

ANNUAL  
2022 / 2023  
REPORT



ART GALLERY  
of GRANDE PRAIRIE



**“I grew up here in the 70s/80s and whenever I visit, I make an effort to come see this great gallery! It is not only a beautiful space, but I admire the gutsy and thought-provoking exhibits. This is a sophisticated and very professional organization!”**

**Barb**



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The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie acknowledges Treaty 8 territory—the traditional and ancestral territory of the Dane-zaa, Nehiyaw, and Dene. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Settlements and the Métis Nation of Alberta, Regions 1, 4, 5 and 6 within the historical Northwest Métis Homeland. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit who have lived in and cared for these lands for generations. We are grateful for the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us. We make this acknowledgement as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those whose territory we reside on or are visiting.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

*Vaughn Bend*

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie (AGGP), I am very pleased to share our Annual Report for 2022-23. At the AGGP, we strive to create an environment where art flourishes and connects with diverse audiences. Our carefully curated exhibitions aim to provoke thought, spark conversations, and ignite the imagination. Each artwork on display is thoughtfully selected to offer a glimpse into the minds and souls of talented artists, both established and emerging.

We believe that art has the ability to transcend boundaries and touch the deepest parts of our humanity. It has the power to challenge preconceptions, inspire change, and bring people together in shared appreciation. It is our mission to provide a platform for artists to showcase their work and engage in meaningful, enriching experiences with our community.

The work of artists around the region, including Indigenous artists and culturally diverse artists, formed the heart of our exhibitions this year. To honour the memory of the thousands of Indigenous children who lost their lives in the Indian Residential School system in Canada, George Littlechild's exhibition, *Here I Am – Can You See Me*, curated by Adjunct Curator of Indigenous Art MJ Belcourt Moses, was a profoundly moving tribute to the artist's family, the lost children and the generations of Indigenous Peoples who have survived this trauma.

Our commitment to using art as a vehicle for dialogue, engagement and inspiration saw the AGGP Permanent Collection gain pieces that engage and reflect our diverse communities. This year's acquisitions included *Undocumented Studies* by

Evy Hook Newton/McBryan, and *The Neon Kitten* by Northern Polytechnique Permanent Collection.

I would like to thank our artists for your resilience, vulnerability, and lasting impact on our gallery and the broader artistic community.

Our commitment extends beyond the walls of this gallery. In 2022, we actively collaborated with local communities, educational institutions, and cultural organizations to promote the arts and foster creativity in all its forms. Through our Summer Art Camp, Alberta Culture Days, and Art at Home, we invested in the next generation of artists and cultivated a vibrant and inclusive art ecosystem.

As we continue to emerge from the depths of the global pandemic, the AGGP is entering a new era as a beacon of light, hope and healing.

The Board is most appreciative of the Gallery's new Executive Director Daniel Becker, who advises us and supports our work as a Board. We are thrilled to have Daniel join our team and lead us into a new chapter of artistic excellence and innovation. Daniel brings a wealth of experience, vision, and passion for the arts that will undoubtedly propel our gallery to new heights.

I am deeply grateful to our AGGP Board of Directors for their steadfast leadership, our employees and volunteers for their passion and dedication, and major funders for their unwavering support: The City of Grande Prairie, The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, The County of Grande Prairie, The Municipal District of Greenview, and The Alberta Museums Association.



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Daniel Becker*

In 2022-2023, The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie had a remarkable year, filled with captivating exhibitions, engaging events, and a celebration of artistic expression. As a prominent destination for art enthusiasts, we continued our mission to showcase diverse and thought-provoking works, fostering creativity and cultural appreciation within our community. Several large projects and different ongoing challenges created a rich and productive year where we achieved quite a few goals that increased the organization's capacity and the depth of its practice.

At the end of 2022 the organization was awarded Recognized Museum status by the Alberta Museum Association. This was an application that had been started in 2018 and was finally drawn together and completed in November.

In March of 2023 the organization received notice that the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board had approved the reapplication of a group of artwork whose application was started in 2015 and, over 8 years had experienced multiple challenges and delays.

In December of 2022 the Gallery completed a much-needed basement renovation that was funded by the Gallery, the City of Grande Prairie, and the Canadian Heritage Cultural Spaces Fund. Effectively expanding the organization's operable workshop and storage space by 1117 square feet.

The Gallery also received funding from the Tourism Relief Fund, facilitated by Western Economic Diversification, to facilitate a major renovation to its website. An ongoing project that will be bringing our permanent collection and our exhibitions to life by providing access to our collection records, and a 3D rendering of each exhibit currently on display.

Special thanks go to the City of Grande Prairie, the County of Grande Prairie, the MD of Greenview, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage, Fred and Ruth Estlin, Marjorie and Turk Taylor, and to the Sargent Family Foundation, for providing not only funding for the organization, but tangible faith in what the arts can do for communities.

In 2022-2023 the Gallery saw all of its operations return to pre-covid levels and while the organization is still adjusting to the realities of coming out of a pandemic, I am confident that with the amazing support that the community gives we will continue to enrich and empower the lives of the people of Grande Prairie and region.

Daniel Becker  
Executive Director



## VISION

The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie will be a centre of excellence, inspiration, creativity and innovation for the Arts. We will be a valued cultural partner and vital resource for the public, artists, curators and writers.

## MISSION

Enriching the community through the creation, conservation and sharing of art.

## GOALS (2021-23)

Expand on our partnerships  
Develop extraordinary opportunities to experience the Arts  
Build on our donors, members and sponsors  
Build organizational leadership and capacity

## GOALS (2021-23)

Connect with our community  
Build strong organizational resilience  
Create outstanding opportunities for artists and visitors

62% ▲

### ANNUAL VISITATION

15,227

The Gallery was closed to the public due to provincial restriction related to COVID-19 between the dates: April 1, 2021 until June 28, 2021

13% ▲

### VISITORS TO TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS (Trex Program)

139,707

10% ▲

### PARTICIPANTS IN GALLERY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

17,384

35% ▼

### NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

17 Contributing at least 653 hours (up 18%)

The Gallery did not host an Annual Art Auction event between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023 where volunteers would typically contribute hours.

