



HAMILTON ARTISTS INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2022–2023



Nothing More to Say, Hanan Abbas. From *Ignition 10*. February 4-March 12, 2022. Image courtesy of the artist.

BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR JORDYN STEWART & JULIE DRING

Over the past year, Hamilton Artist Inc. has buzzed with activity, from presenting exhibitions, screenings, and public artworks, to performances, special events, workshops, talks, tours and more. All thanks to The Inc.'s Staff, Volunteers, Members, Committees, and Board of Directors for their generosity and drive to make The Inc. what it is today.

In 2023, our robust programming energized our community. Exhibitions within the James Gallery and Cannon Gallery, as well as our exterior James Street Banner, gave way for 25+ paid artist opportunities, with additional exhibition opportunities in our annual member's show, SWARM. Meanwhile, our garden revitalization project activated our courtyard space, while our new website focused on improving online accessibility.

The Inc. is grateful for another year with dedicated staff members, Derek Jenkins and John Hill. Another year of your institutional knowledge and individual expertise is greatly recognized and appreciated. This year we also welcomed our new Programming Director, Sanaa Humayun, who came to The Inc. from The New Gallery in Calgary. We embraced Sanaa's expertise in community building, as she took time to put down new roots in Hamilton. Continuing to build upon the work of her successor Abedar Kamgari, Sanaa's creativity, thoughtfulness, and demonstrated leadership

has already brought The Inc. much success in a short period of time.

With mixed feelings, we'd like to celebrate the work of Kristina Durka for her profound impact on The Inc. over many years. We wish her the best as she leaves her role of Programming Coordinator for exciting new opportunities.

The tenure of Board Members, Elsa Brittin, Jeannie Kim, Tyler Matheson, Erica Mogentale, Breanna Shanahan, Sarah Sproule, Jaycee Tu, Ashley Watson, and Rachelle Wunderink ended this year. We are so grateful for their knowledge, care, expertise and contributions to the organization!

As our past Directors transition to new opportunities, we are delighted to welcome incoming Directors: Julie Dring and Alexandria Holm. As well as thank our returning Directors, Sam de Lange, Dianne Twombly and Jordyn Stewart.

Over the past year, Dianne generously contributed her time as Board Treasurer for The Inc. working closely with Executive Director, Derek Jenkins. Managing the finances for a not-for-profit is no small task, in addition to the precarity of future funding. We're proud to have a Staff that approaches grant applications with a passion and drive to support

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BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR continued
JORDYN STEWART & JULIE DRING

and grow the organization's programming, and with that come successful applications that allow us to feel a sense of stability and confidence in supporting our programming and operational needs for the year ahead.

Throughout these reports, you'll read about some of the organization's major accomplishments. We can't talk about these successes without acknowledging the **collective** collaborative energies of Staff, Board, Chairs, Committees and Volunteers past and present. Thank you, everyone, for spending another year with **your** artist-run centre.





Table, Manors, Kareen-Anthony Ferreira. Exhibition view. March 26-May 14, 2022. Photo: Abedar Kamgari

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEREK JENKINS

In the post-pandemic period, Hamilton Artists Inc. continues to treat the effects of the pandemic as a concern but has developed internal policies and practices that minimize its impact on our programs. A combination of masking and mitigation protocols such as air cleaning and air quality monitoring has kept staff healthy and limited the strain leaves put on staff capacity. The flexibility afforded by hybrid deliveries and remote work options continue to benefit the reach of our programs and the flexibility of our labour conditions. Staff are better able to balance their workloads, and the geographical scope of involvement in board and committee positions has expanded.

The launch of our new website has only heightened the impact of this digital outreach, and, paired with consistent on-site activity has brought us back to and even surpassed pre-pandemic levels of membership and participation. We have an ever-increasing number of community partners such as the Disability Justice Network of Ontario, Melanin Market, Hamilton4Palestine, and the Hamilton Zine Machine, and we expect our approach to in-kind access to the space to increase and strengthen these connections.

The return of our SWARM member's exhibition, in concert with a new studio visit program, is strengthening our relationship with local artists. This flows into increasing board and committee participation. We will be

adding three new board members at our 2022-23 AGM. The presentation of our new strategic plan will allow us to shift focus to operational planning.

Staff restructuring has stabilized capacity and provided our fullest staff complement ever, with four permanent staff positions. The new position of Programming Coordinator has strengthened our programming team and will lead to greater outreach and participation. Normal board transitions will continue as executive board members fulfill their terms. Succession plans are in place for a smooth transition.

Operational planning will establish a path to our strategic goals, which we expect to strengthen community impact, deepen our ties to the local sector, and confirm our place as an exemplar of accessibility and anti-oppressive practices on the local and regional scene.

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Inner Dialogue, Angela Marino, Amanda McKinney Sparrow, and Vick Naresh. Installation view. March 26-May 14, 2022. Photo: Abedar Kamgari.

PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

SANAA HUMAYUN

This year at Hamilton Artists Inc was marked by incredibly big changes. The Inc said goodbye to Abedar Kamgari in December of 2022. Abedar brought a passion for critically engaged artistic programming to The Inc, and shifted its programming legacy in a fundamental way. I joined our team in March of 2023, mid-way through our programming year. My onboarding - both into this role and into this city, was cushioned by thoughtfulness of Derek Jenkins, John Hill, and Kristina Durka, all of whom facilitated incredible programming for the Inc. Derek's thoughtful onboarding introduced me not only to the organization's programming, and the role, but to artists, writers, and dreamers in the community - all of whom are essential to what we do here. Through their organization, passion, and talent, I was able to spend this first year growing into this role, and into this city. We welcomed Raavi Dillon/ Paige Paton and as our Artist-in-Residence/ Gallery Assistant - a yearly position funded by Young Canada Works. We also said a very grateful goodbye to Kristina Durka, our Programming Coordinator who gave the Inc so much creativity, patience, and reliability, for over 7 years. Kristina consistently organized strong exhibitions, carried so much of the Inc's institutional memory (and shared it freely) and went so far beyond what could be reasonably expected from her. The work she did with the Inc, and with the artists she worked with here, are an incredibly important part of our legacy.

