

Gardiner Museum

2013 Annual Report





Jun Kaneko, *Head*, 2002. Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid

2013 was a year of change at the Gardiner Museum.

In February, our Executive Director, Alexandra Montgomery, stepped down after 14 years with the Museum. Alexandra led a number of significant changes during her tenure, including the expansion of our stunning building, the acquisition of important collections such as Raphael Yu's collection of contemporary Canadian ceramics, and the continued delivery of a balanced budget even following the loss of our beloved benefactor, Helen Gardiner. Alexandra positioned the Gardiner well for the future and we offer our sincere thanks for her many contributions.

Following Alexandra's departure, Rachel Gotlieb, our Chief Curator, fulfilled the role of Interim Executive Director overseeing the day to day management of the Museum. We thank Rachel for her stewardship during this critical period.

In November of 2013, we were fortunate to have Kelvin Browne join the Gardiner as Executive Director and CEO. Kelvin worked for over nine years at our near neighbour, the Royal Ontario Museum, in various roles including Managing Director of the Institute of Contemporary Culture, and Vice President in the areas of major exhibitions, marketing, membership, publications, sales, hospitality and retail, and the web. The Gardiner recognized these qualities, particularly Kelvin's marketing and development strengths, as ones that were needed to further advance the significant work done over the past decade.

While 2013 was a transition year, it was a very successful one for the museum. Work continued on development, programs and audience development. And of course, it was a banner year for exhibitions.

The 2013 exhibition calendar began with a retrospective of work created through our collaborative partnership with the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic – *Transformation by Fire: Women Overcoming Violence Through Clay*. The Gardiner was able to raise funds, in large part due to the efforts of Gardiner Roberts LLP to bring together a group of donors, which supported free admission to the exhibition during its three-month run. A successful full program of community partnerships and events was also developed. *Transformation by Fire* won the Ontario Museum Award for Excellence in Exhibitions in November 2013, the first time the Gardiner received an OMA Award.

In the summer the Gardiner presented a solo show of contemporary Canadian ceramics, *Kathy Venter: LIFE*, presented under the auspices of the Raphael Yu Centre for Canadian Ceramics.

The Museum closed 2013 with *Animal Stories*, a wonderful exhibition curated by our own Karine Tsoumis. *Animal Stories* explored many tales of our human encounters with the animal world throughout history.

Though exhibitions are an important part of any museum, the permanent collection is a critical asset. In 2013 the Gardiner made a very important acquisition of a fantastic, large Jun Kaneko head sculpture, which was installed in front of the building in September. This was a transformative acquisition, intended to raise awareness of the Gardiner and signal the many changes within this wonderful institution. This work by Kaneko has quickly become an icon for the Gardiner, with passersby stopping for photos and taking notice of our beautiful building.

As last year came to a close, our attention shifted to the celebration of the Gardiner Museum's 30th Anniversary which we celebrate in 2014. Our annual members' campaign raised funds for the transformation of our European porcelain galleries, an international lecture series was designed to highlight our stunning permanent collections, and a unique calendar of events was planned.

2013 was a time of great change for us. As we glimpse the future of the Gardiner Museum, we are filled with excitement as our momentum builds. As Kelvin and the board re-explore our strategy and our plans, there is much to anticipate. We look forward to sharing this journey with you in the exciting days ahead.



