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2015 / 2016
ANNUAL REPORT

ART
GALLERY
OF GREATER VICTORIA

mission

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria is a public art gallery committed to the celebration of art.

With vision, leadership and scholarship we engage and inspire diverse audiences through exhibitions, interpretation, and stewardship of the collection.

~ Art Gallery of Greater Victoria Mission Statement
May 2013

Our purpose as outlined in our Constitution is:

- to establish and preserve collections of the arts and crafts which are held in trust for the benefit of current and future generations and to display these collections;
- to create a receptive field for artists and their work;
- to provide, in addition to the primary emphasis on the collection and presentation of the visual arts, public programs such as lecture, recitals of artistic, musical and other works of cultural merit; and
- to provide and manage facilities for the appreciation and study of the visual arts.

~ Art Gallery of Greater Victoria Mandate Statement, June 6 1990

mandate

This past year was a strong one for the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our Board, staff and volunteers. The Gallery featured many exhibitions that were both popular and scholarly. We produced a variety of publications and featured many special events and we again increased support from our loyal friends, without whom our accomplishments would not have been possible.

Far too often when art galleries and museums get caught up with capital campaigns and building projects it is at the expense of the core activities of the organization. I am mindful of the need to ensure that we make sure the public knows why we are of value to the community, and we can only do this by continuing to present the best programs. I am truly thankful to our Chief Curator Michelle Jacques and her team of educators and curators who have built a strong program over this past year. Two exhibitions in particular stand out as they link Victoria's past with the present. Jock MacDonald was featured in an exhibition entitled Evolving Form, he was an artist in residence here in the early 1950's. Victoria born Anna Banana was featured in 45 years of Fooling Around With A Banana produced in collaboration with Open Space Gallery. Both these shows were accompanied by publications that contributed to the scholarly record of art history. The Gallery is known for its outstanding exhibitions of Asian art and this past year was no exception. One of my favourites was Treasures of the Chinese Scholars Studio which illustrated how central education was to early life in China, a condition that remains to this day. Exhibitions like Recent Asian Acquisitions and Water + Pigment + Paper featured works of art from the AGGV collection, we look forward to sharing more of our rarely seen treasures once we can expand our exhibition spaces.

As we begin our capital campaign the Gallery must also maintain its fundraising for operations. In addition to the wonderful support from a great many members, we received a number of bequests from the estates of Beatrice Kryton, John McIlveen and of course Rosita Tovell. Rosita's gift of over 1 million dollars will allow us to augment our programming budget for many, many years.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the Gallery staff who work long hours keeping the Gallery active, also thanks to the support of the Board and in particular the executive Ruth Wittenberg President, 1st VP John Kirby, 2nd VP Jackie Hamilton, Secretary Anne Russell, and Treasurer Bill Camden. Thanks to the Board of our Foundation and in particular Chair Christopher Jones. Finally, the Associates have a long history of supporting the AGGV in many ways, thanks to all of them and in particular President Pieta VanDyke.

Jon Tupper,
Director



board president

The 2015-2016 year was another very active year in moving the Gallery forward in The Next Gallery project. For many years, the land use agreement previously in place for our Moss Street property had been a major hurdle that many had considered insurmountable. After an extensive rezoning process involving innumerable meetings with neighbours, the community, the city and other stakeholders, as well as public hearings, I am delighted to report that the City of Victoria gave full rezoning and development permit approval on December 17, 2015. A significant milestone!

The next significant milestone was finalization of the design of the building. The AGGV Board wanted more than to simply meet the need for space to protect and display the collection. We wanted a design that would transform the AGGV into a centre for innovation and engagement in the arts, with inviting public spaces accessible to all ages, cultivating creativity through support for regional artists and bringing communities together. A Gallery we can all be proud of.

The newly designed space will provide needed additional gallery space; efficient, safe, climate controlled storage space; enhanced programming with a new lecture space; increased accessibility to the mansion and Asian garden; and a new main entry off Moss Street, improving flow. The concept is to connect and celebrate the history and qualities of the site through the addition of engaging new public and exhibition areas while utilizing existing building components to their best advantage.

These achievements are thanks to the tireless efforts and dedication of our Board, staff, and community members who, through participation on our various Board committees, have helped the Gallery reach these milestones. It is also thanks to the support of our members and donors who share in our vision of making the Gallery the best it can be. I encourage you to continue to connect with the Gallery wherever and whenever you can and be part of its future as we move into this next year.