Our programming at the Inc is split across two streams: exhibitions & public programming. In our Spring 2023 exhibitions began with Drop

Cloth by Swapnaa Tahmane, a nuanced, well researched textile and print installation exhibition investigating the destabilization of colonial constructs through historical references to printmaking. Anran Guo's Sometimes Guilty, Always Responsible. develop a discussion about the relationship between the role of individuals and social-political issues, from the aspect of censorship and self-censorship.

We juried an extremely competitive call, and welcomed Olivia Shortt as our new Indigenous Artist-in-Residence. Olivia's work balances humour and grief, through performance and drag. Their residency will culminate in an exhibition in September 2024. GROUP OF SEVEN R.I.P. (Remembering Inc. Pioneers), curated by Bryce Kanbara and Brian Johnston, delved into a slice of the Inc's history and some of the members who were integral to its past. This was the first exhibition I supported in my position here, and it was a wonderful way to learn about, and speak to some of the folks who have put so much into building community and artistic expression here at the Inc. Our Cannon Project wall features Mullyanne Nîmito amiskwaci-wâskahikan, by Cheyenne Rain LeGrande. This project was done in partnership with AKA Artist Run & Paved Arts, as part of a billboard exchange. Nîmito in nêhiyawêwin translates to she dances. Mullyanne Nîmito explores ideas around Nehiyaw alien, protection, movement as healing, ancestral knowledge, traditional practice and Nehiyaw fashion. Our programming year ended with Wormshop, by artist & practitioner of longing, Birdie Gerhl, and curated by Abedar, as a testament to the



PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR continued
SANAA HUMAYUN

artistic expression Abedar unapologetically prioritized. Birdie's very necessary work maps the Crip Horizon (a term coined by Sean Lee), not as a future dreamscape, but as a framework for today, for the ways we try and fail and dream together.

Our Public Programming began with a Workshop series done in collaboration with Trinity Square Video's incredible former team, featuring workshops by Tara Bursey and Holly Chang, and rooted in skill sharing and professional development for artists. In collaboration with Latitude 53, we hosted Ghosts of the Gallery, by Joni Cheung and Luke Johnson. In this series of co-creation workshops, Joni and Luke dug into the textual materials from the last 50 years, from an exploration of the archives of Latitude 53 and three host galleries in different cities. As part of the Inc's participation, Joni and Luke invited in Hamilton's Zine Club, hosted by Sonali Menezes and Mariel Rutherford, to co-host the workshop, and to think about narratives of belonging in Hamilton. This summer our Public Programs Coordinator, John Hill, ran our 2023 Incoming! Program. John led a cohort of artists: Aichoucha Haidara, Christian Ngabo, Jessica Rodriguez, and Isabel Diana, each of whom developed a piece of writing that set to become a publication, releasing in the spring of 2024. This programming year also saw a new and ongoing relationship with Jeff Chow (Dunaway) and Places Collective. Places underwent a workshop series thinking about demystifying DJ practices, teaching not only the technical basics, but also how to use this practice as a form of community

building, specifically to create space to center those who have been pushed to the margins through playful, accessible programming.

I feel incredibly lucky and thankful to have joined the team at the Inc, as well as an artistic community in Hamilton that feels so restorative, so collaborative, and so fruitful. This year at the Inc was spent, in many ways, planting together. I'm so excited to see what grows.





Destabilization: The Colour of Our Skin, Heidi McKenzie and Shantel Miller. Exhibition view. June 10 – July 15, 2022. Photo: Grant Alan Holt.

PROGRAMMING TIMELINE

February 2021-August 2022

Indigenous Curator in Residence: Alex Jacobs-Blum

July 6, 2021-March 15, 2022

Through My Eyes: Shabnam Afrand, Arif Bahaduri, Cemile Kaçmaz, Soyeon Kim, and Mariana Topfstedt

Off-site banner installation at James and Wilson parkette.

Part of the Incoming! Program for refugee, newcomer, and immigrant artists

May 6, 2021-May 29, 2022

Take Care: Karice Mitchell

Cannon Project Wall installation

Publication essay by Nya Lewis

Related Programming:

November 29: In Conversation: Karice Mitchell and Nya Lewis

August 28-November 20, 2021

the space in which we have dissolved: Brendan Hendry, Jessy Kitchen, and Eli Nolet

Curated by Alexis Moline

James Gallery exhibition

Related Programming:

November 18, 2021: Closing reception and publication launch

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PROGRAMMING TIMELINE continued

August 28-November 20, 2021

Radiant Temperature of Openings: Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour, and Ryan Ferko

Cannon Gallery exhibition

Related Programming:

New edition and dissemination of 2015 publication with contributions from Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour, and Ryan Ferko, as well as Felix Kalmenson, and Aisha Sasha John

September 30-October 3, 2021

Survivance

Online screening in participation with CFMDC

Participating Artists:

Terry J. Jones, Thirza Cuthand, Natalie King, Rob Fatal, JJ Neepin & Justina Neepin, Lindsay McIntyre, Justin Ducharme

November 29, 2021

Annual Giving Campaign

February 4-March 12, 2022

Ignition 10: Online Artist Showcase

Hamilton Artists Inc.'s Award for Distinction in the McMaster and Waterloo Visual Art Programs

Exhibiting Artists:

Hanan Abbas, Santosh Chandrasekar, Wen Li, PauTheRebel (in collaboration with pak)

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PROGRAMMING TIMELINE continued

Related Programming:

February 5: Online Launch Party and Awards Ceremony, featuring INC. spots artist talks

February 2022

Depression Cooking: A Zine by Sonali Menezes

Provided support to artist Sonali Menezes to print and disseminate Depression Cooking Zine in partnership with ArtsEverywhere and Publication Studio Guelph

Special Project

Related Programming:

February 23: Virtual dinner and celebration of Depression Cooking with Sonali Menezes, and housemates Elia Hamelin and Sahra Soudi.