Karen Sheriff

Chairman, Gardiner Board of Trustees

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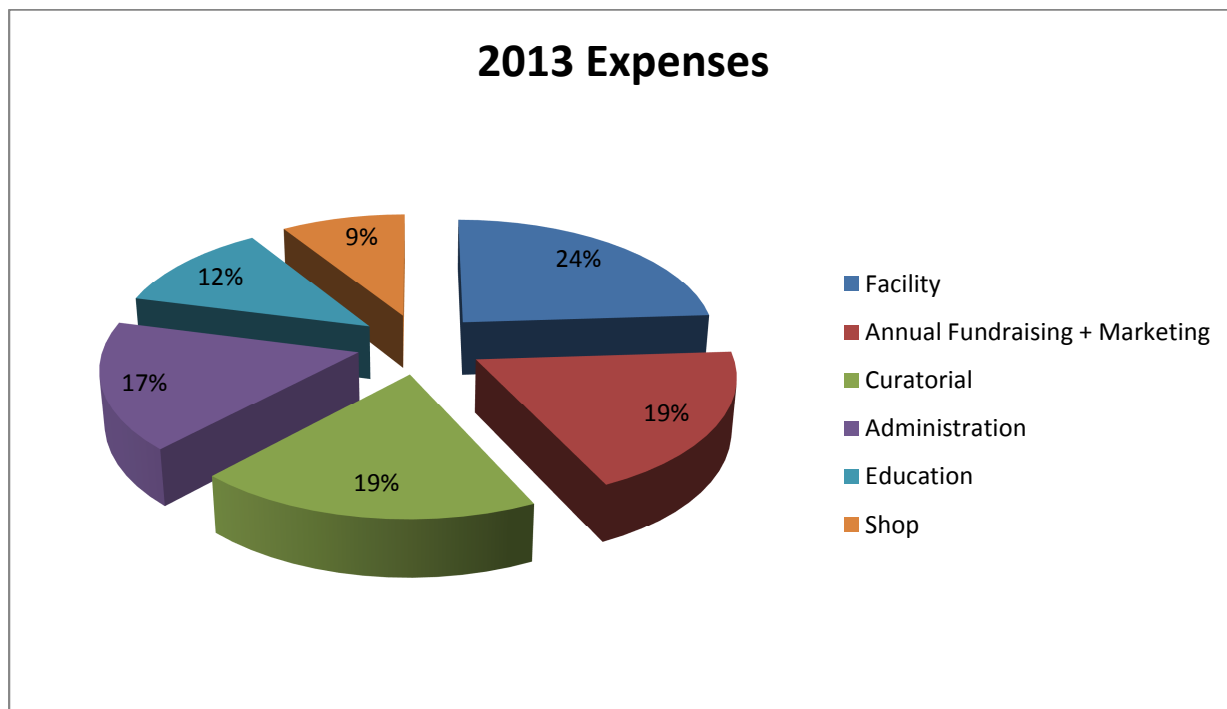
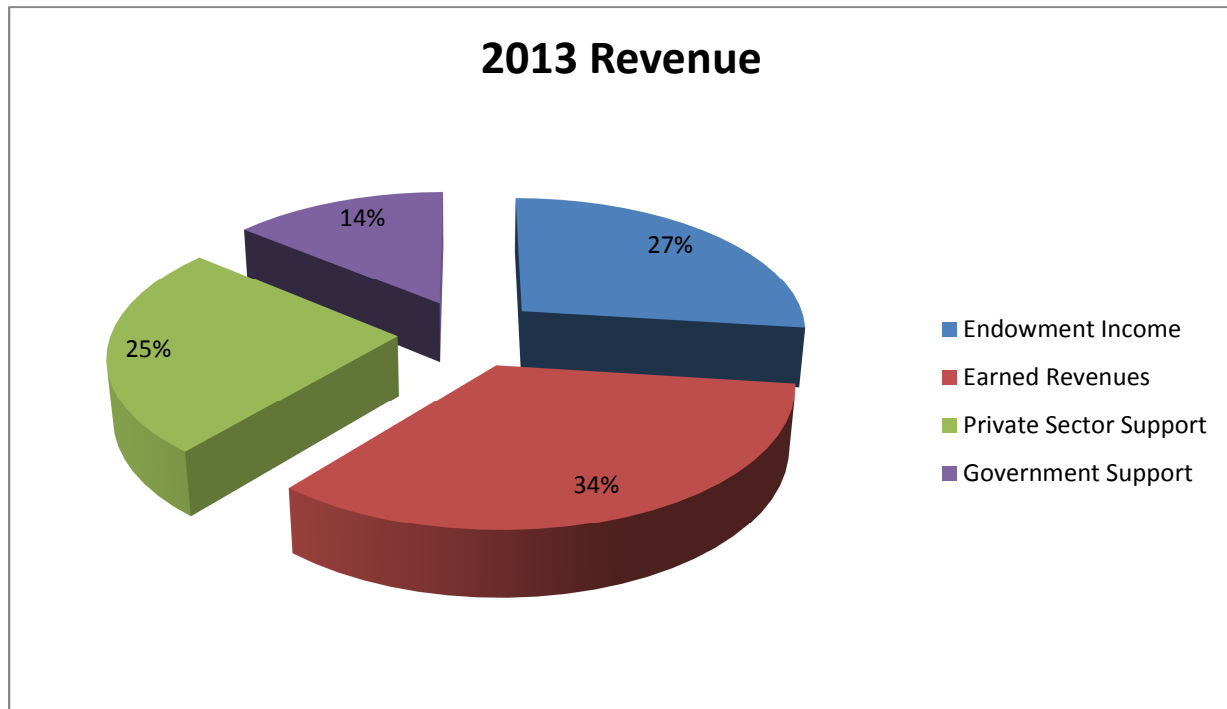
Senior Management Team (2013)

