



THE PRAIRIE ART GALLERY

2009/10 ANNUAL REPORT

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SUMMARY

17,765 visited the Gallery

2,553 students were visited by the Gallery

77,798 visited the Gallery's travelling exhibitions

3,005 school children participated in gallery programs

At least 359 artistic & cultural events were held by the Gallery

217 volunteers donated at least 2394 hours

277 current members

37,347 visits to the website

\$985,000 raised for endowment

All this while being closed to the public for 72 days from April 1 to June 11 (20% of the year)

INSPIRATION

In 2009/10, we worked to inspire the community and the region by offering free year-round interactive activities for all ages[1], by partnering in four community-wide festivals[2], by leading 42 tours and 37 public programs[3], by visiting 2206 students in their classrooms[4], by touring 19 travelling exhibitions to 33 communities[5], by presenting eleven exhibitions in Grande Prairie[6], accompanied by nine interpretive guides[7] and two major publications[8], and by sharing all of this with the whole world through the internet[9].

[1] the green space

Since September 2009, we have dedicated a space to the interactive exploration of and response to art. Visitors of all ages have the opportunity to enjoy responding to exhibitions through free activities that are designed to encourage reflection and inspiration.

[2] community-wide festivals

We were partners in the Iskoteo festival in June, the Street Performers Festival in July, Alberta Arts Days in September, and the Arctic Winter Games in March. For each of these festivals, we shared the art experience in unique ways with a broad audience.

[3] tours and programs

In 2009/10, 728 individuals aged 3 to adult participated in 42 tours of the Gallery. We have been thrilled to work with daycares, schools, community groups, college groups, professional groups, and community groups in the Gallery. 172 individuals, also from preschoolers to seniors participated in 37 public programs including workshops, weekly programs, and summer camps.

[4] artist in the classroom

Since the collapse of the Gallery in 2007, we have been without adequate facilities in the gallery to offer hands on activities to school classes, so we have taken those activities to the students' own classrooms. In 2009/10, we visited 115 classrooms where we worked with 2206 students. 75% of Grande Prairie Public School District Schools received a program from us, as did 100% of Grande Prairie Catholic School District Schools. We have also provided numerous programs to the Grande Prairie Home School Group.

[5] the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibitions Program

For the 23rd consecutive year, we have provided high quality exhibitions with educational support to communities throughout northwestern Alberta (called Region 1 in this program).

2009/10 was the Travelling Exhibitions Program's most successful year on record for Region 1 with 122 bookings through us for 19

exhibitions in 33 communities. Thanks to this program, these exhibitions were viewed by 77,798 visitors.

In 2009 Region 1 produced four new exhibitions representing 25 artists.

Without End: exploring the lines that keep us apart
Source: six Calgary artists/graduate architectural students

High Art: Passport to the Peaks
Source: Robert Guest and Dr. Keith Darcell

Dreams Don't Come With Titles: Ken HouseGo
Source: Ken HouseGo

What Lies Beneath
Source: Alberta Foundation for the Art Collection and the Prairie Art Gallery Permanent Collection.

[6] exhibitions
[7] interpretive guides
[8] publications

In 2009/10, we presented the following exhibitions

Vigil of Angels, Bibi Clement
June to September, 2009
East Wind Blows West, Yasuo Terada
June to September, 2009

Accompanied by the interpretive guides: *Bibi Clement, Vigil of Angels. An Interpretive Guide to the Exhibition...*; *Yasuo Terada: East Wind Blows West. An Interpretive Guide to the Exhibition...*; *Japanese Culture*; and *Ceramic Art: Gallery Notes*

Also accompanied by the publication *Bibi: A Life in Clay*, ISBN 978-0-9780646-4-8

High Art: Passport to the Peaks, Robert Guest
June to September, 2009

Dreams Don't Come with Titles, Ken HouseGo
June to September, 2009

Performance, Sarah Alford
July, 2009

Voices from the Earth, Han Jung
September, 2009

Without End: exploring the lines that keep us apart, Jordan Allen, Kate Anderson, Carmen Hull, Kristofer Kelly, Katie Pearce, Ryan Palibroda. Curated by Catherine Hamel and Todd Schaber
September, 2009

Accompanied by the Interpretive Guide, *Without End: An Interpretive Guide to the Exhibition...*

Also accompanied by the publication, *Without End: exploring the lines that keep us apart*, ISBN 978-0-9780646-6-2