February 15-26, 2022

Artwork Documentation Appointments

Membership opportunity to document artwork in a gallery setting presented in partnership with Factory Media Centre

February 26, 2022

Annual General Meeting 2020-21

March 2022-23

Micro-Grants: Olivia Brouwer, Cait Gautron, Taras Hemon, Clairandean Humphrey, K. MacNeil, Ignazio Colt Nicastro, Steven Schmid and Abigail Whitney

Awarded six cash microgrants of \$500 and two FMC credits \$1000 to eight member artists of Hamilton Artists Inc. and Factory Media Centre for artistic production

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PROGRAMMING TIMELINE continued

March 26-May 14, 2022

Table Manors: Kareem-Anthony Ferreria

Cannon Gallery exhibition

Publication by Raquel Rowe

Related Programming:

April 9, 2022: Contemporary Art Bus Tour in partnership with Art Gallery of Burlington and Art Gallery of Hamilton

March 26-May 14, 2022

Inner Dialogue: Angela Marino, Amanda McKinney Sparrow, and Vick Naresh

James Gallery exhibition

Digital essay by Eva Morrison

April 20, 2022

Birdie: The Poetry of Welcome to my Regulated Body

Online gathering in partnership with Art Windsor-Essex, Centre[3], and Tangled Art + Disability.

Culmination and celebration of Birdie's long-term residency and internship at Hamilton Artists Inc. between 2020-22, funded in part by Young Canada Works.

In the form of a poetry reading, Birdie explores the role of audio description in her disability art practice rooted in the work of access intimacy, creative access and the crip horizon.

May 21-28, 2022

Keeping Six Arts Collective: Artists on the inside, living on the outside

James Gallery pop-up exhibition

Keeping Six Arts Collective: Alan, Amanda, Amber, Ammy, Cameron, Cynthia, Dani Delottinville, Daniel, Darcy, Douglas, Dustin G, Dutch,

CONTINUED



PROGRAMMING TIMELINE continued

Ella, Hannah, Heather, Jammy, Jay J, Jody Ans, Karen, Kristen, Malcolm, Mallory, Mike P, Minnie, MJ, Noel, Patrick, Paula, Randy, Rusty, Shannon, Sherri, Storm, Suzie, Talon, Tara Lynn, Tyler, Tyrone, Wes.

June 10 – August 13, 2022

Born Celestial: Kaya Joan, Natalie King, Nicole Neidhardt, Celeste Pedri-Spade

Performances by Danielle Boissoneau and Chyler Sewell

Curated by Alex Jacobs-Blum

Cannon Gallery exhibition

Publication by Alex Jacobs-Blum with writing by Danielle Boissoneau and Chyler Sewell

June 10 – August 13, 2022

Destabilization: The Colour of Our Skin: Heidi McKenzie and Shantel Miller

James Gallery exhibition

Digital essay by Kitoko Mai

Summer Related Programming:

June 23: Opening Reception

July 20: Born Celestial Performance Night

June 30, 2022-May 29, 2023

same problem my father had and what he dreamed: Yan Wen Chang

Cannon Project Wall installation

July 20-August 12, 2022

Turf Wars: Atticus Gordon, Eyrn O'Neill, Violeta San Juan

James Gallery exhibition

Digital essay by Ella Taylor

CONTINUED



PROGRAMMING TIMELINE

August 22, 2022

Mystery Mail Postcard Packages 2022

Artists: John Hill, Jordyn Stewart, Mark Prier, Rachelle Wunderink, Sarah Sproule and images from the Hamilton Artists Inc. archives

August 2-November 1, 2022

Urban Moorings Two: Public Art Project

Exhibiting Artists: Alex Jacobs-Blum, Christopher McLeod, Tor Lukasik-Foss, Nathan Eugene Carson, and Nora Hutchinson

Co-Curated by Nora Hutchinson and Alexis Moline

Publication by Nora Hutchinson and Alexis Moline, in partnership with Royal Botanical Gardens

August 27-October 29, 2022

If this is the party I want, you may not be part of it: Jennifer Chan, Fang Di, Will Kwan, Alvin Luong, Midi Onodera, Rah, Karen Tam