30% ▼

### NUMBER OF MEMBERS

58

1% ▼

### NUMBER OF UNIQUE VISITORS TO THE WEBSITE

33,238

2% ▼

### NUMBER OF WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS

37,902

14% ▲

### NUMBER OF FOLLOW AND LIKES THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

8,947



Northwestern Polytechnic students with instructor and guest curator, Tina Martel, in the exhibition, *gen.es.is*.

## PARTNERSHIP

The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie is proud to be an active member of the community and during 2022-2023 the Gallery was active in ensuring multiple partner goals and collaborations.

The Northwestern Polytechnic, the Center for Creative Arts, Traditional Paths Society, Grande Prairie Friendship Centre, the Grande Prairie Aboriginal Circle of Services, the City of Grande Prairie, Grande Prairie Catholic Schools, and Grande Prairie Public School District are all some of the partners who we have worked with over the last year. We are proud of the connections we have with our community, and we are even more excited when community members reach out to collaborate or work together on projects to enliven and better our community.

In 2022-2023 the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie was able to continue its partnership with the Alberta Foundation for the Arts in providing the region well designed and accessible exhibitions in their communities. This program averages around 65 venues per year and spans from as far west as Dawson Creek, as far north as Fort Vermillion and La Crete, as far east as Slave Lake and as far south as Jasper.

## SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY

In 2022-2023 the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie continued its support for the community in its current operations via the already extremely popular learning programs for school groups, the free openings to exhibitions, and the free general attendance to its gallery spaces.

The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie is still the largest free to attend Gallery in Northwestern Alberta and Northeastern BC. By providing the public with free to attend high quality experiences from other regions we can create an experience that is uplifting, educational, and enlightening. Placing a financial value on this is difficult, however, in 2019 Oxford Economics, working with the Canadian Museum Association and Library and Archives Canada created a value study that examined the economic effects that Galleries Libraries Archives and Museums have on society. Within this study they calculated that the average value on ticket prices for Canadian Galleries and Museums was \$43. With this amount in mind, and considering that for 2022-2023 the Gallery had 15,227 attendees, by keeping attendance free the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie and their funding partners saved Grande Prairie and its regions an estimated \$654,761 in admission fees.

Our **Temporary Art Loan program** continues to expand throughout our major government funders and local businesses, so we can 'put art in all spaces' by animating their facilities.



December 2022: Exhibition Sponsor **Bear Creek Funeral Home** with artwork by Jim Stokes from our Permanent Collection on display through our Temporary Art Loan program.




Our art helps us understand each other  
Our art will help us not to forget how our ancestors  
lived for we do not live that same way today

Karungnia Photopapua, artist and entrepreneur, Kinngait Studios, 2016





# EXHIBITIONS AND COLLECTIONS



Over the past year, the Gallery has focused on maneuvering through the obstacles brought forth by the pandemic. Our priority has been to offer our visitors a first-hand experience of art in person again. Through the implementation of different exhibitions and programs, we have strived to create a dynamic space that fosters creativity and nurtures a deep appreciation for the arts.

The Gallery began the year 2022 with an award-winning exhibition *Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios*. This exhibit was curated by Roxane Shaughnessy and put together by the Textile Museum of Canada in collaboration with the West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative. It shared the story of a group of Inuit artists and printmakers who created a remarkable collection of graphic textiles in Kinngait (Cape Dorset, Nunavut) during the 1950s and '60s. Alongside this, we showcased the Sock Monkey Scenarios exhibition, which took visitors into a carefully choreographed world of folk-art puppets, exploring their theatrical and anthropomorphic qualities.

Throughout the past year, we have actively sought out artists from diverse regions working in a variety of mediums. This was strongly reflected in two group exhibitions *Jazz Influences: Rhythm, Movement, and Improv!* and *Video Games? Art and Technology*. These multi-disciplinary exhibitions explored and reflected on the history and influences of jazz music on contemporary art and examined video games as an art form, respectively. We concluded 2022 with a solo exhibition of Syrian artist Aboud Salma. The exhibition, *Euphrates Storyteller* explored his life and experiences as a refugee artist, telling a tale of displacement. The exhibition was a great success for both the artist and the

gallery, receiving positive feedback from our local community and beyond.

The Gallery's Permanent Collection holds many artworks, some yet to be exhibited. The *Undocumented Studies* exhibition introduced these lesser-known pieces, featuring Evy Hook Newton/McBryan's undocumented studies. It also included a participatory drawing project *Endless*, allowing visitors to express their thoughts on the glass walls of Gallery 5, transforming it into a captivating mural. Visitors also explored works from the Northwestern Polytechnic Permanent Collection in *The Neon Kitten* exhibition.

Last year, the Art Acquisition Committee met to review donation proposals for the Permanent Collection. After careful consideration, the committee decided to acquire valuable pieces by influential regional artists such as Euphemia McNaught and Peter Von Tiesenhausen. The Gallery also embraced the opportunity to collaborate with like-minded institutions, fostering the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and artistic experiences. In line with this mission, Dean Drever's artworks from the Gallery's Permanent Collection were temporarily showcased at the Art Gallery of Alberta through our Temporary Art Loan Program, for the exhibition *In Black and White*.

As we embark on the next chapter of our journey, we remain steadfast in our mission to foster creativity and cultural exchange within our region. We are grateful to the artists, patrons, sponsors, and the entire community for their support and together we will continue to create a space that brings people together and inspires change.

