

IMPACT REPORT

McMaster Museum of Art

2025–2026

M(M)A
McMaster Museum of Art

Brighter World

McMaster University

VISITOR IMPACT

TOTAL VISITORS

9,822

EDUCATION

50 programs
870 participants
19 lectures
694 students

EXHIBITION TOURS

60 tours
1,593 participants

ART ACQUISITIONS

152

MISSION & VISION

MISSION

The McMaster Museum of Art is a meeting space for both the campus and the community situated within the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations. The Museum **engages**, **educates** and **inspires** through: growing an awareness of the interconnectivity of the past, present and future; advancing de-colonization; engaging in innovative and imaginative research; dismantling institutional and ideological boundaries; partnering and collaborating with intentionality; diversifying the collection; and building capacity.

VISION

The McMaster Museum of Art will positively disrupt the traditional museological narrative by creating more **inclusive**, **dynamic** and **experiential** relationships between peoples and artistic practices.





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Message from the Director and Chief Curator

I am delighted to share the McMaster Museum of Art's (MMA) inaugural **Impact Report**. Having joined this small yet remarkable team of dedicated arts professionals in March 2025, it is my privilege to celebrate the many significant accomplishments achieved over the past year.

These achievements are the result of the tireless **efforts, creativity, and commitment of the entire MMA team**, who realized these well-earned successes amidst a period of leadership transition and organizational change. I am deeply grateful to the Museum's staff and Advisory Committee for creating such a welcoming environment and for their patience and support as I learned the "McMaster way."

I would be remiss not to acknowledge my predecessor, **Carol Podedworny**, who initiated many of the projects highlighted in the following pages. I am sincerely grateful for her steadfast guidance, mentorship, and support throughout this transition. I would also like to recognize the contributions of outgoing Senior Curator Betty Julian and Communications Officer Jung Sing (Jeff) Chow, both of whom played integral roles in advancing the Museum's work during this period.

The 2025-2026 year was one of **well-deserved recognition** for the MMA. In December 2025, the Museum received the **Exhibition of the Year Award** from Galeries Ontario / Ontario Galleries for the ambitious banner project *The Clichettes: Lips, Wigs, and Politics*. This celebration of excellence continued into the Summer of 2026, when two members of the MMA's outstanding Education Team were honoured with prestigious awards. **Nicole Knibb, Senior Educator, received the 2025 President's Award for Outstanding Service**, while **Teresa Gregorio, Educator, Campus & Community Engagement, was recognized with the Arts Champion Award** as part of the City of Hamilton Arts Awards.

The Museum's **Advisory Committee** has also been an invaluable source of guidance and support. I would like to personally thank the following members for their dedicated service as they conclude their terms with the Museum: Dr. Teal McAteer, Dr. Clare Warner, Dr. Vanessa Watts, and Dr. David Wilkinson.

Reflecting McMaster University's newly launched strategic plan, **Bolder Together**, the MMA embodies the institution's commitments to **bold thinking, amplifying impact, fostering inclusive communities, and advancing learner-centred education**. I would like to thank President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Susan Tighe and Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Dr. Maureen MacDonald for articulating such an inspiring vision for the University. I look forward to stewarding the Museum's continued growth and impact as we work together to realize this vision in the years ahead.

- Mary Reid, MA, MBA

2025–2026 HIGHLIGHTS



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Teresa Gregorio, Educator: Campus and Community Engagement, received the **Arts Champion Award** at the Hamilton Arts Awards.

"The art program led by Teresa has been a wonderful addition to our community. Residents have greatly enjoyed exploring the artwork and discussing their meanings, emotions, and history."

-Program participant



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Nicole Knibb, Senior Educator, Academic and Professional Engagement and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Family Medicine, received the **President's Award** for Outstanding Service in 2025.



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At the Galeries Ontario/Ontario Galleries 40th Annual GOG Awards, McMaster Museum of Art received the top award for **Exhibition of the Year** (Budget over $50k) for the Fall 2024 exhibition *The Clichettes: Lips, Wigs, and Politics*.