Curated by Henry Heng Lu

Cannon Gallery exhibition

Publication by Henry Heng Lu

August 27, – October 29, 2022

Who's Your Dadi?: Meera Sethi

James Gallery exhibition

Publication by Laila Malik

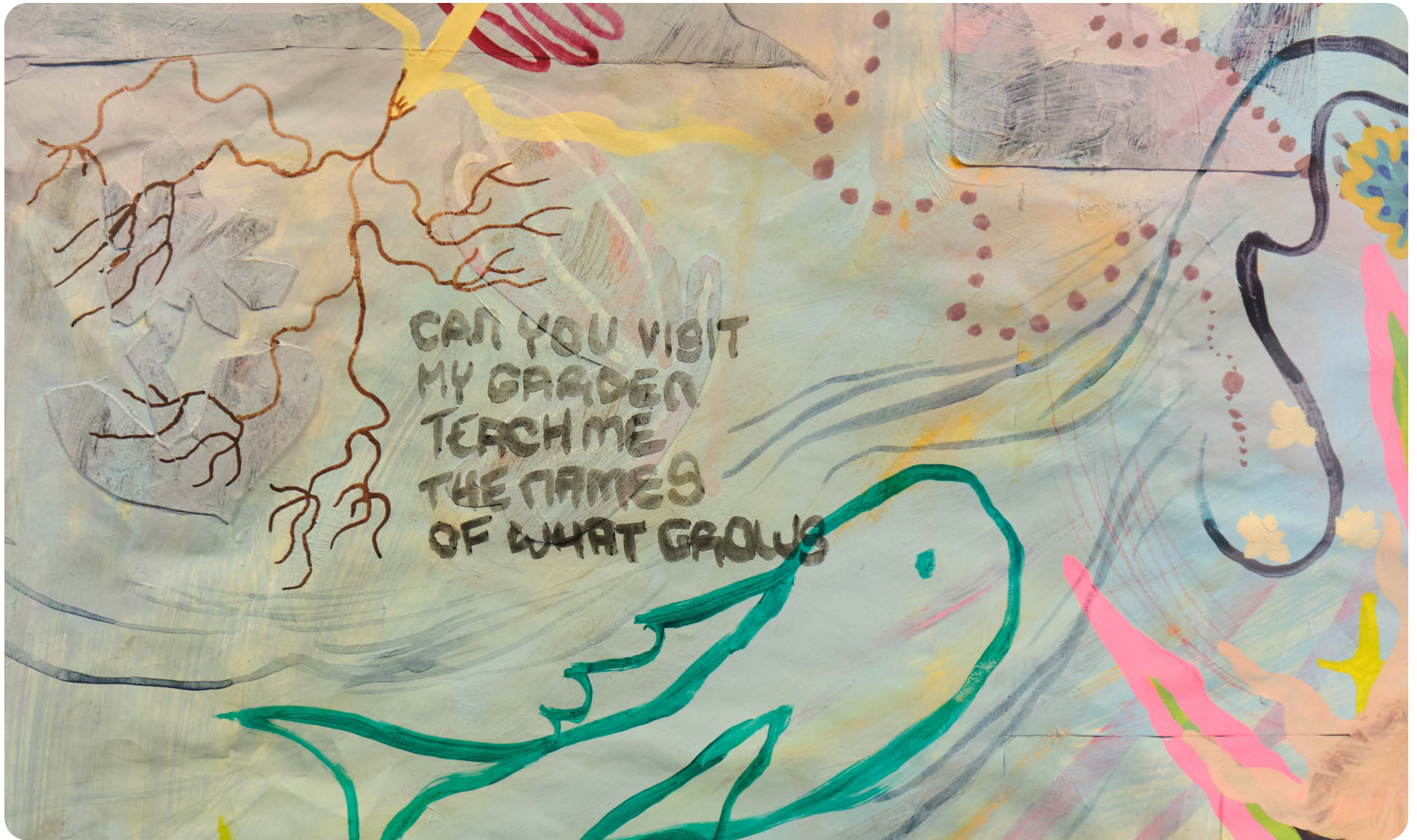
Fall Related Programming:

August 27: Opening reception

September 9-11: Supercrawl

September 24: Art Bus Tour in partnership with Art Gallery of Burlington, McMaster Museum of Art, and Workers Arts and Heritage Centre.





Born Celestial, Kaya Joan, Natalie King, Nicole Neidhardt, Celeste Pedri-Spade. Exhibition detail view. June 10 – August 13, 2022.
Photo: Abedar Kamgari

The Blue Hush

HAMILTON ARTISTS INC. 143 JAMES ST. N. 529-3355

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Wie generalische ist es?)

On October 5 at the Annual General Membership Meeting, the 1981-82 Board of Directors was elected. Events of the past operating year were reviewed by the retiring Board.

Major renovations gave the gallery a new fresh look. A second floor gallery doubled exhibition space, and track lighting, curtains and paint brightened up the main floor. The Community Involvement Committee, formed to deal with public relations, represented the Inc. before City Council concerning the 'Sunset' Clause, and made a submission to the Cultural Review Commission. A Selection Committee was instituted to review exhibition proposals and OAC Materials Assistance Grants applications. Monthly film evenings, including two BYOF (Bring your own film) sessions were held during the past year. Due to the success of these evenings, the film group is expanding to the area of Experimental Film under the name Zone Cinema. A successful print and junkie sale was held during 1981. Retiring Treasurer Sharon Monte was happy to report that 1980-81 has financially been the best year the Inc. has had, but reminds us that with escalating expenses, fundraising will have to be a more consistent effort during 1981-82. The retiring Board thanks Gord White for his work as administrator during 1981 and wishes new administrator Jewel Foster and the new Board a successful year.

SEMINAR SERIES

On Tuesday September 8, Jim Chambers presented the first seminar, discussing photographing works of art. It was very informative, organized, and included a display of photographic equipment. There is a summary sheet that Jim Chambers provided on file at the Inc., available for members to study or copy.

The second seminar was presented by Steve Lemon, preparator at the AGH. It was an interesting, informal discussion covering topics such as museum quality conservation, framing materials and tips, as well as a little background to the workings of the AGH.

Hugh Galloway will present the last seminar in this series on Tuesday, October 27, after our mailing deadline. His topic is "Artists' Materials and Sources".