Rachel Gotlieb, *Interim Executive Director & Chief Curator*
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Sheila Snelgrove, *Executive Assistant and Secretary to the Board*
Katy Liu, *Controller*
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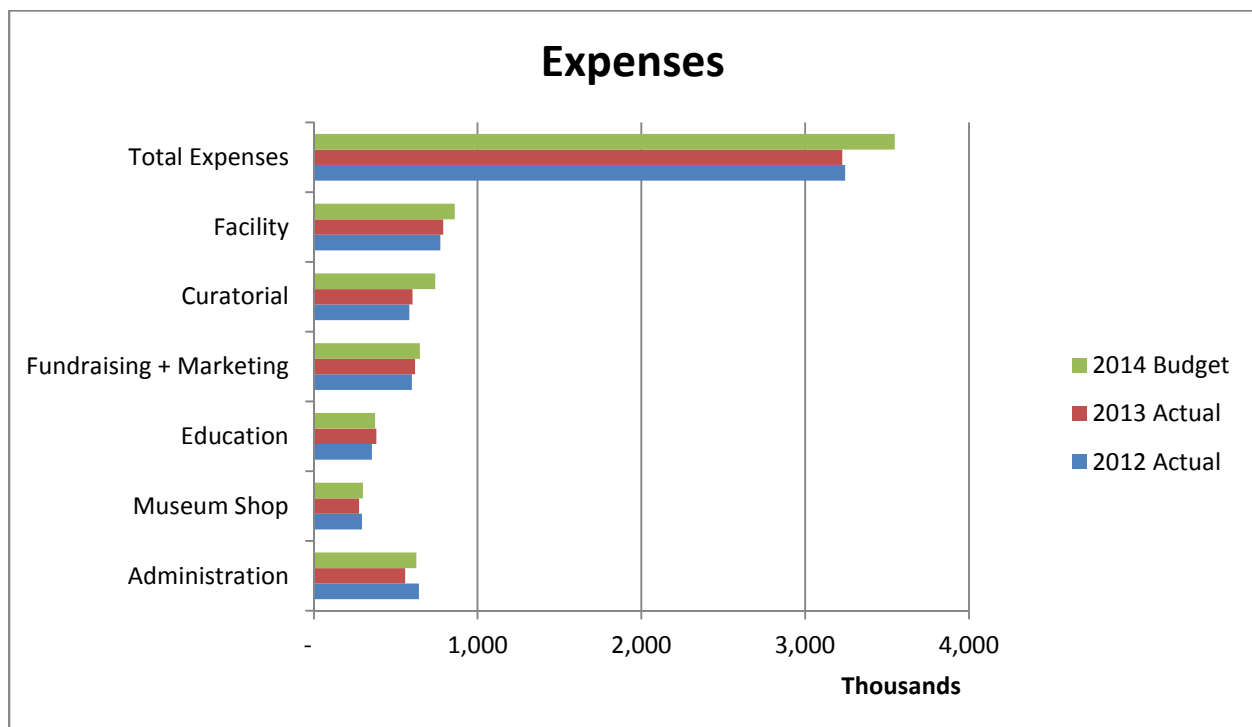
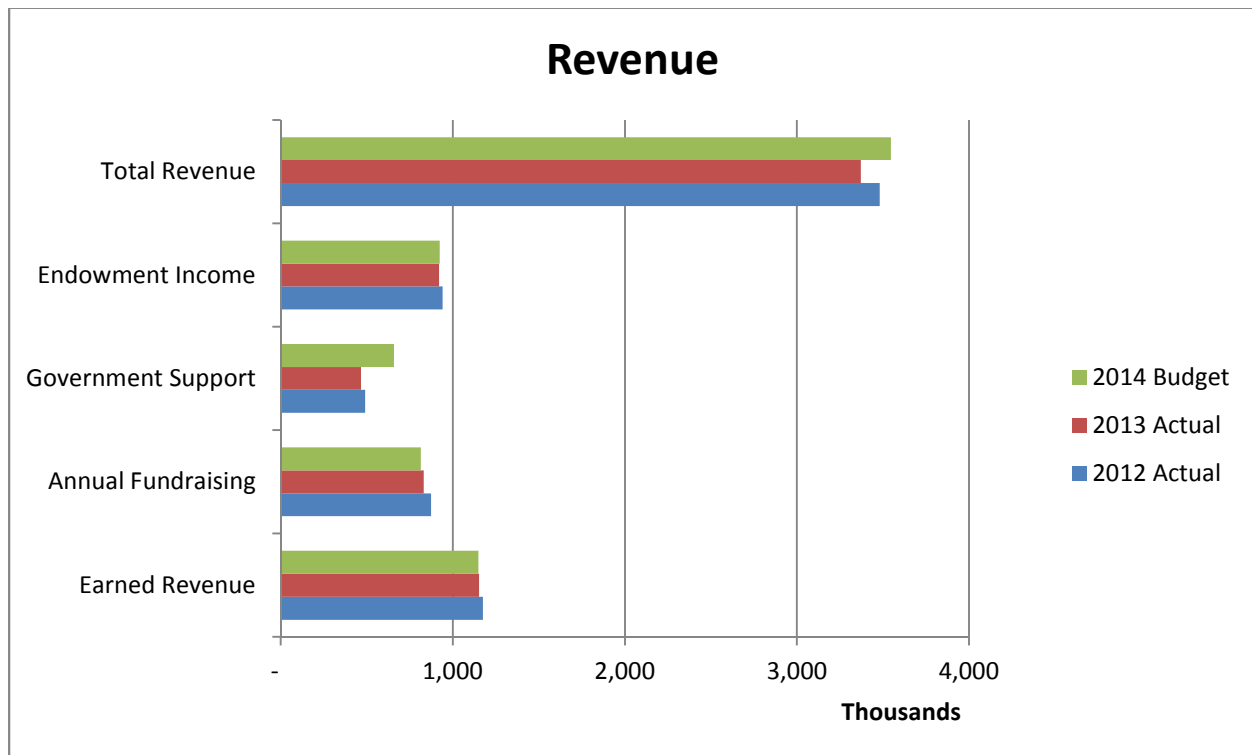
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Antonio Tan, *Marketing Manager*
Lauren Gould, *Audience Development Manager*
Sumaira Kasimuddin, *Shop Manager*