# GALLERY EXHIBITIONS



## Here I am – can you see me?

April 7 – July 11, 2022

Curator: MJ Belcourt Moses

Artist: George Littlechild

### Exhibition Sponsors



**“This was such an amazing set of exhibits. Eye-opening shows downstairs with George Littlechild and the textile print display was so beautiful, educated, and an emotional truth. Thank you for the experience”**



**Aaron  
Lethbridge, AB**



**I was deeply moved by the George Littlechild exhibit.**



**Pamela  
Lethbridge, AB**



## gen.e.sis

April 14 – May 30, 2022

Guest Curator: Tina Martel

### Artists:

Connie Potter, Shayna Geisel, Alysoun Wells,  
Ali Boychuk, Christina Wallwork, Rosemary Kay,  
Wenóa Backer-Kisner

### Exhibition Sponsor





## Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios

May 26 – September 18, 2022

Curator: Roxane Shaughnessy

Project Partner: West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative

Project Advisor: West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative Arts Committee and Dr. Heather Igloliorte

Artists: Anna Kingwatsiak (1911–1971), Anirnik Oshuitoq (1902–1983), Eegyudluk Pootoogook (1931–2000), Innujuakju Pudlat (1913–1972), Ishuhungito Pootoogook (1939–), Iyola Kingwatsiak (1933–2000), Kananginak Pootoogook (1935–2010), Kenojuak Ashevak (1927–2013), Lukta Qiatsuk (1928–2004), Lucy Qinnuayyak (1915–1982), Mary Samuelli Pudlat (1923–2001), Osuitok Ipeelee (1922–2005), Olivu Tunnillie (1949–2014), Parr (1893–1969), Paunichea (1920–1968), Pitseolak Ashoona (1904–1983), Pudlo Pudlat (1916–1992), Sharni Pootoogook (Sharnie) (1922–2003), Sheouak Petaulassie (1923–1961), Sorosilutu Ashoona (1941–), Ulayu Pingwartok (1904–1978).

Exhibition Sponsors

**textile**  
museum  
OF CANADA

**WEST BAFFIN ESKIMO CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED**  
Kinngait (Cape Dorset) Nunavut



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL  
FUNDED BY  
THE CITY OF TORONTO

**BMO**



Canada Council  
for the Arts  
Conseil des arts  
du Canada



Canadian  
Heritage  
Patrimoine  
canadien

“

Printed textiles from Kinngait studios is my personal favourite of any showing here so far! Wonderful. Also loved the Undocumented Studies. Thanks!”

”

Cynthia



## Sock Monkey Scenarios

June 16 – October 9, 2022

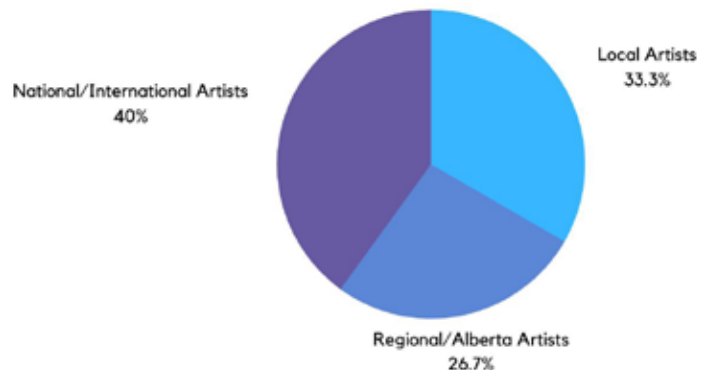
Curator: Sabine Schneider

Exhibition Sponsor

**CROUSE'S**  
cleaners

Artist: Thomas Anfield

## EXHIBITIONS FEATURE A TOTAL OF 90 ARTISTS



# GALLERY EXHIBITIONS



## Video Games? Art and Technology

October 6, 2022 – January 29, 2023

Curator: Manar Abo Touk

Artists: Pippin Barr, Sandee Moore, and  
SpekWork (Cat Bluemke and Jonathan Carroll)

Exhibition Sponsor

Exhibition Partner

**Sargent Family  
Foundation**



“About Salman’s exhibit was tremendously moving – Perhaps the most impactful I have personally experienced thus far in life. Thank you for the privilege of viewing it.”

Jude



## Undocumented Studies: Evelyn McBryan, Sketches from The Permanent Collection

June 30, 2022 – February 26, 2023

Curators: Manar Abo Touk and Jamie-Lee Cormier

Artist: Evy Hook Newton/McBryan

“It was super fun to play all the games and I wish I could come here more often.”

Haiden



## How Does a Moose See the World? From the Permanent Collection

March 16, 2023 – November 19, 2023

Curator: Mohsen Ahi Andy

Artist: Euphemia McNaught, Illingworth Kerr, Robert Guest, John Snow, James Agrell-Smith, Vicki Hotte, Arthur Peterson, Inez Demuynck, Janet (Kruse) Enfield, Jim White, Holly Crichton, C. Wolfe, Holly Perret.





## Jazz Influences: Rhythm, Movement and Improv!

July 21 - November 6, 2022

Curator: Manar Abo Touk

Artists: BuckingJam Palace & Quickdraw Animation Society (Noah Spencer, Troy Kokol, Sheena Agnew, Arielle McCuaig, Leslie Bell, Lyndon Navalta, Caity Gyorgy, Carsten Rubeling, Mark Limacher, Luis 'El Pana' Tovar, Lisa Jacobs), Aretha Laverne & Shei Onu, Breanne Bandur, Darren Kooyman, Ryan McCourt, Stéphanie McLean.



