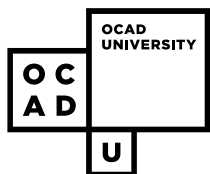


ONSITE GALLERY

2019 - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



JULY 2020



IGNITE
IMAGINATION
THE CAMPAIGN FOR
OCAD UNIVERSITY

**ONSITE
GALLERY**



We are delighted to share our first annual report for Onsite Gallery with our generous donors and supporters. You have made it possible for us to present another successful year of exhibitions, public events and digital initiatives that advance our mandate as an experimental curatorial platform for contemporary art, design and new media.

In response to the global pandemic, we have remained flexible and continue to present exciting new creations and dialogues online about the key questions of our time.

Support from our community has and continues to be vital at this unprecedented time as artists and designers have been especially impacted by Covid-19. Thanks to the help we have received, we can continue to support the creative community, including the students who will be the cultural voices of tomorrow.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Onsite Gallery soon, and in the meantime, we would like to thank you for your commitment to OCAD University.

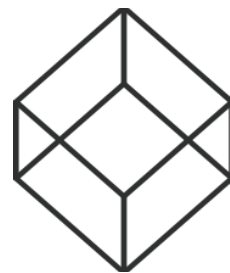
Francisco Alvarez
Executive and Artistic Director, OCAD University Galleries



Front Cover image: Joar Nango, *Sámi Shelters #1 - 5*, 2009. Hand-knitted wool sweaters in ten different shades of colour; courtesy of the artist. From *Among All These Tundras*, presented at Onsite Gallery in 2019. Exhibition produced and circulated by the Leonard and Bina Ellen Gallery, Concordia University. Photo: Yuula Benivolsky.

The Year in Numbers

Thanks to our supporters, Onsite Gallery achieved the following in the 2019-2020 fiscal year:



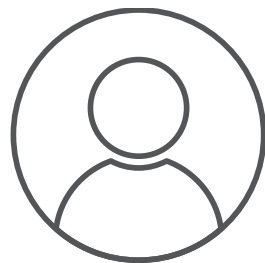
3 Major Exhibitions



Public Programs



21 Artists Exhibited



15,761 Total Attendees

- 4 new artwork commissions
- 33 curatorial tours (for OCAD U classes, art & design community groups)
- 60 works acquired for the Permanent Collection of Art & Design
- 1043 hours open to the public, employing and training OCAD U students

2020 OCAD U Presidential Transition



Welcoming President Ana Serrano

This July, Ana Serrano assumed leadership of Canada’s largest art and design university, steering it into a new era of expansion and innovation.

As former Chief Digital Officer of the Canadian Film Centre (CFC), Serrano has a track record as a global leader and visionary in digital media. She was winner of the Digital Media Trailblazing Award at the 2016 Canadian Screen Awards and has more than 20 years’ experience building award-winning digital products, securing public and private sector investment, creating strategic alliances and starting new ventures.

Ana has also demonstrated a commitment to students, their wellness, and overall experience. She is an adjunct professor, advising students in the Digital Futures graduate program, and led the formation of a CFC/OCAD U partnership that began in 2011.

“I couldn’t be more proud to have the opportunity to join OCAD University,” said Serrano. “I understand how important the university is to the cultural and economic future of our country and can’t wait for the chance to help steer it into this new decade, when the transformative leadership of artists, designers and cultural critics will be more important than ever.”



The Diamond Years - Thank you to Dr. Sara Diamond

Dr. Sara Diamond leaves an important legacy in the university’s history, leading a remarkable period of growth and transformation since 2005.

“For 15 years, Sara has represented us as our leader and a visionary, demonstrating constant innovation and evolution through her trailblazing thought and practice,” said OCAD U Board Chair Jamie Watt. “She has steered us beyond our roots in traditional art and design to not only university status, but also a leadership role in digital media design, research and curriculum.”

Among her most meaningful legacies, Diamond has led OCAD University in its efforts to build a diverse and equitable work force and student population, and has led efforts to address Truth and Reconciliation, Indigenous culture and scholarship in collaboration with Indigenous colleagues.

Dr. Diamond led the Ignite Imagination Campaign, which has raised \$70 million, with a goal of \$100 million to support the Creative City Campus, infrastructure projects, galleries, people and programs.

The team at Onsite Gallery is incredibly grateful to Dr. Diamond for supporting and championing the Gallery since its creation in 2007.