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

This is a summary management report on general operations. Audited financial statements include these results. The Museum delivered \$4,422 surplus for 2013 Gardiner Museum Operations:



The following charts include results from 2012 and 2013 as well as a budget for 2014 operations



EXHIBITION SUMMARY

Feature Exhibitions



Hands by C.D. Photo Credit: Toni Hafkenscheid.

Transformation by Fire: Women Overcoming Violence Through Clay
February 7- April 28, 2013

Created in collaboration with the Barbra Schlifer Clinic, *Transformation by Fire* was a retrospective of the ten-year partnership between the Gardiner and the Barbra Schlifer Clinic. The exhibit featured 30 clay sculptures by women who have experienced violence and who worked with art therapist, Suzanne Thomson and ceramic artist, Susan Low-Beer, in the Museum's clay studios to give shape to their experience. This exhibition allowed them to share their stories, and raise public awareness of violence against women. Above all, the exhibition demonstrated that clay is a significant medium for art therapy and social action. It allowed the Gardiner to engage with an entirely new audience with innovative and engaging programming. The Museum was able to offer free admission for the duration of this exhibition thanks to generous donations from brought together by a fundraising campaign at Gardiner Roberts LLP, and through individual donations from our members, patrons, and donors new to the Gardiner Museum who supported the initiative. *Transformation by Fire* was the recipient of the Ontario Museums Association Award of Excellence in Exhibitions for 2013.



Kathy Venter: *LIFE* (installation detail), 2013. Photo Credit: Antonio Tan.

Kathy Venter: LIFE
May 30 – September 15, 2013

Reflecting our commitment to Canadian art, the Museum presented *Kathy Venter: LIFE*, a solo exhibition. Venter, of South-African origin, has been active as a ceramic artist in Canada for more than 20 years. Her art bridges her experience of living under Apartheid in South Africa with the freedom she found in Canada, and engages with a vast array of historical sources including the terracotta warriors of Ancient China, the Tanagra figures of Ancient Greece, Ancient Egyptian sculpture, the Amakweta tribal initiation rites, and the art of Marino Marini and Viola Frey. Venter's figures are life-size – standing, sitting, reclining or suspended by cables in space – while others are limited to heads and torsos. Each work is direct and engaging showing the measure of our humanity. These life-size terracotta nudes of everyday people synthesize the traditional art form of hand-coiling with a contemporary modality. Their scale and creative process intrigued visitors.



Janet MacPherson, *Pilgrimage*, 2013. Photo Credit: Gardiner Museum.

Animal Stories

October 10, 2013 – January 12, 2014

Animal Stories explored the richness and variety of animal representations across cultures spanning four centuries of visual culture. Curated by the Gardiner's Curator Karine Tsoumis, *Animal Stories* appealed to visitors of all ages, inviting them on a journey that is both colourful and heartwarming, and sometimes scientific or critical. The exhibition presented a series of themes including art and science, conceptions of the wild, animals as part of our everyday, animals as storytellers, and creatures of the imagination. Featuring illustrated books alongside ceramics, it explored the longstanding connection between the two media as vehicles for storytelling. Examples include popular sources employed by 18th-century decorators and modellers, such as printed natural histories and Aesop's Fables, as well as a selection of children's books featuring beloved animal characters from the 19th century to the present. *Animal Stories* provides the Museum with the unique opportunity to build strategic partnerships with other organizations to expand our audience. These included Kids Can Press, the Toronto Zoo, Soulpepper Theatre Company, and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Focus Exhibitions

Sheridan Ceramics Graduate Show
April 4 – 18, 2013

The Gardiner presented its annual showcase of work by this year's graduating class of Sheridan College's Ceramics Crafts and Design program.