## The Neon Kitten

November 24, 2022 - April 9, 2023

Curator: Melanie Jenner

Artists: Rene Marcil, Sheri Nault, L. Hein, Bogdan Mirkovic, Danita Vandervaate, Brian Marion, Rita Letendre, Danielle Collins, Arnold Shives, Vaughn Mueller, Stanley Lewis, Ron Melnchenko, Ron Melnchenko, Lina Tardif, Greg Donis

Exhibition Sponsor

Exhibition Partner



## What's Held

November 10, 2022 - February 19, 2023

Curators: Kiona Callihoo Ligtoet and Robin Lynch

Artists: Kiona Callihoo Ligtoet, Jewel Shaw, Alana Bartol, Bruno Canadien, Robin Smith-Peck, Bryce Krynski, Amy Malbeuf, Sarah Fuller, Laura Grier

Program  
Supported by



TREX NW  
Program Sponsor



Exhibition Partner



## The Euphrates Storyteller

February 16, 2023 - May 21, 2023

Curators: Manar Abo Touk and Mohsen Ahi Andy

Artist: Aboud Salman

# PERMANENT COLLECTION

The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie's Permanent Collection currently stands at approximately 850 works of art, almost exclusively created in Alberta in the mid to late 20th Century. Designated as a 'Category A' Institution by the Movable Cultural Properties Directorate of Canadian Heritage, the Gallery is permitted to receive art donations of outstanding significance and national importance due to our strict climate, safety and security controls.

## 2022 ACQUISITIONS - 4 acquired artworks

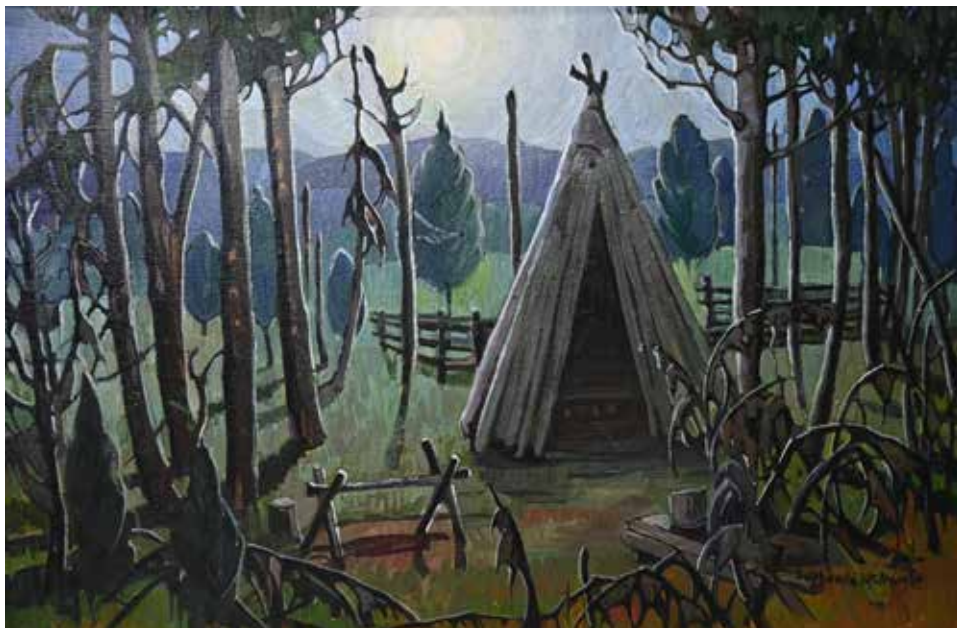
### Art Collection Committee 2022

Terry Gorgichuk / Board Representative  
Esther Hofflick / Community Representative

Gallery Representatives /  
Daniel Becker (Executive Director)  
Mohsen Ahi Andy (Assistant Curator,  
Exhibitions and Collections)



DONOR / Colleen Band  
ARTIST / Euphemia McNaught  
TITLE / Unknown  
YEAR / No Date  
MEDIA / Painting on Panel  
DIMENSIONS / 14 inches x 10 inches



DONOR / Lynn Holroyd  
ARTIST / Euphemia McNaught  
TITLE / Two Lakes Road at Pinto Creek  
YEAR / No Date  
MEDIA / Painting on panel  
DIMENSIONS / 36 inches x 24 inches



DONOR / Ella and William Simpson,  
Wendy Derrheim  
ARTIST / Peter von Tiesenhausen  
TITLE / Alex's Field (A)  
YEAR / 1991  
MEDIA / Painting  
DIMENSIONS / 24 inches x 18 inches



DONOR / Colleen Band  
ARTIST / Anton Kohalyk  
TITLE / The Swamp  
YEAR / 1988  
MEDIA / Watercolour  
DIMENSIONS / 11 inches x 8.25 inches



## 2021 ACQUISITIONS - 30 acquired artworks

### Art Collection Committee 2021

Edward Bader / Board Representative  
Grant Berg / Community Representative

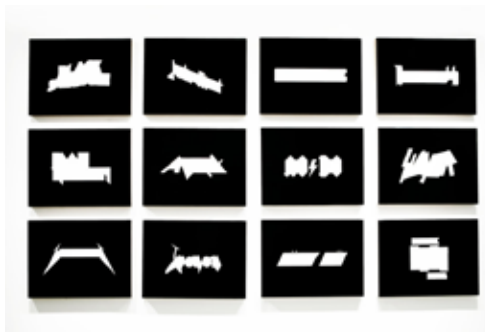
Gallery Representatives /  
Jeff Erbach (Executive Director)  
Manar Abo Touk (Curator, Exhibitions and Collections)  
Sabine Schneider (Curator, Learning)