Impact of Community Support

With the help of our supporters, Onsite Gallery benefits the community by:

Promoting engaged citizenship and arts appreciation

Through powerful and thought-provoking exhibitions and public events, we stimulate relevant conversations about critical issues facing Toronto and the world. The Gallery fosters positive social change and contributes to cultural transformation through increasing public understanding of the value of the arts in contemporary society.

Supporting the art and design community

The Gallery provides ongoing support and collaboration opportunities for local and international artists, curators, designers and visual researchers, as well as partner organizations. It also impacts OCAD U students and faculty by offering innovative learning and research opportunities as part of our programming.

Supporters have enabled Onsite Gallery to:

- Present critically acclaimed and award-winning exhibitions and publications
- Triple its audience over the last three years with a significant lift in our reputation
- Acquire new works for the Permanent Collection
- Create Canada’s largest International Curatorial Residency, with Dr. Bonaventure Ndikung, supported by Partners in Art
- Participate in every Nuit Blanche festival since its inception
- Develop important partnerships with organizations such as Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival, Art Gallery of Ontario, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto Biennial of Art, imagineNATIVE Media Arts Festival, Wapatah: Centre for Indigenous Visual Knowledge, Concordia University, and many more

The following section provides an overview of exhibitions held this fiscal year (June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020) along with associated events. These initiatives have had significant impact on the university and public, and they would not have been possible without your support.



Top image: Exhibition view: T.M. Glass: *The Audible Language of Flowers*, presented at Onsite Gallery in 2019. Photo: Yuula Benivolski
Bottom image: Jane Tingely, Cindy Poremba and Marius Kintel, *anyWare*, 2018. Mixed media, each 72" x 36" x 36". From *CodeX: playable and disruptive futurist eArt*, presented at Onsite Gallery in 2020.

EXHIBITION:

T.M. Glass: The Audible Language of Flowers

May 8 to August 18, 2019

Curated by Francisco Alvarez
Core exhibition of the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival

About

Toronto lens-based artist T.M. Glass’ impressive large-scale works feature blooms and vessels from unique gardens across the globe. Glass’ distinct photographic style is characterized by extensive digital embellishment of textures and colours to enhance the emotion and geometry of flowers. The artist’s large-scale flower images have expanded into the third dimension through advanced 3-D printing technology. Inspired by 17th century European flower paintings, the artist contends that contemporary digital photographers are also painters who work with pixels instead of oils.

Impact

This exhibition strengthened OCAD University’s commitment to community partnerships and digital innovation. It introduced an accomplished digital artist, and OCAD U alumnus, to a wide audience with their first major solo exhibition in the context of the international CONTACT Photography Festival. Loans were obtained from the Art Gallery of Ontario, Gardiner Museum and Royal Ontario Museum, and international scholars wrote curatorial texts. Using the most advanced digital technology, the artist broke down the old boundaries between photography, sculpture and video, while applying the discipline of the Old Masters to painstakingly enhance the image.

Public Events

- Digital Photography Portfolio Review
- Arts & Crafts Garden Visit, co-presented with the Toronto Botanical Garden
- Artist and Curator’s Exhibition Tour
- The Language of Flowers: Workshop with Artist Karen Azoulay
- Oil Infusion Workshop with artist Kat Mahon
- How I Learned to Jam with a Pansy: Talk with Composer Bob Ezrin
- Complexity versus Simplicity: Historic Influences on the Contemporary Work of T.M. Glass. Lecture by Art Historian Jennifer Franks
- A Man Named Pearl: Film Screening



From T.M. Glass: *The Audible Language of Flowers*

Top image: The exhibition featured innovative 3-D printed sculptures of sandstone and resin. **Bottom image:** Loaned artifacts from the Royal Ontario Museum (left, two vessels), Art Gallery of Ontario (painting, centre) and Gardiner Museum (right, two vessels) provided historical context for the contemporary digital paintings and sculptures. Photos: Yuula Benivolski

Among All These Tundras

Produced and circulated by the Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University

The exhibition featured contemporary art by twelve Indigenous artists from around the circumpolar world, expressing current Arctic concerns towards land, language, sovereignty and resurgence. Artists from throughout the circumpolar north share kinship with each other and their ancestors, love for their homelands, and respect for the land and its inhabitants. Yet they also share histories of colonialism and experience its ongoing legacies.