Natalie Luder, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, 2009.

A Bit of Clay on the Skin: New Ceramic Jewellery
May 16 - August 11, 2013 (in focus gallery and lobby)

A Bit of Clay on the Skin: New Ceramic Jewellery explored the appeal of ceramics, especially porcelain, in jewellery. Organized by the Fondation d'Entreprise Bernardaud and curated by the renowned German-born goldsmith and jewellery artist Monika Brugger, the exhibition showcases the versatility and allure of the medium, which can be modeled or cast, used alone or with metal, wood, and stone, and vary in color and texture.

The exhibition presented 140 works and featured the work of 18 cutting-edge jewellery artists, including creations by such notables as Peter Hoogeboom, Evert Nijland, Ted Noten (The

Netherlands), Gésine Hackenberg (Germany), Marie Pendariès (Spain), and Shu-Lin Wu (Taiwan). While some make reference to traditional jewelry in materials and symbolism, others altogether redefine it in substance, form, and matter. The exhibition coincided with the international jewellery conference organized by Society of American Goldsmiths.



Ornamental vases with chinoiserie decoration, Nevers, late 17th century, faience, The Pierre Karch and Mariel O'Neill-Karch Collection, G12.14.7.1-2.

The Art of Faience in 17th and 18th century-France August 22, 2013 – January 5, 2014

This focus exhibition documented the rise of the faience industry in 17th and 18th century-France. Appreciated at all levels of society, faience (tin-glaze earthenware) provided a less costly, yet still highly refined and elegant alternative to porcelain. Featuring approximately 40 objects for everyday use and ornamental wares, this exhibition surveyed the production of the foremost faience centres, including Nevers, Rouen, Marseille, Moustiers and Strasbourg. The selection offered insights into the social life and customs of the time, while reflecting the assimilation of technological advances and aesthetic influences that converged into France; from the initial introduction of the medium by Italian potters, to the diffusion of stylistic models from the Netherlands and the impact of cultural contacts with Asia. The pieces featured in the exhibition were recently donated to the Gardiner Museum by Pierre Karch and Mariel O'Neill-Karch, and now constitute one of the rare collections of French faience in a public institution in North America.

RBC Emerging Artist Award People's Choice Award
September 3 – October 15, 2013

Presented by the Gardiner Museum, the 3rd Annual RBC Emerging Artist People's Choice Award recognizes the artist whose work receives the most votes from the participating public with a \$10,000 cash prize. It is a national award program that makes a meaningful difference to the careers of emerging artists by raising their profile, showcasing their work and engaging the public. The public is encouraged to vote on site and on line, and the artist who receives the most votes receives the Award.

This year's nominees were Robin DuPont (British Columbia), Michael Flaherty (Newfoundland), Monica Mercedes Martinez (Manitoba), Amélie Proulx (Quebec), and Linda Sormin (Ontario). Amélie Proulx was awarded the prize at a reception at the Gardiner on October 15, 2013.



An Te Liu, *Obsolete Figure in Space*, 2013. Photo Credit: Courtesy of the Artist.

Artist Intervention: MONO NO MA – An Te Liu
September 7 - November 11, 2013

For the second exhibition of the Gardiner Museum's Artist Intervention series, renowned artist An Te Liu explored the space around things. Drawn at first to the burnished surfaces and anthropomorphic features of funerary ware found in the Gardiner's Ancient Americas collection, Liu transformed discarded Styrofoam packing from consumer goods into ceramic sculptures that evoke a multiplicity of references. Using remnants of the contemporary world, Liu conjured forms recalling iconic works of both the ancient and modern periods. While each sculpture bore

the imprint of an object in use today, the ambiguity of their origin invited reflection upon our relationship to things, both utilitarian and artistic, old and new.



Nurielle Stern, *Eyes of Metal and Agate* (installation detail), 2013. Photo Credit: Courtesy of the Artist.

Sheridan Prize Winner: Nurielle Stern
November 14, 2013 – January 5, 2014

Nurielle Stern was the 2012 recipient of the Gardiner Museum Award for a Sheridan College ceramics graduate. Drawing from the history of ceramics and craft, Stern displayed works that explored clay as a contemporary sculptural material through her multidisciplinary practice.

