



Gardiner Museum 2009 Annual Report



Photo Credit: Lisa Sakulensky

2009 Annual Report

2009 marked the 25th Anniversary of the Gardiner Museum, and the beginning of a new era: it was the first full year of operations for the Museum without the active involvement of either George or Helen Gardiner, the Museum's founders.

The Museum celebrated its first quarter century with a series of special events and programs. A gala honoring George and Helen Gardiner was held on May 21, 2009. The next evening, Meredith Chilton spoke about the founding of the Museum and the Gardiner Collections. Her talk was followed by a filled-to-capacity birthday party for Museum members. The Museum then opened its doors to the public and offered free admission for two days to ensure everyone was able to join in the festivities.

The Museum purchased *White Fright* by Shary Boyle with assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts Acquisition Fund to commemorate its silver anniversary. This piece was chosen as the 18th century porcelain techniques Boyle used speaks to the our founding collections, and as the contemporary nature of her work underlines our commitment to modern and contemporary Canadian ceramics.

The Gardiner Museum presented five exhibitions in 2009 including *For The First Time: Recent Acquisitions 2007 – 2009* which featured a number of rare Chinese and European porcelains from the estate of Helen Gardiner.

It also published *Dragons, Tigers and Bamboo: Japanese Porcelain and its Impact in Europe, The Macdonald Collection*. This book was organized and edited by Chief Curator Charles Mason and includes essays by Mr. Mason, Oliver Impey and Christiaan Jörg.

The Museum is committed to providing all members of the community with access to its collections and programs. It offers ½ price admission 4- 9 pm every Friday, provides free access to Post-Secondary Students every Tuesday and offers full or partial subsidy to school and community groups that need financial assistance to attend the Gardiner and/or participate in its programs. The Museum also participates in the Cultural Access Pass given to new Canadians by the Institute of Canadian Citizenship, and the Museum Art Pass distributed through Toronto Public Libraries.

The increased support of members and other donors helped the Gardiner Museum to deliver a better than break even budget in 2009. We are extremely grateful to everyone who contributed to our ability to navigate this period of economic uncertainty and change. Your unwavering support made all the difference.



Alexandra Montgomery
Executive Director



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Divided Vases – The Balustrade and Garden (2006). Betty Woodman.

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Hands-on activities during March Break, Photo Credit: Lisa Sakulensky

Financial Summary

Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2009 (reported in thousands of dollars)

Revenue

Endowments Income	\$1,000	35%
Annual Campaign (includes members)	\$ 871	31%
Earned Revenue	\$ 671	24%
Government Grants – Operating	\$ 304	10%
Total	\$2,846	100%

Expenses

Administration	\$ 633	23%
Fundraising and Marketing	\$ 451	16%
Education	\$ 313	11%
Curatorial	\$ 605	22%
Building and Maintenance	\$ 790	28%
Total	\$2,792	100%

Net Position	\$ 54
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Viola Frey, *Family Portrait*, 1995. Ceramic with glazes. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, Gift of Rena Bransten, 1996, 96.39. Photograph by Lee Stalsworth. Art © Artists' Legacy Foundation/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

Exhibition Summary

Léopold L. Foulem: Récupération

Curator: Robin Metcalfe

January 19 – May 3, 2009

This exhibition featured a selection of recent work by Léopold Foulem, one of Canada's most acclaimed contemporary ceramic artists.

Clay Canvases

Curator: Charles Mason

February 19 – August 9, 2009

From Renaissance realism to modern abstraction, this exhibition examined some of the fascinating ways that ceramics and painting have intersected in Western culture over the past 500 years. Vases, plates, cups and bowls become three dimensional canvases for images that move far beyond simple decorative patterns to explore the qualities of light, colour, texture, depth, movement and emotion.

George Ohr Rising: The Emergence of an American Master

Curator: Anna Harris

May 15 – August 23, 2009 George Ohr (1857-1918) was a pioneer of the modern studio ceramics movement in

the United States. This exhibition focused on works made during his most innovative period, from 1894 to 1905.