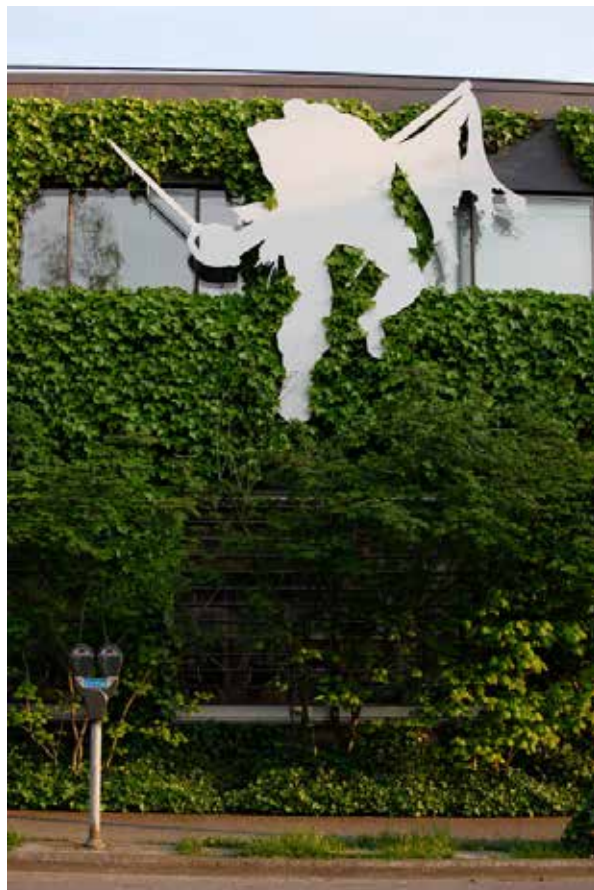
DONOR / Luciano Galasso  
ARTIST / Dean Drever  
TITLE / Knuckle Dusters  
YEAR / 2004  
MEDIA / Stainless Steel  
DIMENSIONS / 4.2 x 2.85 x 0.75 inches each (3 pieces)



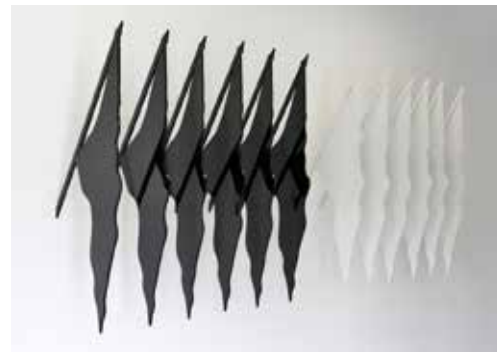
DONOR / Andrew Parks  
ARTIST / Dean Drever  
TITLE / A Nice Pair  
YEAR / 2010  
MEDIA / Wooden bats, water lacquer, maple  
DIMENSIONS / 35 inches x 3 inches each (2 pieces)



DONOR / Matthew Schadbolt  
ARTIST / Dean Drever  
TITLE / White Metal (12 pieces)  
YEAR / 2011  
MEDIA / Linen, water lacquer, oil paint, maple  
DIMENSIONS / 18 inches H x 24 inches W, each



DONOR / Leon Liffmann  
ARTIST / Dean Drever  
TITLE / White Eddie  
YEAR / 2010  
MEDIA / Aluminum, lacquer  
DIMENSIONS / 132 inches x 159 inches x 0.5 inches



DONOR / Matthew Schadbolt  
ARTIST / Dean Drever  
TITLE / Black Flag / White Flag (12 pcs)  
YEAR / 2011  
MEDIA / Painting  
DIMENSIONS / Each 45" H x 22" W x 0.5" D  
(Displayed as a set is 28 feet x 4 feet)



**Image** / *What Lies Beyond*, on view at the Grande Prairie Public Library

## TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS (TREX)

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) has supported a provincial travelling exhibition program since 1981. The mandate of the AFA Travelling Exhibition Program is to provide every Albertan with the opportunity to enjoy visual art exhibitions in their community. Three regional galleries and one arts organization coordinate the program for the AFA in the province of Alberta.

The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie is contracted by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts to manage and facilitate the program in Region 1, North Western Alberta, and has been involved with the program since the beginning. We strive to maintain the high standards the program has become known for and continue to support Alberta's talented artists.



TREX Northwest Program Sponsor



**Image** / *YEG Old Houses* by Aeris Osborne on view at the Montrose Cultural Centre



“This exhibition was VERY well received by the community. Lots of positive comments regarding the beauty of the artwork!”

Educator's response to TRES exhibit, *Adornment*, on view at Rotary Club of Slave Lake Library.



## TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

Message from Jamie-Lee Cormier  
Curator/Manager

What a year it's been for the TRES Program! As I celebrate one year in this position, I'm thrilled to share what the program has achieved. We had approximately 123,245 people view the 16 exhibitions that toured Northwestern Alberta. The Travelling Exhibition program was created 50 years ago by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts to provide as many communities as possible across Alberta with the opportunity to see visual art exhibitions, and to share their collection with the public. The program helps to promote and encourage artistic careers in the province, this year we were able to showcase 113 artists in exhibitions which toured to 21 different communities in the Northwestern Region.

Beginning in May 2022, we framed, crated, and circulated three wonderful exhibitions curated by past manager, Robin Lynch. They were *What's Held*, co-curated by Kiona Callihoo Ligtoet, featuring work by eleven Indigenous artists. Their work explores the ways of memorializing, mapping, and holding onto significant sites, keeping the stories of them alive and present, even as the landscape shifts or carries them further away from home. *What's Held* was on display at the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie from November 2022 – February 2023, and Kiona Callihoo Ligtoet came for the opening where she gave an Artist/Curator Talk. *Touching the Sky* featured works by Peace Region artists and art educators, Elizabeth Hutchinson, Esther Hoflick & Angela Fehr. Their watercolours and mixed media works hover between our ability to represent space, and our environment's profound shaping of our daily experiences. *Careful Space*, *Gentle Matters* highlights the work of two artists, Nicole Jones (Fairview, AB) and Chelsey Campbell (Edmonton, AB) who center and affirm their lived experiences of disability and chronic illness. The works explore these complex feelings in addition to celebrating the important forms of care, rest, and joy that they gently make with themselves, and with

community. To make this exhibition more accessible QR codes with voice recording of ALT TEXT Poetry by Meredith Grace Thompson were created along with brail labels. In addition to the Education Guide which accompanies each exhibition, we produced a digital videos of artist talks and workshops.