Museum-Wide Exhibitions



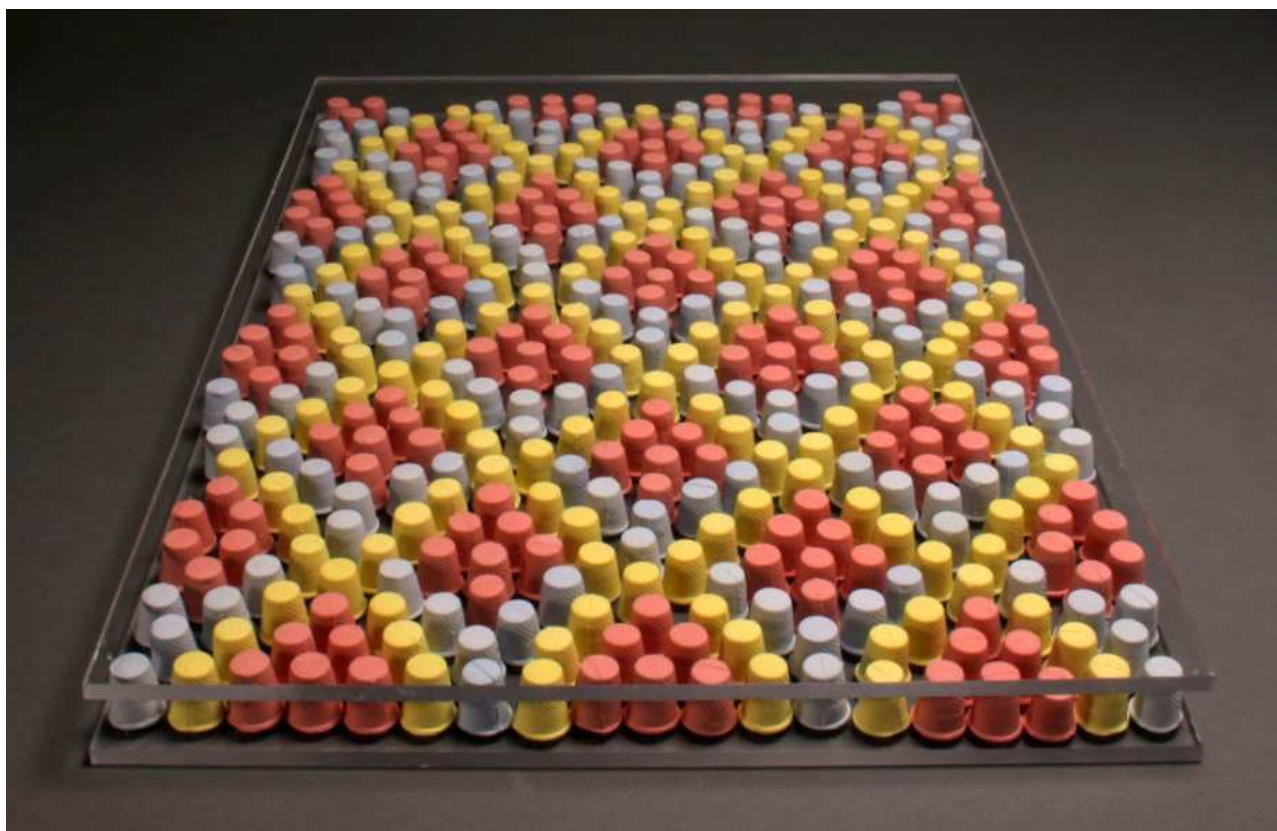
Spring Awakening installation, 2013

Spring Awakening: Gardiner in Bloom May 3 – 5, 2013

For one weekend only, spectacular floral installations by ten of Toronto's top floral designers were displayed throughout the Museum to celebrate the arrival of spring in the city. Each designer created a stunning floral installation inspired by a particular piece in our permanent collection.

12 Trees November 23 – December 15, 2013

The 12 Trees of Christmas celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2013 as a favourite Toronto holiday tradition. Designed by the city's top designers, the trees dazzled hundreds of families at the Gardiner before being delivered to various charities in the community, spreading the spirit of giving throughout the Greater Toronto Area.



Habiba El-Sayed, *Prick*, 2013. Photo: Courtesy of the Artist.

Sheridan Ceramics Intervention
July 8 – September 29, 2013

Students created pieces inspired by and in a response to work from the Gardiner Museum's historical collection. Pieces by Tine DeRuiter and Habiba El-Sayed were selected to be displayed among the Museum's permanent collection where they presented a contemporary twist on 17th century English delftware and 18th century Meissen porcelain.



Teapot, Worcester Porcelain Manufactory, England c. 1752-1753. The Radlett Collection of 18th-Century English Porcelain, G13.12.8A-B.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Notably, last year the Gardiner acquired a Jun Kaneko sculpture now installed at the front of the Museum; a transformative acquisition that has animated the building. The Kaneko head was purchased with the support of major donors – Allan and Sondra Gotlieb, Michael and Sonja Koerner, Diana Reitberger, the Donner Canadian Foundation Acquisition Fund, Esther & Sam Sarick, Margaret & Jim Fleck, and the Clarence E. Heller Foundation – and contributions from our annual members' campaign.

