Featured Bill Jones' multimedia photography and video.

## March



March presented a partnership with the University of Toronto, Museum Studies and the City of Toronto. The focus was on Toronto's identity and how the artists interpreted their perception of our home.

## June



June featured renowned artist Robert Houle - a Saulteaux First Nations Canadian artist. 'Looking for the Shaman' was funded by the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) and Toronto Arts Council (TAC), and included newly commissioned text by Elwood Jimmy,



# 29th Annual MISTLETOE MAGIC

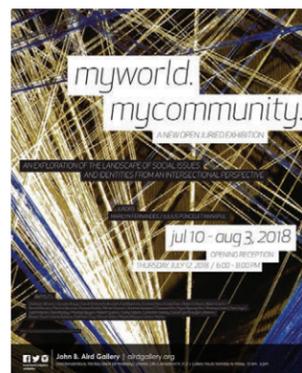
On December 13th 2018, the Aird hosted its 29th year of Mistletoe Magic. The gallery's annual silent art auction fundraiser event brought in a record 195 paintings, prints, photographs, and sculptures from 112 artists from across Ontario.

The event brought together artists and art enthusiasts for an evening of art, fun, and merriment. The annual fundraiser featured the late **Tony Vander Voet** and his beautiful nature-inspired pastels, **Andrew Harwood** and his sea and landscape paintings, and **Chris Ironside** featuring pencil and charcoal male portraits and drawings.

This year, the fundraiser brought in **12% more artworks and 10% more artists** than in the 2017 fundraiser. Gross sales were **20% more than last year**, and net sales continued to be consistent with previous years averaging around **\$12-13K**.



## July



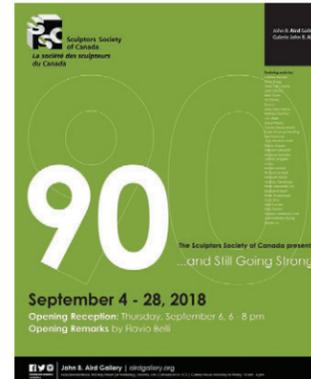
July featured a new open juried exhibition focused on exploring the landscape of social issues and identities from an intersectional perspective. Over 30 artists participated in the exhibition in various media.

## August



In August, the Aird partnered with Dawson's College (Montreal, Quebec) and its Faculty of Art professors and alumni. Included panel discussions across other academic fine art institutions.

## September



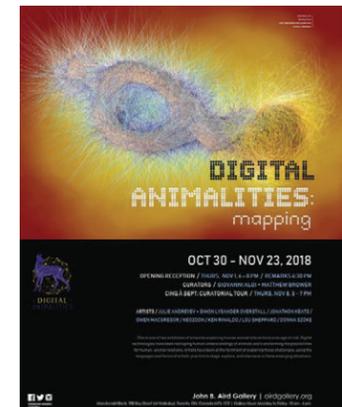
September featured sculptural works from the Sculptors Society of Canada's (SSC) 90th Annual Exhibition. The theme was about "Still Going Strong" after almost a century of programming.

## October



October featured works from the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour (CSPWC), its 93rd year of open juried exhibition. Open Water featured works ranging from realism to abstraction, from traditional to experimental.

## November



November featured a two-venue exhibition of artworks exploring human animal interactions in an age of risk. Curated by Giovanni Aloï and Mathew Brower, the Aird Gallery featured "mapping" and CONTACT Gallery featured "rendering."

## December



December hosted the Aird's flagship fundraiser Mistletoe Magic. Now in its 29th year, the event featured a record 195 artworks from 112 artists across Ontario. Featured artists: Tony Vander Voet, Andrew Harwood and Chris Ironside.



## BY THE NUMBERS

**\$25,000** Approximate gross art sales from the fundraiser.

**\$13,000** Net art sales from the fundraiser.

**\$200** Average art sales price of works sold.

**195** A record number of artworks displayed.

**63%** Approximate number of artworks sold.

**112** Total number of artists who donated and participated in the fundraiser.



# Aird A COMMUNITY BUILDER

## Diverse Exhibitions

- ✓ We offer over 12 exhibitions per year, partnering with Ontario and Canadian non for profit art organizations, including academia, the CONTACT Festival, City of Toronto and broader art community.
- ✓ This on-going presentation of large group exhibitions makes showing for many emerging through senior artists both affordable and inclusive.
- ✓ We are unique in that no other gallery in the city offers the same volume of exhibitions and diversity of disciplines – showcasing over 500 artists per year!