FUNDRAISING

It's that lean time of year again. The grant application has gone in to OAC, but no \$\$\$ has arrived. A letter has gone out to all those whose membership renewals are up between now and December asking for early renewal and donations no matter how small. We've tightened our belt at the Inc. and asked people to wait for money we owe them. Our administrator has kindly agreed to work without pay for two months. Still we need help. If you can contribute anything we'd certainly appreciate it.

We have several fundraising projects in the tentative planning stage for next year. Any members who have ideas or who would like to work on the fundraising committee should call the Inc.

INC. ABOUT TOWN

Donna Ibing
"Eve and Adam" Watercolours, acrylics, woodcuts.

Old Bronte Post Office Gallery
86 Bronte Road South, Oakville
October 23 - November 8

Bryce Kanbara
Collages. Art Gallery of Hamilton
October 15 - November 15

Mavis Ehler
"Reflections" Terra cotta sculpture
purchased by the Library Board.
Foyer, Hamilton Central Library

Evelyn Diemert, Pat Kozowyk, Ruth Nabh,
Doreen Wilson
CROC show

Art Gallery of Hamilton
October 15 - November 15

Brian Johnston
Woodcuts published in Rampike Magazine

Debbie Heatherington
Two covers for Origins Magazine

EDITORIAL CENSORSHIP CENSORSHIP CENSORSHIP

"How is it then that film culture, a phenomenon of the industrialized 20th century, may be owned, controlled and regulated by the few? How is it that film culture, in our present society, is now viewed largely in terms of its ability to garner power and profit as a vehicle for short-term speculation? How is it that the fine arts of film, the heart of film culture, are now regulated to a near-ghetto status of impoverishment, censorship and silence? How is it then that Canadian film culture can survive?"
Al Razutis

Film and video artists produce work which cannot legally be made available to the general public, the arts community, or even to groups of other film and video artists without being subject to prior censorship by the Ontario Board of Censors (OBC). Take some time to consider this awesome fact: to imagine the outrage and action it would lead to should it apply to your work as watercolourist, as sculptor, as poet, actor, musician or dancer. But it doesn't. Only film and video, commercial or non-commercial, whether produced for profit, for information, for entertainment, or as part of someone's artistic practice, have this regulative constraint imposed upon them.

Until recently, the OBC had ignored filmmaking and video produced by artists, but in the last 18 months has asserted its authority, in some of the most weirdly absurd machinations ever conceived by a government agency, over exhibiting spaces which it previously had never approached - art galleries, artist-run centres, film and/or video co-ops, etc. Central to these interventions has been the work of Vancouver filmmaker, Al Razutis, especially his film *A Message From Our Sponsor*. It's a film about the sexual and violent underinnings of North American commercial life, and contains a few second-long clips from pornographic films. Because these images are intolerable to the OBC, we cannot see this film in Ontario, nor can we see the two-hour film cycle *America* of which it is a nine-minute part.

I saw *America* in Buffalo recently. Although it is one of the most powerful pieces of cinema I've ever seen, it didn't make me want to rape my sister, expose myself to my landlord, or be cruel to my goldfish. Rather it made me want to smash the sort of provinciality, small-mindedness and ignorance that we are continually required to swallow in our culture. It is a powerful, a political, a revolutionary film: perhaps that is why we are not permitted to see it.

For information about what you can do to register your opposition to the OBC and its powers, consult the censorship file now kept at the Inc. or write to:
FILM AND VIDEO AGAINST CENSORSHIP (F.A.V.A.C.) / 299 Queen St. W., Toronto M.C.

EXHIBITART '82 UPDATE

Letters have been going to HARAC from members and others expressing opposition to entry fees. Replies have come as FORM letters espousing the policy of user pays. The problem with art exhibitions lies with defining the user.

The Visual Arts Committee met Oct. 13 and reaffirmed the decision to proceed with the entry fees policy (one dissentation). Ron Deans, the new chairperson of the committee, attended an Inc. board meeting on Oct. 14 to state the committee's position. Stalemate has set in. We are opposed in principle to the policy of entry fees. The committee is determined to have them in this show. We have no further comment.

LETTER

Please renew my membership. I have enclosed a cheque for \$14. - 2 years membership. Keep up the good work.

Your newsletters are informative and it looks as though you are doing good work. More and better shows, a presence at city hall, lecture series, BLUE HUSH, etc.

yours truly,
Michael Handziuk, Toronto.

MEMBERSHIP

| | |
|------------|---------|
| GENERAL | \$ 7.00 |
| ARTIST | 15.00 |
| SUPPORTING | 20.00 |

NEW BOARD

The following members were elected to the Inc. board at the October General Meeting: Evelyn Barland, Steve Borton, Mike Cartmell, Jewel Foster, Dan Jiani, Bryce Kanbara, Brian Kelly, Pat Kozowyk and Sam Robinson.

The next board meeting will be held at the Inc. on November 29 (Thursday) at 8 pm. Members are welcome to attend this and any other monthly board meeting.

The BLUE HUSH Committee would like more input from members in the form of articles and suggestions. For information about writing articles for the BLUE HUSH call the Inc. Deadline for the next issue is December 5.

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PRODUCTION THIS ISSUE: Mike Cartmell, Jewel Foster, Brian Kelly, Pat Kozowyk, Sharon Monte, Sam Robinson, Lynne Hiltshire.