An outstanding and rare object from France, the Sèvres assiette unie (sample plate) of 1784, was given by Dr. William Johnston. It was made just five years prior to the French Revolution, and is believed to have been prepared by the factory as an assiette unie (sample plate) for the service given to the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria by Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette on June 12, 1786 in honour of the couple's visit to France.

Our collection of Japanese Studio pottery was enhanced with a gift of 16 objects from Elizabeth Lipsett. The collection included works by the leading potters Hamada Shoji, Shimaoka Tatsuzo, and Kawai Kanjirō all of which demonstrate the mystique and influence of Japanese folk (mingei) pottery in the latter half of the twentieth century.

Last year the Gardiner also received the Moscovich Collection of Canadian Historical China. Comprising five areas – arctic scenery, Bartlett scenery, Boston Mails series, Canadian Sports and a miscellaneous group including Death of General Wolfe – this collection of 53 pieces of 19th century China provides a historical context for the Raphael Yu Centre for Canadian Ceramics. It solidifies the Gardiner's collection of pottery, porcelain and ceramic art that reflect and disseminate the theme of Canadian identity and nationhood.

Eight pieces of 18th century Worcester and Chelsea porcelain from the Radlett collection, seven of which have been on long term loan at the Gardiner Museum since 2006, were all gifted to the Museum. This collection contributes to the study of the arts through objects made at two of the most important porcelain manufactories in 18th century England. The objects forming this collection demonstrate important stylistic innovations at Worcester from its foundation and illustrate great technical accomplishments.



Volunteer Esther Rose Angel with her granddaughter at a Family Day activity

EDUCATION AND EVENTS PROGRAM

The Gardiner Museum plays an important role in the community, and is committed to providing everyone with access to its collections and programs. The support of corporate sponsors and generous private donors enable us to sustain and grow our programming each year.

Education Programs

The Gardiner continues to welcome over 9,700 students per year to our education programs. In 2013 two new sessions were created to engage with schools. For both *Transformation by Fire* and *Animal Stories*, programs were developed that ran the length of the exhibition. They provided very different experiences for schools and allowed the Gardiner to target different age groups to address exhibition content. Special exhibitions provide continue to provide new and unique experiences for schools who visit the Museum year after year.

The clay studios at the Gardiner continue to run at capacity, however, the Museum was able to program additional sessions for after-school programs and camps, both in March break and the summer. This has allowed the Museum to keep up with the growing demand for our hands-on clay classes and courses. Three courses were also added for adults, including a figurative animal clay class to accompany the *Animal Stories* exhibition.



Dancers from Shannon Litzenberger Contemporary Dance Company's *Everyday Marvels*, presented at Scotiabank Nuit Blanche

Community Event Highlight

The Gardiner participates in several community events each year. In 2013, the Gardiner's Scotiabank Nuit Blanche event was particularly successful welcoming 10,000 visitors to the Museum. A co-production with Shannon Litzenberger Contemporary Dance, *Everyday Marvels*, was a 12-hour episodic performance installation inspired by the poetry of Lorna Crozier. City events, such as Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, provide an opportunity for the Gardiner to gain further exposure as part of a large festival.



Participants in One Billion Rising V-Day Event on the steps of the Museum

Exhibition Partners & Events

The Gardiner worked with a number of partners on our exhibition program. For *Transformation by Fire: Women Overcoming Violence Through Clay* the Museum worked with YWCA Canada and Plan Canada's Because I Am a Girl campaign to screen the documentary film *Girl Rising*, a sold-out event that engaged with a younger, socially active audience. The Museum also hosted a Human Rights Watch Lunch + Learn, collaborated with a number of women's rights organizations, the Gardiner hosted a One Billion Rising dance flash-mob performance on February 14, 2013, and of course has an ongoing partnership with the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, which was essential to this exhibition.

Kathy Venter: LIFE provided the Gardiner with the opportunity to connect with the visual arts community. The Museum hosted a series of Life Drawing sessions on Friday evenings throughout the summer of 2013 in collaboration with OCADU Alumni Association, successfully engaging a new, younger audience.

Animal Stories was a natural fit for children's book publisher Kids Can Press who co-presented a reading series as part of Family Days led by Canadian authors who wrote animal stories. The Gardiner was able to host an outreach workshop at The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair to both promote our clay programming and the exhibition.