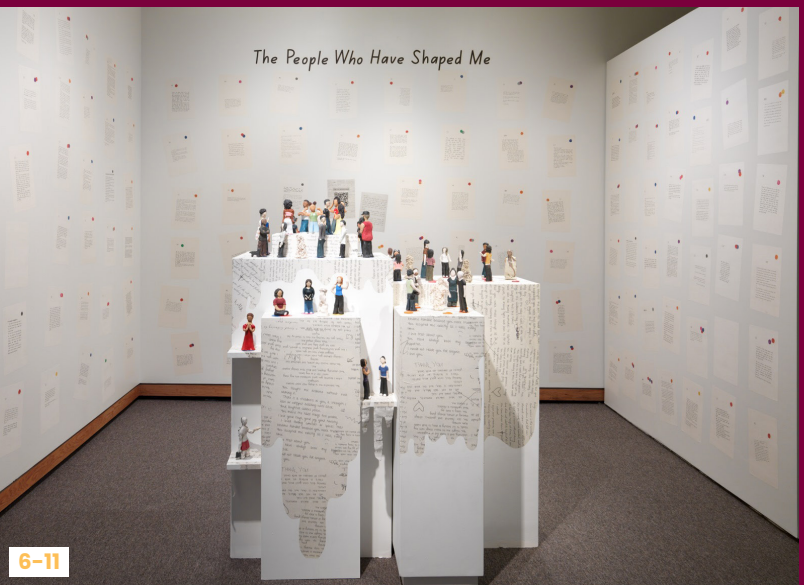
6 EXHIBITIONS
80+ ARTISTS













EXHIBITIONS

"I was able to see the Unseen exhibit. It was phenomenal. You could tell that there is a community inspired vibe in how the space is run. I look forward to checking out future exhibits."

- Google Review

The Great Sea: Mediterranean Imaginaries from Antiquity to Modernity
Curated by Myron Groover and Dr. Spencer Pope
April 1, 2025 – October 17, 2025

The Great Unseen
Curated by Christina Leslie
May 16, 2025 – October 17, 2025

What of the eternal harm lurking all around?
Curated by Amin Alsaden
August 14, 2025 – October 31, 2025

Meryl McMaster: Bloodline
Organized and circulated by the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in partnership with Remai Modern
Curated by Sarah Milroy and Tarah Hogue
November 25, 2025 – March 6, 2026

iARTS EXPO: 2026 Graduating Cohort
March 26, 2026 – June 26, 2026

About Abstraction: 1911–1966
Curated by Mary Reid
April 14, 2026 – June 26, 2026


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COLLECTIONS

The collection at the museum numbers **7000+ works of art** and contains important **historical, modern, and contemporary** period works.

Of the 40 university-affiliate art galleries/museums nation-wide, the MMA houses one of the **top collections** in one of the **best facilities** in the country.



ART ACQUISITIONS

The McMaster Museum of Art added more than **150 works of art and objects** to its permanent collection through donations and acquisitions. These additions strengthen holdings in **Canadian art, photography, printmaking, Indigenous art, and contemporary practice.**

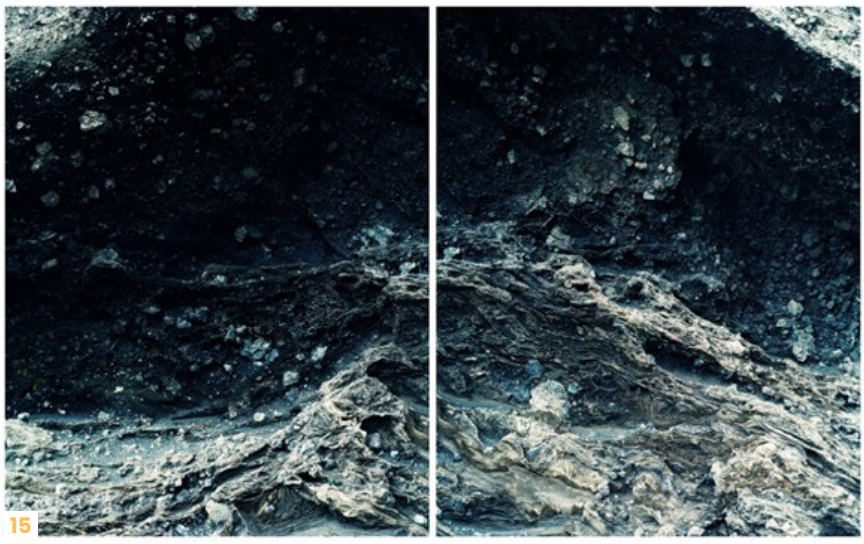
MEDIUM:
Paintings and drawings: 2
Photography: 10
Coins: 4
Prints/Works on Paper: 136