The Boundary Layer, Lara Almarcegui, Rosa Barba, Patrick Bernatchez, Chris Marker, Heather & Ivan Morison, T&T (Tony Romano and Tyler Brett), and Historical photographs from Library and Archives Canada, Glenbow Museum Archives, and the Library of Congress. Curated by Catherine Dean.
September and October, 2009

Accompanied by the interpretive guide *The Boundary Layer*

Out of the Blue & Into the Red, Olivia Kachman
October to December, 2009

Accompanied by the interpretive guide *Olivia Kachman: Out of the Blue & Into the Red. An Interpretive Guide to the Exhibition...*

Qamanittuaq: Where the River Widens, organized and circulated by the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, Guelph, Ontario.
October to December, 2009
(accompanied by a catalogue published by the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre)

Machines at Play, Jean-Pierre Gauthier
Organized and Circulated by the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal
January to March, 2010

Accompanied by the interpretive guides *Jean-Pierre Gauthier: Machines at Play. An Interpretive Guide to the Exhibition...* and *Drawing: Gallery Notes*

(also accompanied by a catalogue published by the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal)

[9] online

Our website, www.prairiegallery.com was viewed 35,347 times in 2009/10 by an average of 778 unique visitors per month. 84% of our website visits are from Canada and 11% from the United States, with the rest coming from around the world. We also receive an average of 164 visits per week to our Facebook page, which has 325 fans, more than double the number at the end of last year. We also have 87 followers on twitter.

PRESERVATION

In 2009/10, we worked to preserve the rich cultural heritage of this region by re-housing our collection of works on paper[1], re-photographing those works[2], and re-locating the whole collection[3].

[1] re-housing

[2] re-photographing

In order to prepare for the move to the Montrose Cultural Centre, any of the works on paper in our collection that had previously been stored loosely in drawers as well as those that were stored in inadequately safe frames were removed from those drawers or frames and stored on acid free trays in custom sized acid free boxes. This will allow for safer storage, handling, and examination of these fragile works. During the re-housing process, each work that was handled was re-photographed to document its current condition, as well as to provide a higher-resolution reference image for the purpose of reducing unnecessary handling in the future.

[3] re-locating

From April to July 2009, the Gallery staff, with the generous assistance of students and volunteers, especially volunteer Caroline Bitar who dedicated hundreds of hours of work to the project, carefully packaged every work of art stored at our temporary location for transport. A professional art handler was engaged to transport the collection up the hill to the new collection storage vault in the Montrose Cultural Centre. No damage occurred to any work of art in this process.

INVESTIGATION

In 2009/10, we worked to investigate the state of the art world and our region's place in it by carrying out the research necessary for our programs, tours, festivals, exhibitions, interpretive guides, and publications **[discussed above]**, by studying the practices of leading art galleries in Canada and the United Kingdom**[1]**, by hosting a conference of Albertan art galleries**[2]**, by studying museum leadership around the world**[3]**, and by participating in the design of the Gallery renovation**[4]**.

[1] the best small public art gallery in the world research project

Since 2007, we have been working with Lord Cultural Resources of Toronto to study the most innovative and successful public art galleries in the world, so that we can apply the results of that study to our service to the community, in the hopes that it will help us to achieve our goal to become and be recognized as the best public art gallery of our size in the world by 2023. Several phases of the project were completed in 2009/10, with the final phase expected in September of 2010. This project was funded entirely by funds from the Alberta Creative Development Initiative, a joint program of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

[2] the association of Alberta art galleries

In June, we hosted a conference of art gallery professionals from across the province for the purpose of reviving the long dormant association of Alberta art galleries. The conference was a success, with representatives from Lethbridge (2 galleries), Calgary, Edmonton (3 galleries), St. Albert, and Strathcona County attending and sharing information together.

[3] the museum leadership institute

In July, Director/Curator Robert Steven attended the Museum Leadership Institute at the Getty Centre in Los Angeles, where he spent three weeks learning best practices in museum leadership along with outstanding museum leaders from around the world. The costs were paid by the Getty Centre and the Alberta Creative Development Initiative.

[4] the Prairie Art Gallery building

For several months in 2009/10, we worked with Teeple Architects Inc, of Toronto, to design the restoration of the historic Grande Prairie High School Building. This required us to study our needs, and to foresee the needs of the future in order to ensure that this construction project makes the most benefit of this historic (in every sense) project.

THANKS

Once again in 2009/10, we owe sincere thanks to our volunteers[1], to our supporters[2], to our members[3], to our staff[4], and to our Board of Directors[5].

[1] volunteers

We have benefited from the work of at least 217 volunteers this year, who have donated at least 2394 hours of their time. Every gift of time, large or small is precious and valuable to us, so we thank every volunteer equally. The following highlights are examples of the generosity we have benefited from this year, but they are by necessity incomplete.