For the First Time: Recent Acquisitions 2007-2009

Curator: Charles Mason

September 2, 2009 – January 10, 2010

This exhibition featured a selection of the objects acquired by the Gardiner Museum between 2007 and 2009 that had not been publicly exhibited before. Among the highlights in the exhibition were a number of rare Chinese and European porcelains from the estate of Helen Gardiner.

Bigger, Better, More: The Art of Viola Frey

Curators: Susan Jefferies and Davira Taragin

September 10, 2009 – January 10, 2010

This exhibition was the first comprehensive assessment of Viola Frey's career and legacy since her death in 2004. California native Viola Frey (1933-2004) was an innovative artist who created emotionally and psychologically charged works that resonate on both personal and universal levels.



March Break Kids Clay Camp, Photo Credit: Lisa Sakulensky

Education Program Summary

School Programs: integrate collection based gallery visits with hands-on art experience. A typical school visit includes a gallery tour with a potter or an educator and a hands-on clay class taught by a professional ceramic artist.

Open Studio – Friday Night and Sunday Afternoon: The Museum’s clay studios are available to individuals on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons. Fridays are intended for adults, and Sunday afternoons are aimed at families. With the guidance of two professional potters, participants create their own clay works and for a small fee they can leave their work to be fired. Admittance is first-come, first served. The atmosphere is casual and fun.

Family Days: In 2009 the Museum hosted families on August 23 (Taiwanese Crafts), November 1 (Mexican Days of the Dead) and December 6 (Twelve Trees of Christmas). On Family Days the Museum offers a diverse array of programs including crafts, hands-on family activities, music and refreshments. Family programs are free with admission to the Museum and supported by Scotia Bank.

Clay Camps and Classes: In 2009 the Museum offered a one week March Break Program and week long summer camps in July and August. Individual children and teenagers populate the regular camp sessions. In addition, single camp days are scheduled for group bookings from daycares, community living associations and outpatient clinics.

Lectures and Events

In 2009 the Museum offered a full schedule of programs and events. Highlights included:

Helen E. Gardiner Lecture

On December 6, 2009 Jeffrey Munger Curator European and Decorative Arts, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York delivered the inaugural Helen E. Gardiner lecture. Dr. Munger spoke about 18th Century French Porcelain.



Chef Jamie Kennedy at Empty Bowls, Photo Credit: Jason Thompson

Empty Bowls: The Museum also gives back to the community by hosting an annual fundraising event that brings chefs, potters and Gardiner Museum Members together to support the homeless in Toronto by contributing to Anishnawbe and their street patrol.

From the Ground Up: Nurturing the Art of Sustainable Living; September 22, 2009 3rd Annual Robert Rose Lecture featured Nick Saul, Executive Director of The Stop Community Food Centre; Patrick Habamenshi, Agricultural Consultant and Dr. Lauren Baker, Director of Sustain Ontario. Discussion was moderated by CBC's Matt Galloway.

Lunch + Learn: this new program was launched in the fall of 2009. It features a variety of speakers as well as a brown bag lunch prepared by Jamie Kennedy Kitchens.

Doors Open: Saturday May 23 and 24, 2009

More than 4,000 people visited the Gardiner Museum during Doors Open (the Museum also celebrated its 25th Anniversary at this time).

Nuit Blanche: Saturday, October 3, 2009

More than 5,600 people visited the Gardiner Museum during this 12 hour citywide art festival.

Community Partnerships:

The Gardiner Museum works with social service organizations to provide ceramic studio art experiences, or art therapy, to survivors of violence, homeless women, isolated seniors, and sexually abused children. Professional ceramic artists from the Museum work with art therapists, counselors and social workers and often translators over multiple sessions. The sessions culminate in an exhibition with a reception where the participants speak openly about their relationship to their art experience and its place in their recovery.



Ann Walker Bell, Photo Credit: Lisa Sakulensky

Endowment Gifts

As of December 31, 2009

Named Endowment Funds

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Members' Cocktail Party, Photo Credit: Massimo Bartolomiol

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Chief Curator Charles Mason with Gardiner volunteers and docents, Photo Credit: Lisa Sakulensky

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