We launched a new initiative in December 2022 to help artists in the area display their work by creating the TRES WALL, located just outside the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie doors. We had over 13 individuals and/or groups apply to the open call and will have 5 exhibitions on display this year. Thank you to our Program Sponsor, KMSC Law for the support to make the TRES WALL a reality for the next 4 years!! KMSC Law has deep roots in this community, over 100 years, and are pleased to continue their relationship with the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie and support the arts in Grande Prairie and surrounding area through the TRES program.

The TRES program strives to share a variety of artwork styles, provide opportunities to emerging artists and educate viewers on cultural traditions across Alberta. Thank you to all my current and new venue coordinators who volunteer their time to install the artwork at their schools, libraries, museums, or cultural centres. This position has been incredibly rewarding and it's so wonderful to work with the artists and organizations to enrich communities through the sharing of art. I'd like to thank the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Government of Alberta, Art Gallery of Grande Prairie and KMSC Law for supporting the TRES Program.



**Images** / Artist Workshop at St. Catherine Catholic School, featuring *bring a folding chair...* artist Elsa Robinson.



**Above** / *A Cordial Word*, an exhibition featuring work from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Permanent Collection installed at Grimshaw Library.

“Love, Love, Love having the opportunity to have Elsa Robinson in our school for a workshop! So much excitement and engagement from the students when they knew they would meet one of the artists. The exhibition was a fabulous jump off for Black History Month Lessons in the classroom. We are thankful for the opportunity to bring authentic voice and personal connection through each artist’s work.”

Educator’s response to TREX exhibit, *bring a folding chair...*, on view at St. Catherine Catholic School in Grande Prairie.

## TREX VISITING ARTIST PROGRAMMING

In recognition of Black History Month, we hosted Elsa Robinson, a featured artist in the TREX exhibition, *bring a folding chair...* for an Artist Talk at the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie on Thursday, February 23rd and for a two day Artist Workshop for students at St. Catherine Catholic School.

*bring a folding chair...* is inspired by annual Black History Month celebrations and recognizes the significant contributions Black Canadians, and Black artists in particular, make to Alberta. With art works exploring history, heritage, identity and contemporary concerns, the artists in this exhibition *bring a folding chair...* to the table of Canadian society and the art scene in Alberta and, in sitting at the table, give voice to our common humanity.

Elsa Robinson is an Edmonton-based mixed media artist, sculptor and painter whose decades-long devotion to artistic practice has imbued her work with vibrancy, versatility and an intuitive spiritual poignancy. Through her years of study, both as a self-taught artist and as a graduate of the University of Alberta’s Art and Design program, Elsa has honed the ability to transmit, through a range of visual modes, her deep love and care for humanity.



**Above / TREX WALL** Ribbon cutting for the opening of the TREX Wall. (L-R) Kelsey Hasler of AGGP, exhibiting artist Sharron Krushel, Narmia King, Partner KMSC Law, Jamie-Lee Cormier, Manager/Curator TREX NW, and Lori Pollock, Business Manager KMSC Law.



**Top/ What Lies Beyond** installed at Saint Marie School in Spirit River



**Above / What's Held** Artist Talk with artist and Co-Curator, Kiona Callihoo Ligtvoet at the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie



Love having the opportunity for rural kids to have art come to them. Teachers had the opportunity to have discussions about the artists and art and lead their classes in projects with the works.



Educator's response to TREX exhibit, *What Lies Beyond*, on view at Saint Marie RC School.

13% ▲

TOTAL NUMBER OF VIEWERS

139,707

17% ▲

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMUNITIES SERVED

21

14% ▲

NUMBER OF EXHIBITIONS CIRCULATED

16

4% ▼

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS MOUNTED

80

36% ▲

NUMBER OF ARTISTS REPRESENTED

113

6% ▼

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED

30





**Image** / School  
Tour exploring the  
exhibition, *The  
Euphrates Storyteller*  
and artwork by Aboud  
Salman.







The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie's Learning programs provide opportunities for our patrons and public to learn more about art and artists in featured exhibitions through a range of educational formats. Responsive to and engaged with diverse communities and encouraging a vibrant cultural exchange between art, artists, and audiences, this year, we facilitated high-quality art experiences to **17,384 individuals** who joined us for **237 programs**.

Refocussing our educational initiatives to in-person and in-class presentations, we were incredibly grateful to see how quickly many visitors, community organizations and schools wanted to experience our thoughtfully curated art programs and camps, community events, artist presentations as well as the Carlstrom Family Green Space and Creativity Kits again personally. Highlights this year included Alberta Culture Days events and our Grande North Winter Festival inspired interactive community art installation *Frosted Forms*.

Thank you to ATB for sponsoring our programs. We couldn't provide that many free programs without their generous support. Thank you also to our wonderful volunteers who tirelessly assist the Learning department in assembling our well-liked and free Creativity Kits. Last but not least, we are incredibly grateful to all community members for contributing their creativity, inspiration, and ongoing support.