2 PRINTED BY: Rapid Blue Print

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

SANAA HUMAYUN

Current Members: Nicole Clouston, Dominic Pinney, Danica Evering, Bhavika Sharma, Alexandria Holm (committee chair), Caitlyn De Groot, Rachelle Wunderink, Sarah Sproule, Tyler Matheson, Sanaa Humayun (as staff)

The work the programming committee does at Hamilton Artists Inc is fundamental - the programming that the Inc develops relies on the expertise and input of the committee. This year especially, the committee members' institutional memory, time, and labour, were deeply valuable as we navigated transition across the programming team. In addition to supporting the Programming Director's onboarding, and supporting programming decisions This year the committee sat on and oversaw two critical juries: the Cannon Gallery's 2025-27 jury, and the James Gallery's 2023-24 jury. Through these juries the committee has supported the Inc's history of excellence, and invited 15 new artists to become part of its legacy. Special thanks to Dominic Pinney, Rachelle Wunderink, Caitlyn De Groot, and Tyler Matheson, for taking part in these juries.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

DEREK JENKINS

Current Members:

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I SIT IN YOUR PASSENGER SEAT
AND YOU DRIVE JUST LIKE
MY FATHER
WHO DRIVES TO LEAVE BEHIND
THE WEIGHT OF THE PAST
WE BOTH NO LONGER
WANT TO REMEMBER.

THE MOON, FAST CARS
YOUR HEADLIGHTS WERE
STARS

YOUR GUN WAS LOADED
HUNDRED BILLS FOLDED
I LIT YOUR CIGARETTE.

I WANT TO SAY TO YOU:
TAKE ME BACK TO MY
HOME TONIGHT.

I KNOW
I MUST BE CRAZY TO
ASK YOU FOR THIS
YOU JUST DON'T KNOW
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW
WHERE I'M FROM
WHAT I'VE OVERCOME
I SUFFERED AND
I SACRIFICED
I WANT A
BETTER LIFE.

I KNOW
I MUST BE CRAZY
BECAUSE
I NEVER LOSE SIGHT
I NEVER LOSE HOPE
THAT THE NEXT
DESTINATION
MIGHT WELCOME
ME HOME.
I CALLED MY MOTHER AT 4 AM
IT IS 4 P/M WHERE SHE LIVES
AND
I TOLD HER
THAT YOU DRIVE THE SAME
WAY MY FATHER DRIVES
WHO DRIVES TO LEAVE BEHIND
THE WEIGHT OF THE PAST
WE BOTH NO LONGER
WANT TO REMEMBER.

SHE SAID MY FATHER
DRIVES TO FORGET THAT
HE SUFFERED
AND
HE SACRIFICED BECAUSE
HE WANTED A BETTER LIFE.
SHE SAID
HE NEVER LOST SIGHT
HE NEVER LOST HOPE
THAT THE NEXT
DESTINATION
WOULD CARRY US HOME
SHE SAID SHE'S ALWAYS KNOWN

THAT I HAVE THE
SAME PROBLEM MY FATHER HAD

AND
WHAT HE
DREAMED.

same problem my father had and what he dreamed, Yan Wen Chang. Cannon Project Wall installation. June 30, 2022-May 29, 2023.
Photo: Kristina Durka



Turf Wars, Atticus Gordon, Eryn O'Neill, Violeta San Juan. Exhibition view: detail of work by Atticus Gordon. July 20 – August 13, 2022.
Photo: Abedar Kamgari.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

JOHN HILL

Current Members: Arturo Jimenez, Kyle Wyndham-West, and John Hill as staff.

Past Members: Tyler Matheson, Jaycee Tu.

Hamilton Artists Inc. has seen a steady increase in audiences both online and offline. The trend of sustained audience growth repeated in 2023. With climbing in-person attendance and social media impressions, the Inc. acknowledges the benefits of a stable but flexible social media strategy.

In 2023, the Inc. unveiled our new website, created by web design firm Co&Co. The website is a modern, adaptable, and accessible home for the Inc. We wish to thank Tyler Matheson and Jaycee Tu for their help with the website redesign. The website will offer a versatile platform with which the Inc may continue to promote our programming including special events, exhibitions, and workshops.

As our online and in-person audience grows year-by-year, the Inc. will produce relevant, accessible, and meaningful communications. We commit to reducing barriers to the arts for our community, partners, and artists at all levels of our operations, including communications and outreach.





If this is the party I want, you may not be part of it, Jennifer Chan, Fang Di, Will Kwan, Alvin Luong, Midi Onodera, Rah, Karen Tam. Curated by Henry Heng Lu. August 27, – October 29, 2022. Exhibition view.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

DEREK JENKINS

Current members: Samuel de Lange and Derek Jenkins as staff.

Our facility remains one of our organization's greatest assets. Over the course of the fiscal year, we came in under budget on necessary maintenance or repairs. While we plan on major improvements in the upcoming year, including a new lighting system, the facility itself is in good working order and promises to continue to develop into a gem in the downtown core.

Because we now have the largest staff complement in the history of the organization, our office space required reworking. New programming director Sanaa Humayun designed a new open plan which provided ample desk space for existing staff, as well as interns, co-op students and visiting board members. Facilities chair Samuel de Lange assisted with install.

Additionally, we improved amenities in the kitchenette, with new tableware and a reasonably priced espresso maker, rendering staff's return full time to the office much more welcoming.

2024 will see upgrades to our security as our provider transitions to a new system, as well as regular upgrades to our fire safety controls.

Tagging on the exterior walls continues to be a battle, with continued attention from bylaw officers as a result. Plans are in place to renew the street art in our courtyard space, with an upcoming wheat pasting workshop and related public programming.





Who's Your Dadi?, Meera Sethi. August 27-October 29, 2022. Exhibition view. Photo: Abedar Kamgari.

FINANCIAL REPORT

DIANNE TWOMBLY AND DEREK JENKINS

Like many organizations, Hamilton Artists Inc. received significant support from the federal, provincial, and local governments during the pandemic. Paired with constrained services during lockdowns, the Inc. was left with a significant accumulated surplus which we have used to build internal capacity for fundraising and development over the intervening years, budgeting for planned deficits while growing staff capacity and programs.