Caroline Bitar and *Lois Young* each volunteered well in excess of 100 hours in 2009/10, Caroline to the packaging of the collection and Lois to the reception of visitors to the Gallery

Mary Bombier, Margaret Bowes, Shirley Cermak, Jeannette Chandler, Kristin Currie, Janet Enfield, Judy Gordon, Myrna Jacques, Carol Lindblom, Doreen MacDonnell, Susan Mah, Mike McGinnis, Lorna McIlroy, Walter Salter, Elaine Seufert, Al Zatelny, and Jean Zatelny together volunteered 384 hours to our Bingo events, and raised over \$10,000

Grant Berg, Mary Bombier, Margaret Bowes, Shirley Cermak, Janet Enfield, Jennifer Fisher, Judy Gordon, Susan Mah, Maryse Maurice, Mike McGinnis, Fiona Munroe, Justin Munroe, Christine Pierog, Chris Quinn, Leslie Scheele, Sabine Schneider, Rob Swanston, Marjorie Taylor, and Rhonda Wiebe together volunteered 168 hours to our Casino event in September and raised over \$30,000

Kristin Eiserman, Brandi Martin, Fiona Munroe (Chair), Tina Nelson, Patricia Trout The Art Auction Committee, combined they donated at least 250 hours and raised over \$55,000

Marjorie Taylor, Jerry Bauer, Fred Estlin, Laurie Harrison, and Jim Smith, the Montrose Centre Fundraising Committee, completed their work this year with approximately 100 hours donated, but in recent years they have donated several thousand hours and raised over \$1,250,000

[2] supporters

We are also humbly grateful to our supporters who have also allowed us to continue with our work in building and sharing the art experience.

OPERATING SUPPORT

The City of Grande Prairie, The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, The County of Grande Prairie

PROJECT SUPPORT

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, The City of Grande Prairie, The Canada Council for the Arts, Quinn's Landscaping, Bear Creek Broadcasting (Q99), Jim Pattison Broadcast Group (Big Country)

MONTROSE CULTURAL CENTRE CAMPAIGN

The Montrose Cultural Centre Campaign concluded in 2009/10 with over \$1,250,000 raised for the Gallery (and a similar amount for the Library). This has resulted in the furnishing of the new Art Gallery with collection storage furniture, gallery furniture and lighting, office, workshop, and classroom furniture, and computers and electronics for both public and office use. The campaign has also resulted in the creation of a \$1,000,000 endowment to support the future operations of the Gallery.

The following donors contributed to the joint Library and Gallery campaign (please note that not every donor listed supported the Gallery, several directed their donations to support the very deserving cause of the Grande Prairie Public Library):

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alberta Community Spirit | Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers |
| Alberta Lotteries | Scotiabank |
| City of Grande Prairie | TransCanada Pipelines Ltd. |
| Government of Canada | ----- |
| ----- | Alex & Barbara Figel |
| County of Grande Prairie | Andre Gaultier Professional |
| No.1 | Corporation |
| Ken & Teresa Sargent Family | Andrew & Nedine Stewart |
| Fondation | Arthur Huette |
| Encana Corporation | Beth & Everett Sheehan |
| Rotary Club of Grande Prairie | BMO Financial Group |
| Swan City Rotary Club | Bowes, O'Brien & Alexander |
| Canadian Natural Resources | Families |
| Limited | Bumper Development |
| Grande Prairie Public Library | D & B Tink in memory of Don |
| Friends Society | and Helen Boyd |
| ----- | Doug & Linda Henderson |
| Alliance Pipeline | Dwight & Carol Logan |
| Aquatera Utilities | Image Design Professionals |
| CIBC | James W & Connie Smith |
| Clem & Muriel Collins | Menzies Printers |
| Gibson Energy ULC | Roger Breault |
| Grande Prairie Elks Lodge 107 | Roy & Noreen Bickell |
| Kin Club of Grande Prairie | Weyerhaeuser |
| Marjorie and Turk Taylor | Wordspinner Literary Festival |

ART AUCTION

The Art Auction is our premier fundraising event. In 2009, the 29th Annual Art Auction raised net proceeds of \$55,520 for the Gallery's operations, thanks to the generosity of the volunteers, artists, guests, buyers, and sponsors involved.