Message from Sabine Schneider  
Curator, Learning

***Learning Programs  
Sponsored by***



# THE CARLSTROM FAMILY GREEN SPACE and CREATIVITY KITS

Due to emergency maintenance and renovations to the space, the popular Carlstrom Family Green Space reopened on July 16, 2022 as a drop in self-facilitated community artmaking space welcoming visitors back almost in its original version. While we have yet to get back to our original visitation numbers from before the pandemic, monthly visitation of The Carlstrom Family Green Space has seen a robust attendance between 380 and 740 people which we are grateful for, reaching 4,212 participants this year.

We built 41 Partnerships with community organizations and schools and delivered 4197 free Creativity Kits to 142 Community and School Groups while 6,518 free Creativity Kits were circulated as free take home Creativity Kits. Together, this joined category of free Creativity Kits and the Carlstrom Family Green Space reached 14,927 people within our community and beyond. This tells us that the social agencies and schools in our community have made our free Creativity Kits an integral part of their programming for their diverse audiences and that there is a high need for creativity-based self-facilitated art projects inspired by our current exhibitions.

**89%** *Carlstrom Family Green Space*  
**NUMBER OF VISITORS**  
**4,212**

The Carlstrom Family Green Space was closed for 47% of the previous fiscal year due to emergency maintenance and renovations to the space. We were very happy to welcome visitors back!

**3%** *CREATIVITY KITS*  
**10,715**

Free Take Home Creativity Kits – 6,518 Kits  
Free Creativity Kits to Schools/Community Groups  
– 142 groups received 4,197 kits



**We love it here! What a great space for a family to play and explore and create. Thank you!**

**Mel, Jett & Vance**



Above: The "Balance" Creativity Kit  
Top: Visitors to the Carlstrom Family Green Space.

Right: Holy Cross Catholic School Residency, Grade 2 class.



## ART PROGRAMS AND CAMPS

Community organizations and schools have been eager to return to in-person art programs at the Gallery which meant that online options we have been providing in the last two years discontinued. Last year we facilitated only 47 in-person Art Programs and Camps. This year, **73 school and community groups with an attendance of 1,606 students** visited the Gallery and explored our current exhibitions through a guided tour and hands-on art project inspired by our current exhibition.

Special opportunities this year included an Art Program designed and facilitated for the **Grande Prairie School Division's Staff Wellness Day** on February 10, 2023. Since March 2023, we have partnered with the **Grande Prairie Public Library and Mountain Plains** facilitating an arts-based program for people with disabilities. The first one we co-facilitated was attended by over 70 people.

With 94% attendance, our three week-long half day Summer Art Camps were well received. The students experienced many new forms of artmaking, such as Sculptural Installation, Printmaking, Abstract Painting, and Collage completing each week 5 planned activities. Some of the art activities were inspired by our current exhibitions. Students toured three of our current exhibitions as inspiration for artmaking including *Sock Monkey Scenarios*, *Printed Textiles from Kinnigait Studios*, and *Permanent Collection, Undocumented Studies* gaining insight and knowledge about each exhibition's concepts and artistic processes.

**52%** ▼

**TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL ART PROGRAMS AND TOURS**

**88**

Art Programs: 73 groups/ 1,606 participants  
Summer Art Camps: 15 groups / 175 participants

**23%** ▼

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING ART PROGRAMS AND CAMPS**

**1,781**



## ARTIST PRESENTATIONS

Artist Talks are scheduled in conjunction with current exhibitions and provide further insight into the artists' concepts, history, motivation, and processes. This year, we facilitated 4 in-person Artist Talks which were appreciated by 114 attendees.

On June 17, 2022, artist Thomas Anfield, a Vancouver-based contemporary figure painter and performance artist, facilitated two guided tours through his exhibition *Sock Monkey Scenarios* sharing his insights into the human psyche through the equally majestic and mischievous symbol of the Sock Monkey, with 48 grade 3 students from Holy Cross Catholic School in Grande Prairie.

During the opening reception of *Video Games? Art and Technology*, a group exhibition that questioned how Video Games can shape and contribute to the way we learn history and understand our contemporary world, on October 6, 2022, 42 attendees enjoyed a fascinating virtual reality interactive music performance featuring exhibiting artist Jonathan Carroll of artist collective SpekWork.

Finally, on November 24, 2022, 24 Gallery visitors joined us in person for *What's Held* Artist Talk with Kiona Callihoo Lightvoet, a mixed Cree, Métis, and Dutch artist coming from scrip land, and descending from Michel First Nation, sharing the stories behind her artworks and provided insight into her curatorial practice. Kiona is currently practicing in amiskwaciwâskahikan, where she primarily works in painting and printmaking while exploring stories of grief and tenderness.



**My class enjoyed our time at the Art Gallery. The students said they loved the VR experience and Art project. They wanted to visit again!**



# 75%

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING ARTIST PRESENTATIONS**

# 114

Total Number of Artist Talks: 4



**Top:** Kiona Callihoo Lightvoet, artist and co-curator of the exhibition, *What's Held*, during an Artist Talk in November 2022.

**Above:** A virtual reality interactive music performance featuring exhibiting artist Jonathan Carroll of artist collective SpekWork during the opening reception of *Video Games? Art and Technology*.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

This year's community events involved facilitated art experiences for Earth Day, Alberta Culture Days and Grande Prairie's Grande North Winter Festival. These three community events were visited by 562 people. For **Earth Day** on April 22, 2022, we partnered with the City of Grande Prairie. For **Alberta Culture Days**, on September 17, 2022, we hosted a Sketch Party throughout both the main and the upper level of the Gallery which was attended by 95 people who enjoyed sketching the Jazz-inspired artworks showcased in *Jazz Influences: Rhythm, Movement, and Improv!*, the archetypal folk art puppets in *Sock Monkey Scenarios*, as well as the historically significant Inuit graphic textiles in *Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios*.