ARTISTS:
Carl Beam
Janet Cardiff
Sheila Butler
Delali Cofie
Kwame Delfish
Pamela Dodds
Sybil Goldstein
John Hartman
Leonard Hutchinson
Rita Letendre
Christina Leslie
Morris Lum
Andréanne Michon
Suzanne Morrissette
Janice Reid


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"The permanent collection offers world-renowned art and is definitely worth a visit."

-Google review


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ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHT: JOHN HARTMAN

The museum received a **significant donation** of **107 prints** by Canadian painter and printmaker John Hartman.

McMaster Alumnus John Hartman has exhibited across Canada and internationally since the early 1970s. Known for his expressive landscapes and colourful drypoints, Hartman transforms familiar places into richly layered visual stories.



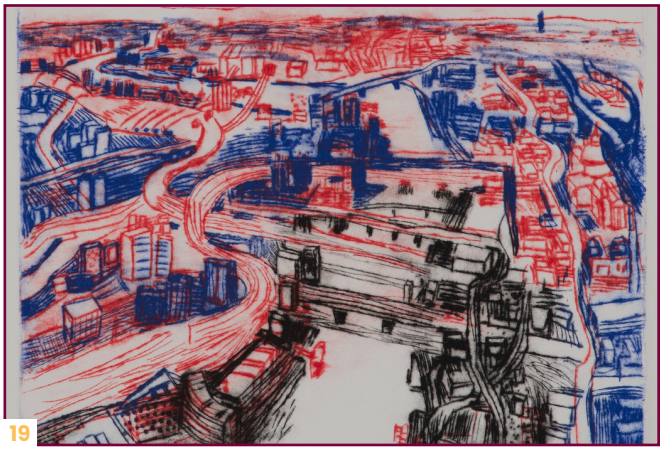
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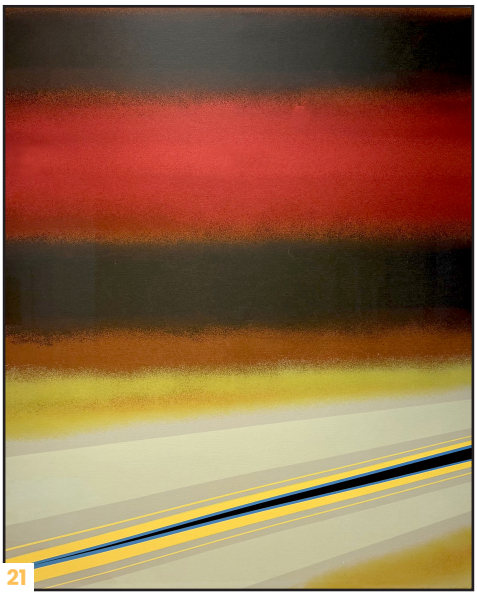
ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHT: OPEN STUDIO

The museum acquired three works by **Carl Beam**, **Janet Cardiff**, and **Rita Letendre** from Open Studio's historic archive.

These acquisitions celebrate Open Studio's exceptional, decades-long history of supporting local, national and international artists in their printmaking practice.



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WORKS ON LOAN

The Museum's collection continued to reach audiences far beyond Hamilton through loans to **major galleries and museums**.

Works from the collection were exhibited at eight institutions, **supporting research**, **scholarship**, and **public engagement** while strengthening the museum's **national and international presence**.