In fiscal year 2024, the Inc. is well-positioned to proceed from a position of strength and sustainability. We have budgeted for a small deficit while reorganizing our staffing structure and programming priorities to maintain a balanced budget and reserve strategy which represents a minimum three-month operating expenses going forward. In 2024, we will learn more about the impact of increased fundraising and in-person event revenues over an entire FY.

Because of this reserve strategy, we are at low risk for cash-flow problems. At the same time, we have developed stretch budget strategies for any contingencies and unplanned costs. Our Fundraising and Development Committee is currently carrying out plans for new revenue streams (including a revised rental program and merchandising strategy), in-kind partnerships, and fund development.

2022-23 marked the final year of our three-year Canada Council for the Arts Public Outreach composite grant. In fiscal year 2024, we are in the first year of a new three-year Concept to Realization composite grant

(\$300,000) from the Canada Council, and we expect continued year-over-year support from Hamilton's City Enrichment Fund, which awarded us a 5.5% increase in 2022-2023. We have been repeatedly successful in applications to Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs for supplementary staffing needs. The Incite Foundation increased our funding by 20% for 2023 and has committed to this amount through 2025. This ongoing support will allow us to maintain programming and operating expenses as planned for the current fiscal year and request year.

Following our AGM, we will consolidate our Special Events and Fundraising Committee and Development Committee. These committees have been sharing professional development opportunities over the past two years, following a Capacity Grant from the Hamilton City Enrichment Fund. These collaborative experiences encouraged us to partner these teams so that we can align our approaches. In 2024, we have already developed new partnerships with Reif Winery, and Collective Arts Brewery to enhance our events and receptions.

Support from bingo fundraising has stabilized in the post-pandemic era, with revenues at pre-pandemic levels (24k per annum). Our regular rentals have increased year over year, and we also use in-kind rentals to strengthen partnership and outreach programs. Membership revenue continues to rise as we build new audiences through outreach programs



FINANCIAL REPORT

DIANNE TWOMBLY AND DEREK JENKINS

and continue pre-pandemic membership benefits like our annual member's show, SWARM. Merchandise sales are slowly climbing and should continue to rise as we diversify our unique artist-designed offerings in partnership with the programming committee.

Hamilton Artists Inc. has exited the thick of the pandemic era in a strong financial position. We have grown our staff complement, built internal capacity and board and committee levels, and followed a careful and conservative plan to establish suitable reserves. We have full confidence in the sustainability of our programs and services provided the continued support of our funders.



Hamilton Artists Inc.
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
October 2021 through September 2022*

*UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

| 2021 2022 Budget vs Actuals | | | Approved Budget 2021-2022 | 2021 2022 Actuals |
|-----------------------------|--------|--|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | | |
| | Income | | | |
| | | 4029 - AEF (Arts Endowment Fund) | 785.00 | 735 |
| | | 4000 - Subsidies & Grants | | |
| | | 4001 - Provincial Grants | 61,100.00 | 64040 |
| | | 4002 - Federal Grants | 130,021.41 | 108351 |
| | | 4003 - Local Government Grants | 65,303.00 | 64140 |
| | | 4014 - Foundation and Trust Grants | 17,500.00 | 20000 |
| | | 4100 - Corporate and Business Grants | | |
| | | Total 4000 - subsidies & grants | 273,924.41 | 256,531.00 |
| | | 4005 - Donations | | |
| | | 4006 - Sponsor Donations | 8,400.00 | 1700 |
| | | 4005 - Donations - Other | 4,000.00 | 2244 |
| | | Total 4005 - donations | 12,400.00 | 3,944.00 |
| | | 4007 - Memberships | 6,000.00 | 6453 |
| | | 4015 - Fundraising Income | | |
| | | 4008 - Bingo Fundraising | 14,000.00 | 22040 |
| | | 4017 - Special Events Fundraising | 5,000.00 | |
| | | 4015 - Fundraising Income - Other | | 25 |
| | | Total 4000 - fundraising income | 19,000.00 | 22,065.00 |
| | | 4280 - Other Types of Income | | |
| | | 4460 - Miscellaneous Revenue | | 10000 |
| | | 4280 - Other Types of Income - Other | | |
| | | 4028 - Rentals | 2,000.00 | |
| | | Total Income | 314,109.41 | 299,728.00 |

CONTINUED

Hamilton Artists Inc.
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
October 2021 through September 2022*

*UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 5400 · Exhibition Expenses | | | |
| | 5460 · Installation | | 8,963.00 |
| | 5550 · Publicity | | |
| | | 5520 · Receptions | \$1,975 |
| | | 5416 · Catalogues | \$3,150 |
| | | 5500 · Advertising | \$2,150 |
| | | 5550 · Publicity - Other | |
| | Total 5550 · Publicity | | 7,275.00 |
| | 5415 · Artist Fees | | |
| | | 5420 · Artist Talk / Performance F | \$1,980 |
| | | 5431 · Community Programming | \$15,870 |
| | | 5410 · Curatorial Fees | \$12,500 |
| | | 5430 · Writing Fees | \$4,100 |
| | | 5418 · Artist Exhibition Fees | \$22,400 |
| | | 5415 · Artist Fees - Other | \$400 |
| | Total 5415 · Artist Fees | | 57,250.00 |
| | 5570 · Shipping | | \$3,186 |
| | 5560 · Travel & Accomodations | | \$4,551 |
| | 5400 · Exhibition Expenses - Other | | |
| Total 5400 · Exhibition Expenses | | | 81,225.00 |