Community Partnerships

The Gardiner works with a number of community and cultural partners to provide ongoing programming. *Soundstreams Canada* hosts their Salon 21 series in the Terrace Room on the third Friday of every month, showcasing the work of contemporary Canadian and international composers. Soundstreams and the Gardiner are working to integrate programming more fully so that performances also reflect the collections or special exhibitions

The *Literary Review of Canada* has the Lunch + Learn Series in the Terrace Room at the Gardiner, which invites local author's to speak to a range of topics from the good food movement to how to save the CBC. Events linked to the special exhibition, when possible.

New this past year, the Gardiner initiated the *Bistro Music Series*. Working with its in-house caterer, à la Carte Kitchens Inc., to produce this series, performances have included local music organizations such as the Glenn Gould School at The Royal Conservatory of Music, Esprit Orchestra and Opera Atelier. Audiences from all participating organizations have attended these events, expanding the Gardiner's existing audience base.

MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

With the exhibition program for 2013 in mind, the Gardiner shifted its key media partnership to *The Toronto Star*. It was identified as having a readership more closely aligned with the themes and issues being explored through our major exhibitions. For the first time, the Gardiner also used ads in the Toronto Transit Corporation (TTC) to promote an exhibition. *Animal Stories* was identified as having potential mass appeal, and promotional posters were installed in subway cars and streetcars for the duration of the exhibition.

Our weekly e-news is sent to approximately 4,500 households, as well as program or event specific e-blasts to specific target audiences, for example shop patrons, clay class participants, and members. In addition, we produce a tri-annual membership newsletter, *What's On* that is sent to all members and made available at the front desk. The Gardiner is currently evaluating the continuation of *What's On* beyond 2013 as more communication is distributed electronically or on-site.

There were a number of increases in our web engagement in 2013 from the previous year. Our Facebook fan base grew by 46%, average monthly web visits went up by 9%, and Twitter followers jumped by 73%. These increases are partly attributed to *Transformation by Fire* which had a successful and well-rounded social media plan, which expanded our audience both online and at the Museum.

Lastly, we have established a number of cross promotions with other cultural organizations. Cross-promotions with Soulpepper Theatre Company, the National Ballet of Canada, The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Human Rights Watch, Kids Can Press, and the Royal Conservatory of Music. Partnering with other organizations allows us to reach a culturally engaged audience that may not be familiar with the Gardiner.

GOVERNANCE

The Gardiner Museum's Board is comprised of academics, business leaders and professionals, collectors and fundraisers. The Board reflects the community the Museum serves and will continue to evolve as the Museum successfully reaches and engages a broader community.

Recent changes include Esther Sarick joining the Board as a director in June 2012, and Allan Gotlieb and Larry Kurtz resigning in 2013. The Museum remains focused on building the fundraising strength and diversity of its Board to ensure it achieves its fundraising objectives and properly reflects the community it serves.

The Board ensures the well-being of the Museum by establishing policy, making sure that the Museum's mandate is carried out through its operational plans, and monitoring the Museum's financial performance. The Board is supported by eight committees including: Acquisitions and Collections; Audit; Budget and Finance; Exhibitions and Education; Governance; Investment; Long-Range Planning; and Development. The Board meets a minimum of five times per year.

The Board also ensures the well-being of the Museum by introducing persons of influence and members from their own community to the Gardiner and by helping to attract appropriate community representation, resources and support.



12 Trees Gala, 2013

OUR GENEROUS DONORS

The Gardiner Museum is grateful for the generous and essential financial support it receives from individuals, corporations and foundations. These donors are instrumental in helping the Gardiner maintain the exhibitions, collections and programs that contribute to the vitality of Toronto by engaging an increasing diverse population and helping to create community through shared experience.

Named Endowment Funds

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 Donner Canadian Foundation Fund
 Kent & Douglas Farndale Fund
 Helen E. Gardiner Fund
 George & Mary Turnbull Family Foundation Fund
 Brian Wilks Fund
 Diane Wolfe Fund

Porcelain Society

Members of the Porcelain Society have made an enduring gift to the Gardiner by including the Museum as a charitable bequest in their will. The Gardiner is deeply grateful to all members of the Porcelain Society for including the Museum in their legacy plans.

Alison & David Appleyard
 Patricia Bartlett-Richards
 Julia Bass Hamilton
 Judy & Phelps Bell

Ann Walker Bell
Ellen & Brian Carr
Meredith Chilton
N. Robert and Marian Cumming
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Joanne Tod
Elizabeth Wilson
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AN TE SOCIAL – The An Te Liu: MONO NO MA Opening Party on the Gardiner plaza

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Monitor Group

Exhibition Sponsors

\$50,000+

RBC Foundation

\$20,000 TO \$49,999

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Gerald Sheff and Shanitha Kachan
Gardiner Roberts LLP
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