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October 13, 2021: Director/Curator's Report

September has started to witness an increase of visitors to the Gallery to match the increase of activity. On the heels of a very successful virtual Taste of Art in a Box / Fall Exhibitions Opening the Education Department successfully hosted the first in-person Creative PA DAY program on September 24.

Moving forward the Gallery will now be offering a blend of virtual and in-person programming. This include the upcoming webinar scheduled for Thursday, October 14 @ 3pm, in partnership with Woodstock Museum and Oxford County Archives, marking the 10th anniversary of the Gallery being housed in the John White Building. Another in- person Creative PA Day will run on Friday November 12 and the Education Department is ready to launch both in-person and virtual options for the Team Building Workshops and Birthday Art Party Program. The Gallery has also secured a new tour app called StQry to build in new digital experiences in our exhibitions. This will roll out in February 2022 with the new suite of exhibitions.

Another new face will be joining the Gallery's team on Friday October 15 in the role of Curatorial/Collections Assistant. Reilly Knowles is the Western University student who just completed his BFA and is currently working on a minor in Public History. He will be working closely with Nell Wheal, Head of Collections.

As mentioned at our last Board Meeting the Collections Committee meeting was held on September 13 and all the follow up paperwork has been completed or is in process. The committee accepted 13 works of art as gifts, and also accepted the purchase of two paintings by Indigenous Artist (Woodstock born) Lee Claremont. Preparation has also begun for upcoming collections committee meeting on November 15 and a submission was recently made to the Canadian Cultural Property Review Board to certify two sculptures by Patrick Thibert.



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The 2021 Grand National Fibre Art Exhibition hosted by the Woodstock Art Gallery and will be on view at the Woodstock Museum NHS beginning Oct. 16, 2021 and run to February 26, 2022.

Sara Cuthbert, Gallery Operations Coordinator has been active at the front desk sending out membership renewal notices. New works by Roxanne Tochor have been added to the Gift Shop's inventory. She is also working with the National Gallery of Canada's Gift Shop to have them carry the Carlyle Calendar in support of the exhibition *Canada and Impressionism: New Horizons* that runs from January 21 - June 12, 2022.

The contract to finally fix the Gallery's roof has been awarded. Construction will take place this fall and will interrupt the HVAC system for a time period. It is not clear if the Gallery will require to be closed during this time. Depending on the length of time the HVAC system is off line, Kellen Hodgins, Facility Maintenance, can manually level off the humidity and temperature levels of the vault with a combination of fans, humidifier and dehumidifiers.

Grants have been submitted this month to the Museums Assistance Program – Reopening Fund for Heritage Organizations, Oxford Community Foundation and the United Way. This month the Gallery will be making application to the Museums Assistance Program – Digital Access to Heritage program to build organizational capacity through the development of a digitization strategy.

Robin De Angelis, Cultural Communications Coordinator keeps the Gallery ever present in the media as per the recent media listing below. She is currently working with graphic designer Andrea deBoer on the roll out of the new logo in all its formats and uses for 2022.



Woodstock
Art Gallery

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RECENT MEDIA:

Heart FM, "WAG unveils new logo and announces juried exhibition winners." September 16, 2021. <http://www.heartfm.ca/news/local-news/wag-unveils-new-logo-and-announces-juried-exhibition-winners/>

Barbara Geernaert, *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*, "Woodstock Art Gallery: a new logo and a new season." September 17, 2021. <https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/entertainment/woodstock-art-gallery-a-new-logo-and-a-new-season>

Heart FM, "Artist applications still being accepted for Woodstock sculpture garden." September 21, 2021. <http://www.heartfm.ca/news/local-news/artist-applications-still-being-accepted-for-woodstock-sculpture-garden/>

Mary Reid, *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*, "Public art takes shape in Woodstock." September 30, 2021. <https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/opinion/public-art-takes-shape-in-woodstock>