OCAD University is committed to advancing Indigenous knowledge and culture. By enlightening new audiences and communities to contemporary Indigenous art, as well as political and environmental issues, this exhibition played an integral role in our reconciliation journey. The works invited viewers to contemplate relationships between textual and embodied Indigenous knowledges, innovation and sustainability, humour and resilience, and our collective responsibility to northern life and land.

- Spoken Word Performance & Writing Activity with Taqralik Partridge, co-presented with Wapatah: Centre for Indigenous Visual Knowledge
- Curators' Tour with Heather Igloliorte, Amy Dickson and Charissa von Harringa
- Exhibition Tour with curator Ryan Rice
- imagineNATIVE Art Crawl, co-presented with imagineNATIVE Media + Arts Festival
- Performance Artist Peter Morin: Reciprocity with Among All These Tundras
- The Fifth Region, Film Screening and Conversation
- Inuit Art On-Line panel discussion, co-presented with Wapatah: Centre for Indigenous Visual Knowledge



A. Installation view: Taqralik Partridge, Tusarsauvungaa, 2018, series of nine elements. Among All These Tundras, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto, 2019. Exhibition produced and circulated by the Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University. Photo: Yuula Benivolski. **B.** Installation view: Inuuteq Storch, Untitled, 2010-2015, digital inkjet prints on archival paper. Among All These Tundras, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto, 2019. Exhibition produced and circulated by the Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University. Photo: Yuula Benivolski. **C.** Installation view: Sonya Kelliher-Combs, Secret Portraits, 2018, ink, pencil, beeswax on paper. Among All These Tundras, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto, 2019. Exhibition produced and circulated by the Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University. Photo: Yuula Benivolski. **D.** Installation view: Marja Helander, Eatnanvuloš Lotti (Birds in the Earth), 2018, video. Among All These Tundras, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto, 2019. Exhibition produced and circulated by the Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University. Photo: Yuula Benivolski. **E.** Installation view: Carola Grahm, Look Who's Talking, 2016, video. Among All These Tundras, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto, 2019. Exhibition produced and circulated by the Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University. Photo: Yuula Benivolski. **F.** Installation view: Kablusiak, Cigarettes and Lighter, 2017, soapstone and tung oil. Among All These Tundras, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto, 2019. Exhibition produced and circulated by the Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University. Photo: Yuula Benivolski.

EXHIBITION:

CodeX: playable & disruptive futurist eArt

January 22 to March 14, 2020

Curated by Tom Barker

About

This exhibition of leading-edge digital art, or eArt, investigated the future of human society through technology, innovation and design. The exhibition’s eight interactive “art machines” used gaming, surveillance technology, the Internet of Things, machine learning, artificial intelligence and virtual reality to explore our increasingly digital lives. Artists and designers included: Jason Baerg, Tom Barker, Rob Elsworthy, Samantha Fickel, Dennis Kavelman, Nick Puckett, Six Trends Inc., and Jane Tingley with Cindy Poremba and Marius Kintel.

Impact

OCAD University, as the university of the imagination, is at the forefront of thinking strategically about how to design a better future. CodeX encouraged audiences to reflect on the symbiotic relationship between technology and human society, and the resulting possibilities for the future through algorithms, and how they affect our identity and perception of reality. The exhibition created an important dialogue about society and how it is being restructured by digital technologies.

Public Events

- Curator’s Exhibition Tour
- Can Machines Be Flawed Enough to Be Human? Panel Discussion
- Digitizer: Game Lab. Led by Rob Elsworthy
- Hello Sensor: Introducing IoT & Analytics. Led by Stephen Perelgut
- Free Youth Workshops
 - Produced by Six Trends Inc. at Regent Park Focus Media Centre
- Note: a number of events were canceled due to the pandemic



Installation views: *CodeX: playable and disruptive futurist eArt*, presented at Onsite Gallery 2020. **Top Image:** Nick Puckett, *Pulse V. 2*, 2019. Interactive installation that visualizes the movement of visitors using LiDar. **Bottom Image:** Left: Tom Barker, *The Last of You*, 2020. Computer game. Right: Jason Baerg, *Asaimina (All Over Again)*, 2020. Generative new media projection. Photos: Yuula Benivolski

Contact

Operating since 2007, Onsite Gallery is the flagship professional gallery of OCAD University and an experimental curatorial platform for international art, design and new media.

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OCAD University acknowledges the ancestral and traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe and the Huron-Wendat, who are the original owners and custodians of the land on which we stand and create.

