

Monday, January 20, 2014



Major gift for Art Gallery of Greater Victoria Redevelopment Received from Anthony Thorn

Victoria artist **Anthony Thorn** has gifted \$ 2.5 million to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria to support the Gallery's planned redevelopment of its Moss Street home.

The donation was announced today by AGGV Board Chair, **Ruth Wittenberg**, who expressed her gratitude to Mr. Thorn. "We are extremely grateful to Anthony for his support. His visionary gift allows us to move forward with confidence as we continue our fundraising and planning for the future of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria."

Mr. Thorn's decision to make a gift to the Gallery was spurred by a news article in a local Victoria newspaper. "I read an article that explained why the Gallery was choosing to redevelop its existing site, rather than continue its 30-yr search for space downtown," explained Mr. Thorn. "I found myself in complete agreement with the decision of AGGV Director Jon Tupper and was determined to do whatever I could to help."

The Gallery's commitment to a well-planned renovation of its existing facility was announced in 2012. A request for proposals was issued at the time, seeking architects who could renovate and prepare a design that complements the building's location in the heart of the Rockland neighbourhood. Mr. Thorn's gift provides the Gallery with impetus for a capital campaign, to be launched once a project budget has been confirmed.

A prairie-raised artist and educator, Anthony Thorn (a pseudonym for Arthur Goldman) began to paint in 1948, soon after graduating from the University of Saskatchewan. His paintings and carved works in gold leaf, ivory and other precious materials have been exhibited with galleries across Canada and in France, Mexico, the U.S., and the Canary Islands, and are included in public collections in Canada, including that of the AGGV. Eight of his works have been honoured with the designation of "outstanding significance and national importance" by the Canadian Cultural Review Board. Thorn taught as a lecturer at Lakehead University, in Thunder Bay, Ontario from 1977 to 1979. After arriving in Victoria, Thorn gave a series of studio courses with the University of Victoria Extension Program.

Thorn's gift is also in the memory of his late wife, Jacqueline Goldman, who passed away in the spring of 2013. His own health is failing and he has found inspiration in memory of his parents, who practiced life-long philanthropy.

For more information, visit www.aggv.ca.

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
1040 Moss Street
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 4P1
250.384.4171 aggv.ca

Media Contact:
Sandra Hudson
Tel. 250-383-5605 or 250-216-1380
media@aggv.ca