Ruth Wittenberg,
AGGV Board President



our reach

9,645
Participants engaged
in artistic programs

17,518
visitors welcomed
free of charge



450

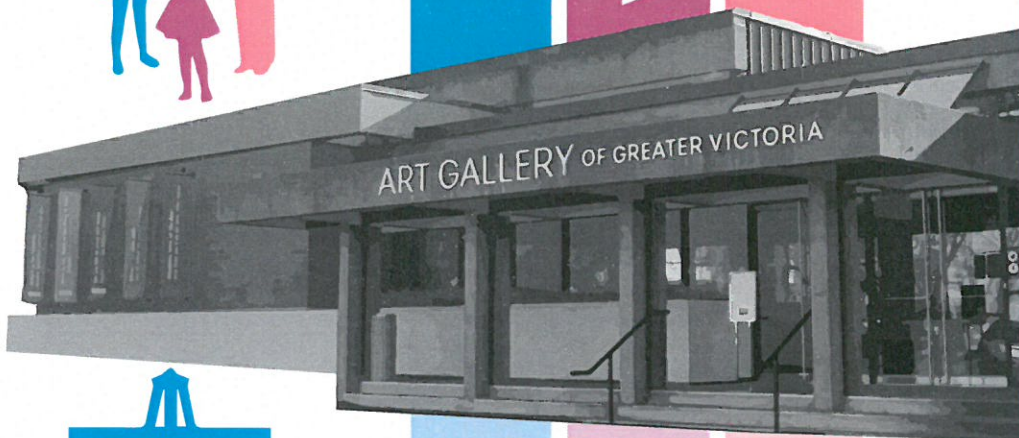
volunteers

54,998

visitors to the gallery

3154

members



263
artists supported
through artists' fees



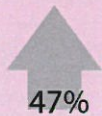
6399
likes



16%



5114
followers



47%



1327
followers



188%



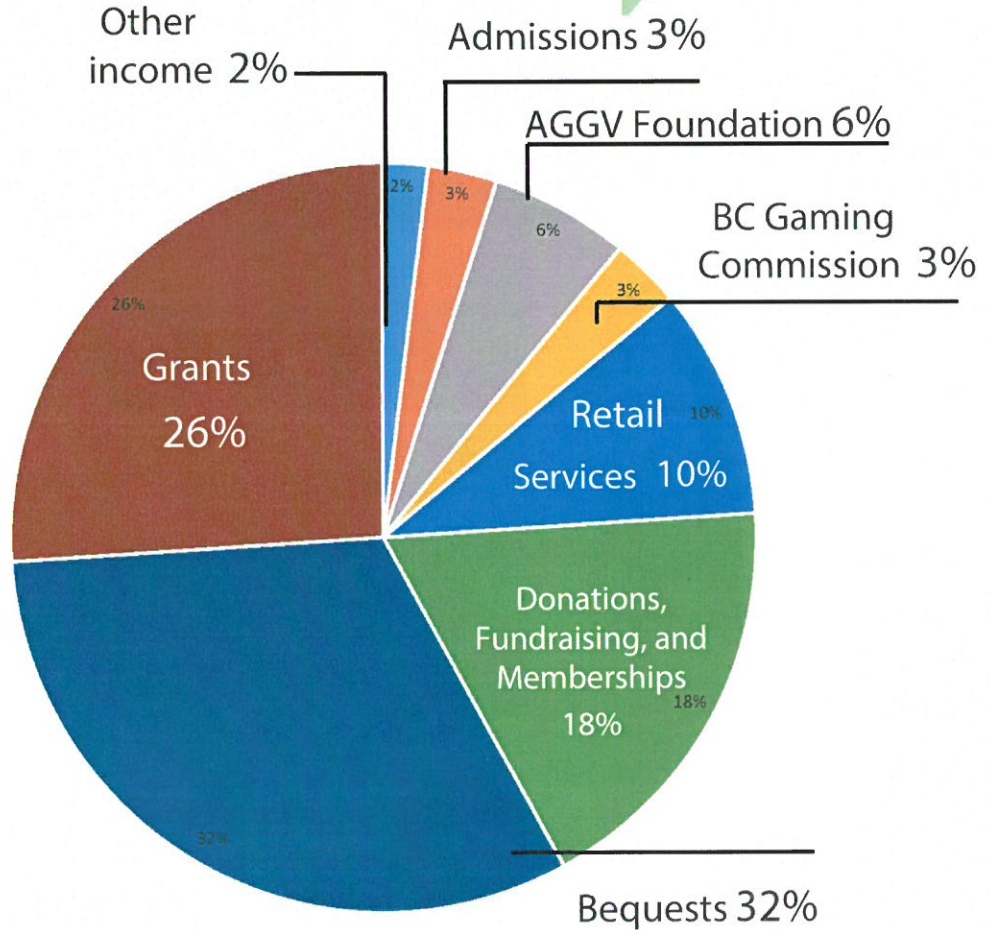
unique views **89,943**
to aggv.ca

135,407 sessions on
aggv.ca

financials

Operating Revenue \$3,504,279

Operating Expenses \$3,489.362



Twenty-Five



Exhibitions

Including | Jock Macdonald: Evolving Form | Free Play | From the Collection: David Milne | Treasurers from the Chinese Scholar's Studio | Anna Banana: 45 Years of Fooling Around With A. Banana | Circumference: Gewn MacGregor / Water + Paper + Pigment: Experiments in Watercolour from the AGGV Collection

401

Programs & Events

- 3** **Urbanite Events**
Featuring Live Music & Interactive Programs
- 5** **Opening Receptions**
Celebrating Feature Exhibitions
- 9** **Family Sundays**
Engaging and interactive activities for all ages
- 6** **Associates Events**
Our Gallery Associates raise funds in excess of \$40,000 towards programs and exhibitions
- 1** **TD Art Gallery Paint-In**
Bringing communities together to celebrate art and art creation

exhibitions/programs

462

pieces added to the
permanent collection

Thank you to all of our donors for your significant contribution to our collection.