<i>EVENT TITLE SPONSOR</i>	<i>ART PREVIEW SPONSOR</i>
Investor's Group Financial Services	Canadian Tire Associate Store

TABLE CENTRE SPONSOR

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Accountant

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ISL Engineering and Land Services

James Lipon Dentistry

Ken Sargent Pontiac Buick GMC
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Marcy's Flower Boutique

Michael Carter Photography

Rocky Mountain Chocolate
Factory

Sean Sargent Toyota

Service Plus Inn & Suites

Visa Truck Rentals & Leasing

Willsey Davis & Co. LLP

COMMITTEE

Kristin Eiserman

Brandi Martin

Fiona Munroe – Chair

Tina Nelson

Rob Swanston

Patricia Trout

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dave Neale - Auctioneer

James Oldenburg – SOJazz

Ken Truhn – Master of Ceremony

ART DONORS

Ed Ashton

Edward Bader

Nicole Bauberger

Grant Berg

Leslie Bjur

E. Ross Bradley

Cheryl Brown

Dennis Brown

Lyle Carlstrom

Michael Carter

Bibi Clement

Sue Cloake

Leona Cochrane

Corrine Cowan

Sheila Craipley

Darlene Dautel

Janet Enfield

Melisa Finlay

Lena Gilje

Sergiy Golyk

Natalie Green

Robert Guest

Carmen Haakstad

Whitney Lee Hayes

Linda Henderson

K. Marjorie Henn

Vickie Hotte

Ken HouseGo

Melanie Jenner

Donna Kaut

Carrie Klukas

Lynn LeCorre

Carol Ljuden

Tina Martel

Tammy McGee

Cheryl McKenzie

Catherine McLaughlin

Jocelyn Morgan

Helena Mulligan

Lorna Nordhagen

C. Holly Perret

Gordon Perret

Rika & Klaus Peters

Suzanne Sandboe

Todd Schaber

Leslie Scheele

Sabine Schneider

Bernadine Schroyer

Marian Jacoba Shilka

Cathy Stafford

Jim Stokes

Evelyne Suter

Dale Syrota

Marjorie Taylor

Yasuo Terada

Peter von Tiesenhausen

Larissa Tiggelers

Doug Wills

[3] members

We have 277 current members, whose support and guidance have allowed the gallery to become what it is today. We offer sincere thanks to everyone who invests their time and money in supporting the Gallery's service to the community through membership.

[4] staff

We are grateful for the hard work and sacrifice of our staff members. The gallery staff always finds a way to offer the greatest possible service to the community despite insufficient time and resources, we humbly recognize that the solutions usually involve harder work and less pay than they deserve, and thank them for their dedication and generosity.

In alphabetical order: Courtney Dickson, Missy Finlay, Jennifer Fisher, Miranda Hebert, Lynn LeCorre-Dallaire, Melanie Jenner, Lesley Grindley, April Kirkham, Mike McGinnis, Todd Schaber, Sabine Schneider, Robert Steven, Rob Swanston, Penny Vey, Leslie Webb, Rhonda Wiebe,

[5] Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has willingly taken on the hard work and significant responsibility of governing the Prairie Gallery Society, and their contribution of time, expertise, and effort is indispensable to the Gallery's existence. Five of the 2009/10 Directors are retiring as of AGM 2010, and we especially thank them for their service at this moment of transition in their relationship to the Gallery.

Chair Murray Quinn
Vice-Chair Carmen Haakstad
Secretary Maryse Maurice
Treasurer Pam Chorney

Directors, In alphabetical order: Grant Berg, David Bilek, Elroy Diemert, Terry Gorgichuk, Fiona Munroe, Alan Segal, Patricia Trout, Peter von Tiesenhausen

OUTCOMES

Statistical Information

Alberta Foundation for the Arts Statistics:		
	2008/9	2009/10
Number of Staff, Full Time:	6	7
Number of Staff, Part Time:	4	3
Number of Staff, Contract:	0	5
Number of Volunteers:	210	217
Number of Volunteer Hours:	1680	2394
Total Number of Artistic & Cultural Events:	281	359
Total Paid Attendance:	3640	2905
Total Unpaid Attendance:	46437	95286
Total Available Seats:		virtually unlimited
City of Grande Prairie Statistics:		
	2008/9	2009/10
School Children participating:	2,351	3,005
public participating:	4,208	17,388
TREX attendance:	52,688	77,798
Total participating (excl TREX):	5,839	20,393
Total participating (incl TREX):	58,527	98,191
page views on website:	38,180	37,347
unique visits to website:	9,135	9,331

For more information about the Prairie Art Gallery, please visit
www.prairiegallery.com, call 780-532-8111, or write or visit us at 103,
 9839 103 Avenue, Grande Prairie, Alberta, T8V 6M7.