## Culture and Community

- ✓ Our welcoming sense of community, generosity and diverse range of partnerships is our biggest strength.
- ✓ We offer event space for receptions and special occasions for the Ontario government, City of Toronto, and a number of Ontario colleges and universities.
- ✓ We partner with a wide range of groups to develop special programming for the art community, such as Indigenous Education for the Toronto District School Board, photography events for the CONTACT Festival, New Canadians from the City of Toronto's Art Connections Program, University of Toronto's Museum Studies Program, and many, many more.

## Public Engagement

- ✓ We offer free admission to the public for all exhibitions and events, every month of the year!

## Educational Programming

- ✓ We offer entertaining and intellectually stimulating educational events that are open to the public at no cost.
- ✓ For example, artist talks, panel discussions and curatorial open houses.

## Youth Engagement

- ✓ We provide secondary and postsecondary students with opportunities to build valuable volunteer experience, often in support of their OSSD Diploma.
- ✓ We offer young professionals experiential learning and opportunities for career development.

## Volunteerism

- ✓ We support the continued civic engagement of seniors/retirees by engaging them as volunteers.
- ✓ We have volunteer docents and special event/exhibition volunteers.

# FINANCIALS

## 2018-2019

(Unaudited) Year ending December 31, 2018

### SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITIONS

| Description of financial positions | Line number | Amount           |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                | <b>4200</b> | <b>\$ 45,805</b> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>           | <b>4350</b> | <b>\$ 9,198</b>  |

### REVENUE

| Description of revenue  | Line number | Amount           |
|---|-------------|------------------|
| Did the charity issue tax receipts for gifts?   | 4490        | Yes              |
|   | 4500        | \$ 23,880        |
| Total non tax-receipted revenue from fundraising  | 4630        | \$ 8,580         |
| Total revenue from sale of goods and services (except to any level of government in Canada) | 4640        | \$ 39,586        |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>  | <b>4700</b> | <b>\$ 72,046</b> |

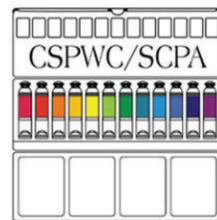
### EXPENDITURES

| Description of expenditures                         | Line number | Amount           |
|---|-------------|------------------|
| Professional and consulting fees                    | 4860        | \$ 3,130         |
| Of the amount at line 4950:                         |             |                  |
| Total expenditures on charitable activities         | 5000        | \$ 48,091        |
| Total expenditures on management and administration | 5010        | \$ 41,630        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                           | <b>5100</b> | <b>\$ 89,721</b> |

**Registered charity information return: T3010 is available online on the CRA website:**  
<https://apps.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebci/haip/srch/t3010returnlist-eng.action?b=858505191RR0001>

# 2018 Collaborations + PARTNERSHIPS

## Aird Founding Societies



## Government Organizations + Groups



## Art, Design & Academic Affiliates



# Thank you DOCENTS + VOLUNTEERS

The Aird Gallery's success is a reflection of the power of its volunteer base.

From the vision of our Board of Directors, the creative energy of the Installation Team, and the welcoming atmosphere created by the Docent Group responsible for the daily operation of the gallery, and helping out with special events.

## Installation Team

JOHN ABRAMS  
IAIN DOWNIE  
ADA KLOOSTERMAN  
JULIE HINTON WALKER

## Docent Group

The Docent Group takes care of the day to day operation of the gallery by sitting in 2 shifts to cover the 10am to 6pm opening hours. Members of the Docent Group primarily welcome visitors into the gallery and answer any inquiries regarding current exhibitions. They keep the gallery clean, accept daily mail and deliveries, and keep the Director/Curator informed of any activities and requests. The Docent Group also helps with the set-up and tear-down of the many special events that the Aird hosts such as the Lunch and Learn series and Artist Discussions that take place outside of regular hours.