Gao Qipei (1660-1734), *Two Wandering Monks at a Cliff* Chinese hanging scroll, ink and colours on paper, finger painting.

Gift of Susan Swann, AGGV 2015.035.001

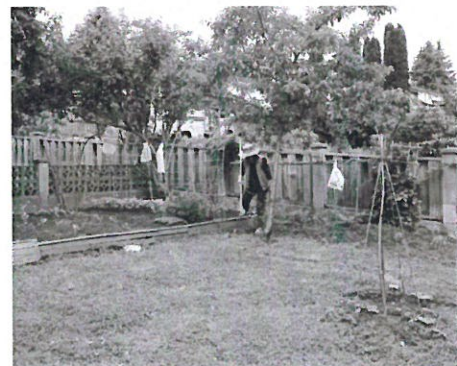
At the age of twenty, Gao QiPei became known as an eccentric, who preferred using his hands—palms, fingers, nails—in place of the traditional Chinese brush. He grew his fingernails long to make them more effective painting instruments, and created a highly individualized style. He applied watercolours with his fingertips and hand; and used a single pointed nail for thin lines.



Meryl McMaster (Canadian, born 1988), *Harbinger of Sudden Departures*, 2013, digital chromogenic print, 36 x 50 inches (91.44 x 127 cm), Purchased with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts Acquisition Grants program and the Burri-Tobey Art Acquisitions Fund, accession no. 2015.014.001



Evan Lee (Canadian, born 1975), *A Woman Tending Her Vegetable Garden*, 2008, black and white giclee print; 110.49X135.57 cm (sheet), Edition 1/3, Provenan: Gift of Evan Lee, 2015.023.002



BOARD | Ruth Wittenberg, President | Silvia Bonet | Bill Camden | Jackie Hamilton | Leslie Hildebrandt | Fiona Hunter | Chief Tony Hunt | Christopher H. Jones | Patti-Anne Kay | John Kirby | Lynne Masse-Danes | Michael Morris | Clark Roberts | Anne Russell | Pieta VanDyke | Fran Willis | Lynne Woodruff | Dave Zaporinuk. **STAFF** | Jon Tupper, Director | Alice Banks | Megan Bosence | Corey Bryson | Bruce Day | Greg Evans | Gordon Friesen | Lesley Golding | Michelle Jacques | Megan Landels | Barb Lucas | Graham Macaulay | Jay Macdonell | Lauren Milne | MaryAnne Petersen | Ian Pears | Sean Powers | Junko Preniqi | Janyce Ronson | Lisa Samphire | Haema Sivanesan | Nicole Stanbridge | Barry Till | Stephen Topfer | Jennifer Van de Pol | Sherry Willing|.

MANY THANKS to our art studio instructors, Family Sunday and New Extreme teachers, summer students, casual staff and the many others who fulfill important short-term roles at AGGV. THANK YOU to staff who moved on to other opportunities during the 2015-2016 year - Gillian Booth | Sandi Henrich | Shelagh Schmidt | Ana Gereluk | Jay Macdonell.

AGGV FOUNDATION | Christopher Jones, President | Dale Armstrong | Fiona Hunter | Barb Lucas | Bill Camden | George Smyth | Jon Tupper | Ruth Wittenberg.

donors

INDIVIDUAL DONORS | **\$25,000+** Janice M. Mickleborough | Hon. Anne & Dr. Donald Russell | Estate of Rosita Tovell
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GOVERNMENT | British Columbia Arts Council | British Columbia Arts Council - Creative BC | Canada Council for the Arts | Canadian Heritage - Museum Assistance Program | Canadian Heritage - Young Canada Works | Capital Regional District | City of Victoria | Ministry of Finance - Gaming Policy & Enforcement Branch | Service Canada - Canada Summer Jobs.

PARTNERS | \$40,000+: Art Gallery of Greater Victoria Foundation | The Associates of the AGGV.
\$25,000+: Ocean 98.5 & KiSS 103.1 FM | TD Bank Group | Times Colonist | Trapeze Communications.
\$10,000+: Audain Foundation | Mission Hill Family Estate | RBC Foundation - Emerging Artists Project | The Christopher Foundation. \$5,000+:
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donors/government/partners

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Front & Back covers: Battledore (Oibane), 1953 Tatsumi Shimura | woodcut on paper | 2012.031.015

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