During Grande Prairie's second **Grande North Winter Festival**, an annual event showcasing Grande Prairie in a Winter theme throughout the downtown core and into Muskoseepi Park, we hosted a community event in the Gallery on January 14, 2023 where community members were invited to create a Winter-inspired sculpture and contribute to *Frosted Forms*, a community art installation evolving during the event and displayed at the Gallery within *The Neon Kitten* exhibition until January 29, 2023. It was an exciting and lively art making event inspired by the ice sculptures carved during the Grande North Winter Festival. With 347 people attended, *Frosted Forms* was the highest in-person attendance for a community event we ever have had during a single afternoon in Gallery history!

# 63%

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS  
IN COMMUNITY EVENTS**

# 562

Frosty Forms: 347 attendees

Earth Day: 120 Attendees

Alberta Culture Days Sketch Party: 95 Attendees



**Top:** Visitors during the Grande North Winter Festival in *Frosted Forms*, a community art installation evolving during the event.

**Centre:** Artworks made during *Frosted Forms* and temporarily displayed at the Gallery within *The Neon Kitten* exhibition.

**Above:** Visitors during the Sketch Party held during Alberta Culture Days creating artwork in *Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios* exhibition.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Prairie Gallery Society  
Financial Statements for the  
fiscal year ending March 31,  
2023 have been approved by  
the Board of Directors at the  
Annual General Meeting on  
September 21, 2023.

The website will be updated  
when signed copies are  
provided.



Visitors in *The Euphrates Storyteller* exhibition with artwork by Aboud Salma.



## GIFTS AND SERVICES IN KIND

Throughout the year, many local businesses provided services and support to the Gallery's programs, exhibitions and operations. Their support is a valuable contribution to the Gallery's mission and signals the Gallery's intention to collaborate with the private sector in delivering high value opportunities in the Arts.



**Pippin Barr**  
(Exhibiting Artist)



## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers contributed greatly to the Gallery's ability to deliver programs and remain a vibrant and accessible facility for everyone. This past year, volunteers primarily assisted with assembling our incredibly popular Creativity Kits and serving as a friendly face at the reception desk to welcome visitors. Volunteers also supported the Gallery during our Casino fundraiser in April 2022. A huge thank you to them for their ongoing support.

Alysoun Wells	Kaylon Mathias
Andrea Kelsey	Krista Umble
Colleen Band	Lorna McIlroy
Debbie McCallum	Marcia Tofer
Edna Smith	Mary Riley
Jessica Gagnon	Michelle Scarrow-Bailey
Joanne Scarrow	Wendy Kempert
Julie Schwindt	

“I volunteer for the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie and I love it! I've been so warmly welcomed by all the staff. Every week I'm thanked so much for my help, but I really need to thank them! I love prepping and building the activity kits imagining how they'll bless and encourage people in my community! Thank you to all the staff at the Art Gallery! You rock!”

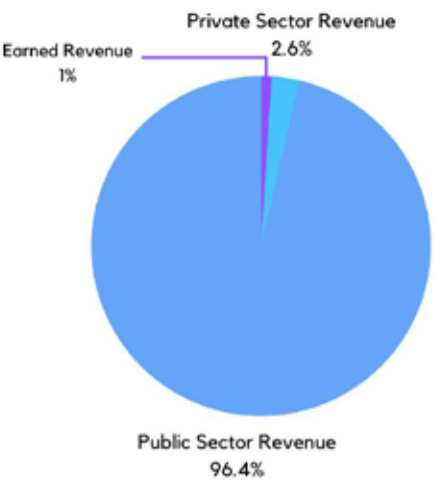
Julie

# MAJOR FUNDERS

As a public institution and charitable non-profit, all of the Gallery’s exhibitions and programming remain free and accessible for everyone. This level of inclusiveness and accessibility is achieved through the dedication and commitment of all levels of government, local businesses, donors, members and volunteers who come together to support the Gallery and its mandate.



## ANNUAL OPERATING FUNDING



## FOOD AND BEVERAGE PARTNER



## MEDIA PARTNERS









## 2022/23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### March 2022 – September 2022

#### OFFICERS

**Chair** / Christine Quinn

**Vice Chair** / Candice MacPhee

**Treasurer** / Melanie Kimble

**Secretary** / Holly Sorgen

#### DIRECTORS

Andrea Rosenberger-Deleeuw

Dave McRae

Fran Rogers

Vaughn Bend

Wendy Bosch

### September 2022 – March 2023

#### OFFICERS

**Chair** / Vaughn Bend

**Vice Chair** / Dave McRae

**Treasurer** / Melanie Kimble

**Secretary** / Vacant

#### DIRECTORS

Andrea Rosenberger-Deleeuw

Candice MacPhee

Leah Paslawski

Terry Gorgichuk

Wendy Bosch

Christine Quinn, Past Chair

Annual General Meeting held  
September 20, 2022

### GALLERY STAFF

**Executive Director** / Daniel Becker

**Art Preparator** / Rob Swanston

**Curator, Exhibitions & Collections** / Manar Abo Touk (until November 2022)

**Curator, Learning** / Sabine Schneider

**Curatorial Assistant, Exhibitions & Collections** / Mohsen Ahi Andy

**Curatorial Assistant, Learning** / Garry Bradley

**Gallery Administrator** / Melanie Jenner

**Gallery Receptionist** / Sarah Drydale

**Manager, Development and Administration** / Brittany Kelsey (until August 2022)

**Manager, Development and Administration** / Kelsey Hasler

**TREX Manager/Curator, Travelling Exhibitions** / Jamie-Lee Cormier

**Left** / Visitors to the Sketch Party held during Alberta Culture Days in September 2022 in the exhibition, *Thomas Anfield: Sock Monkey Scenarios*.

**Back Cover Image** / Installation view of *The Neon Kitten*



# ART GALLERY of GRANDE PRAIRIE

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[aggp.ca](http://aggp.ca)