## The Aird's Docent Group

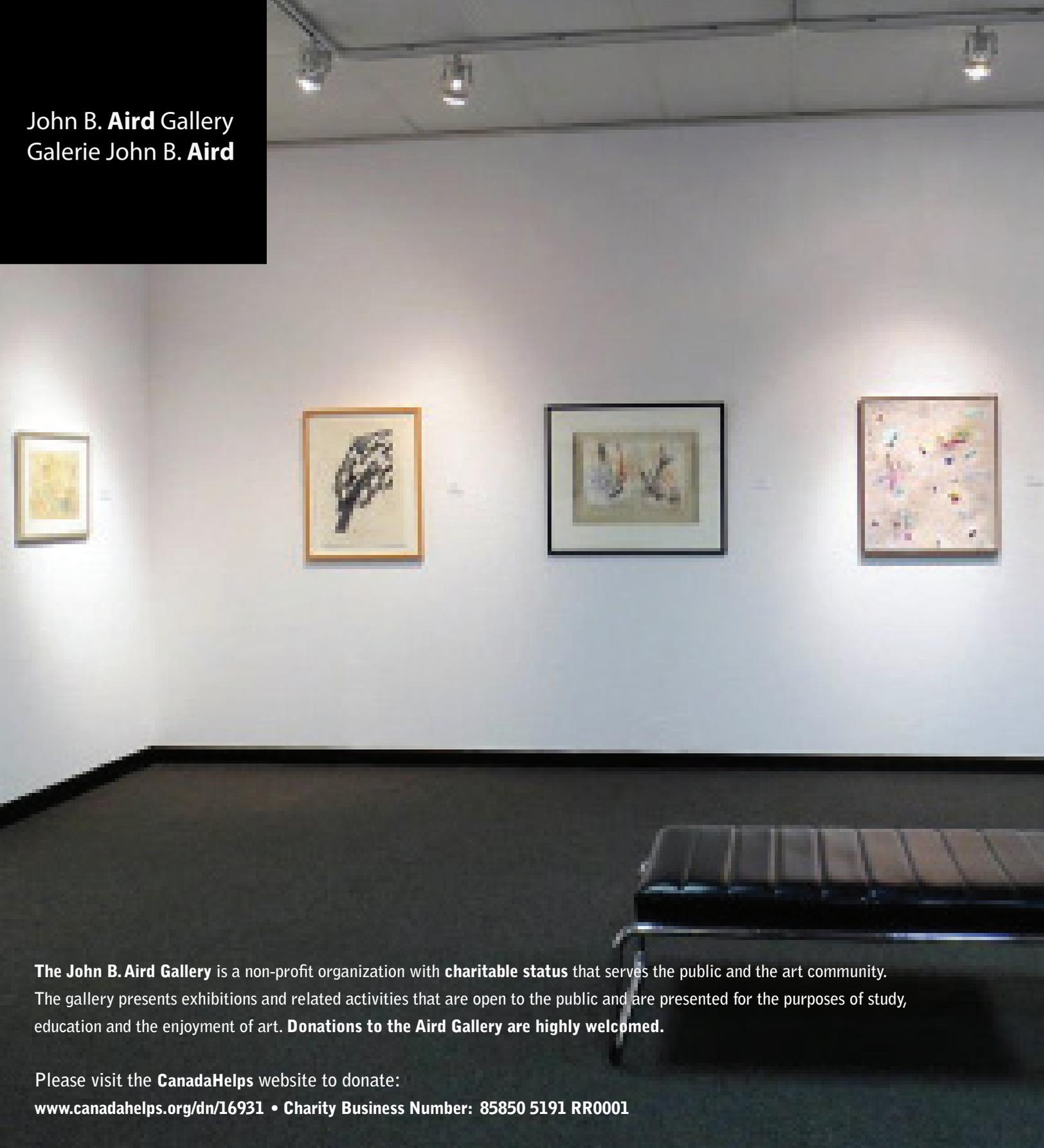
LYNDA BARNETT  
THERESA BUTCHER  
ANTHONY CAMBRIDGE  
NORA GUBINS  
JANET HOROWITZ  
ADA KLOOSTERMAN  
ALEXANDER LEBOVITZ  
HANA LENHOFF  
JOANNE LINDSAY  
JUDY SKELTON  
KATE STARCHILD  
HILDA STEPHENSON  
JULIE HINTON WALKER

## Founding Art Societies

The Aird also benefits from the volunteer energy of those from our founding art societies that lend a hand during exhibition preparations with the taking in of art, the details of opening receptions, and at the end of an exhibition, the return of the art work to the artists.

**JULIE HINTON WALKER**  
Chair, Docent Group + Volunteers  
John B. Aird Gallery

John B. **Aird** Gallery  
Galerie John B. **Aird**



**The John B. Aird Gallery** is a non-profit organization with **charitable status** that serves the public and the art community. The gallery presents exhibitions and related activities that are open to the public and are presented for the purposes of study, education and the enjoyment of art. **Donations to the Aird Gallery are highly welcomed.**

Please visit the **CanadaHelps** website to donate:

[www.canadahelps.org/dn/16931](http://www.canadahelps.org/dn/16931) • Charity Business Number: 85850 5191 RR0001

**airdgallery.org**

**John B. Aird Gallery** | 906 Queen Street West, B05, Toronto, ON, M6J 1G6 • Wed - Fri 12 - 6 pm, Sat - Sun 1 - 5 pm