These loans extended the reach of the collection and connected audiences across diverse cultural and geographic contexts.



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The international loan of Claude Monet's *Waterloo Bridge, Sunlight Effect* (1903) to the Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand in Brazil, for the exhibition *Monet's Ecology*, expanded the **global reach** of the McMaster Museum of Art collection.

Works in the permanent collection travelled to:

Art Gallery of Ontario
McMichael Canadian Art Collection
Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery
Doris McCarthy Gallery, University of Toronto
Art Gallery of Hamilton
Kamloops Art Gallery
Surrey Art Gallery
The Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand in Brazil



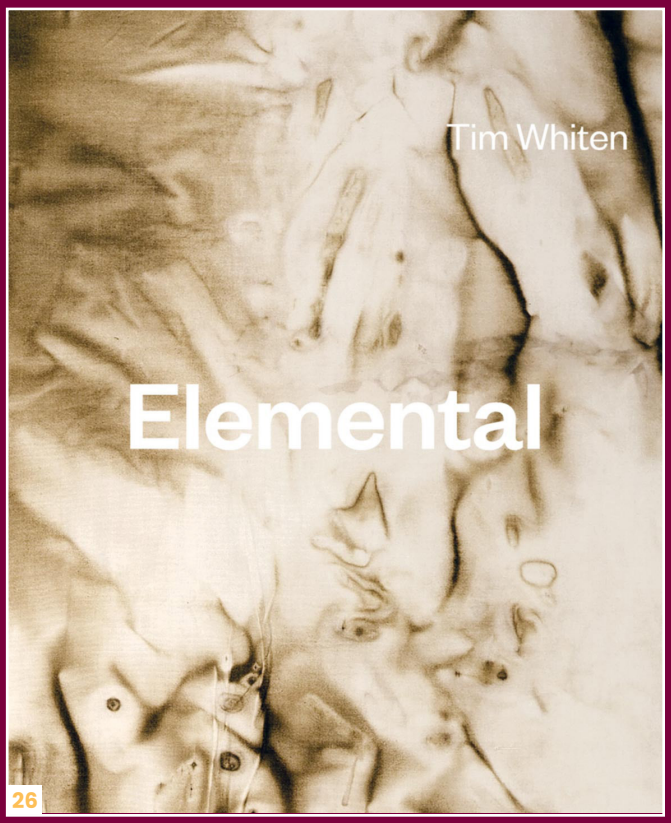
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PUBLICATIONS

Tim Whiten: Elemental

Published by the McMaster Museum of Art, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, The Art Gallery of Peterborough, and The Goldfarb Gallery of York University

Between 2022 and 2023, the McMaster Museum of Art joined three southern Ontario galleries in presenting a four-part retrospective of artist Tim Whiten's 50-year career. Each exhibition offered a distinct curatorial perspective, while a collaborative catalogue brought the four presentations together, documenting the breadth of Whiten's practice and the collective impact of this unprecedented regional collaboration.



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ASCENDING HORIZONS

Published by the McMaster Museum of Art

Published by the museum in conjunction with the 2025 exhibition, the *Ascending Horizons* catalogue documents the work of seven Indigenous women artists (KC Adams, Carrie Allison, Judy Anderson, Hannah Claus, Elizabeth Doxtater, Charlene Vickers, Marie Watt) and their explorations of Indigenous knowledge, creation, land and interconnectedness. Co-curated by Alex Jacobs-Blum and Dr. Kim Anderson, the publication extends the exhibition's conversations beyond the gallery, providing a lasting record of the artists' work and perspectives.



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EDUCATION & PROGRAMMING

In 2025-2026, the museum's education team **advanced its impact** through a **new mission and vision**; **enhanced tours** and **collections access**; and **expanded community engagement** initiatives aligned with the university's academic mission.