CONTINUED

Hamilton Artists Inc.
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
October 2021 through September 2022*

*UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| 5000 · Operations/Admin | | | |
| | 5130 · Building Improvements | 1,000.00 | |
| | 5170 · Accessibility | 15,775.00 | 10,374.00 |
| | 5347 · Volunteer Expense | 400.00 | 116 |
| | 5030 · Bank & Interest Charges | | |
| | 5011 · Paypal Fees | 350.00 | 189 |
| | 5030 · Bank & Interest Charges - | 250.00 | 361 |
| | Total 5030 · Bank & Interest Charges | 600.00 | 550.00 |
| | 5045 · Rentals Expense | | |
| | 5050 · Fundraising Expense | 4,500.00 | 845 |
| | 5060 · Fundraising Fees (Bingo) | 3,000.00 | 1300 |
| | 5100 · Insurance | 6,800.00 | 7626 |
| | 5110 · Repairs & Maintenance | 4,000.00 | 6798 |
| | 5120 · Cleaning & Janitorial Services | 1,400.00 | 1445 |
| | 5150 · Postage, Mailing Service | 850.00 | 672 |
| | 5160 · Office & General | 5,000.00 | 6102 |
| | 5222 · Marketing & Advertising | 1,000.00 | 6327 |
| | 5032 · Bookkeeping | 0.00 | |
| | 5230 · Professional & Accounting Fees | 6,800.00 | 8343 |

CONTINUED

Hamilton Artists Inc.
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
October 2021 through September 2022*

*UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

| | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | | 5260 · Salaries & Wages | | |
| | | | 5295 · Casual labour | 18,000.00 |
| | | | 5270 · CPP Expense | 7,672.30 |
| | | | 5280 · EI Expense | 4,079.49 |
| | | | 5290 · WSIB Expense | 433.99 |
| | | | 5265 · Salaries & Wages | 154,995.98 |
| | | 5260 · Salaries & Wages - Other | | 5,750.00 |
| | | 6600 · Payroll Expenses | | 190,931.76 |
| | | 5310 · Security | | 750.00 |
| | | 5315 · Board/Staff Development | | 10,575.00 |
| | | 5320 · Subscriptions & Dues | | 1,440.00 |
| | | 5330 · Telephone & Internet | | 1,600.00 |
| | | 5335 · Gas & Hydro | | 5,000.00 |
| | | 5337 · Property Tax | | 7,500.00 |
| | | 5000 · Operations/Admin - Other | | |
| | | Total 5000 · Operations/Admin | | 268,921.76 |
| | | 69800 · Uncategorized Expenses | | |
| | | Total Expense | | 350,146.76 |
| | | Net Ordinary Income | | (38,037.35) |



Urban Moorings Two, Nathan Eugene Carson, Alex Jacobs-Blum, Tor Lukasik-Foss, Christopher McLeod & Nora Hutchinson. Curated by Nora Hutchinson & Alexis Moline. Installation view of work by Alex Jacobs-Blum on the waters of Cootes Paradise. August 2-November 1, 2022. Photo: Cody King.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

CORE STAFF

Abedar Kamgari – Programming Director

Derek Jenkins – Executive Director

John Hill – Public Programs Coordinator

Kristina Durka – Programming Assistant / Rental Coordinator

CONTRACT STAFF

Birdie Gehrl – Artist-in-Residence; Gallery Assistant

Bhavika Sharma – Artist-in-Residence

Lodoe Laura Haines-Wangda – Project Archivist

Brianna Seferiades – Project Archivist; Interim Programming Assistant

Julie Dring – Operations and Finance Consultant

AS ALWAYS WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS!

Allie Gingerich, Adrienne Crossman, Alejandro Tamayo, Arturo Jimenez, Avery Brooks-Joiner, Amy Poole, Alisha Kuipers, Bhavika Sharma, Birdie, Bojana Videkanic, Brianna Seferiades, Charles Star, Danica Evering, Dianne Twombly, Elsa Brittin Howieson, Hannah Mostert, Irene Loughlin, Jay Blackwood, Kiera Boulton, Laura Marotta, Laura Palumbo, Lauren Harnish, Linda Columbus, Lydia Santia, Mark Prier, Nicole Clouston, Sara Ghahremani, Setareh Masoumbeiki, Shauna Margaret, Taien Ng-Chan, Taras Beha, Yara El Safi



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Incoming:

Elsa Brittin (Joined December 2022)

Dianne Twombly (Joined December 2022)

Sam de Lange (Joined December 2022)

Breanna Shanahan (Joined January 2023)

Renewing for a second term:

Jordyn Stewart (Joined October 2020, elected at 2020 AGM, 2nd term began October 2022)

Returning:

Ashley Watson (Joined November 2019, elected at 2019 AGM)

Sarah Sproule (Joined October 2019, elected at 2019 AGM)

Erica Mogentale (Joined March 2021, elected at 2021 AGM)

Jaycee Tu (Joined November, 2021, elected at 2021 AGM)

Tyler Matheson (Joined July 2021, elected at 2021 AGM)

Jeannie Kim (Joined March 2021, elected at 2021 AGM)

Rachelle Wunderink (Joined January 2022, elected at 2021 AGM)

Outgoing:

Ayda Ghaffari (Joined July 2021, elected at 2021 AGM)

Heather Kanabe (Joined September 2021, elected at 2021 AGM)





View of the Art Bus Tour. September 24, 2022. Photo: Abedar Kamgari.

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Service Canada - Enabling Accessibility Fund

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Gillian Chang, Claire Barnett

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Illustration: Jess Hannigan





Born Celestial Performance

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Thank You!