Curriculum-integrated Education Programs showcased the museum's collections and exhibitions while **supporting student learning** across disciplines. Education Programs include:

- Gender and Art
- Indigenous Art and Connection to Land
- The Cut, the Tear & the Remix
- Art, Sketching, and Cultivating a Creative Habit for Well-being
- Identity and Art

Education collaborates with instructors across campus to create **learning experiences tailored to course objectives**. Examples include a problem-based learning tour for Nursing students, zine-making for Anthropology Studies, artwork-based reflection activities in African and Black Diaspora Studies, a guest lecture on critically engaging with art in first-year English, and a specialized fourth-year English seminar.

"It's been a meaningful, therapeutic, and enriching experience that supports both mental stimulation and emotional well-being for our residents... This is a program they look forward to each month."

- Program partner


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GUIDED EXHIBITION TOURS

The education team provides **Guided Exhibition Tours** designed to integrate the academic needs of students and instructors across campus, and the learning interests of the wider Hamilton community.

In 2025-2026, the museum held **60 tours** with more than **1,500 participants**.

Participants included McMaster classes in Nursing, Social Work, English, French, Arts & Science, African and Black Diaspora Studies, and Curatorial Studies, as well as for postdoctoral fellows, international student groups, local schools, community organizations, AGH educators, staff groups, and alumni.



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PARTNERSHIPS & PLACEMENTS



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"Really awesome with creative activities... I really enjoyed hearing from the curator and learning about Indigenous art!"
- Education Program participant

The museum engages in partnerships that support the academic needs of students and arts-based learning from campus and community groups.

These collaborations take the form of research-project placements for students and reflection and well-being workshops for day-program patients among others.

THE ART OF SEEING



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The Art of Seeing™ is a visual literacy program developed by the **McMaster University Department of Family Medicine** and the **McMaster Museum of Art** in partnership to enhance and support professional competency in **observation**, **communication**, and **compassion**. The Art of Seeing continues to be embedded in McMaster University leadership programs such as Strategic Leaders' Program, Department of Family Medicine Palliative Care and Residency, and the Health Leadership Academy's National Health Fellows.

In 2025-2026, we collaborated with McMaster Integrated Business Humanities capstone students on the future planning of The Art of Seeing and partnered with the Gibson Art Museum at Simon Fraser University to deliver health humanities consultations and workshops for faculty and students in its new School of Medicine.

"It was so rewarding to have in-person connection and artistic outlets for reflection and growth... I found myself feeling much more centered in my day-to-day life and feeling more empathic/present with folks in a clinical space... I am so happy to have been in this course!"

- Art of Seeing program participant



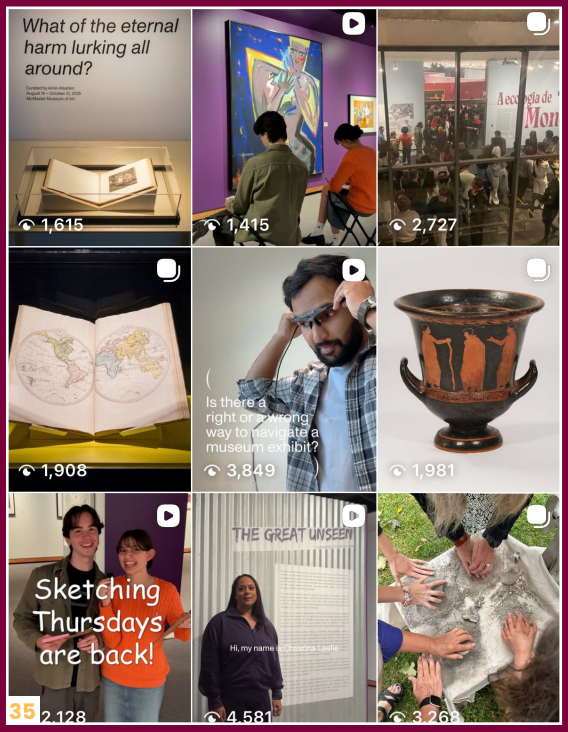
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COMMUNICATIONS & DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

The museum has continued to expand its digital presence - strengthening connections with existing supporters and new audiences.

The @macmuseum Instagram account sees yearly growth in followers, reach, and engagement. Regular content highlighting exhibitions, collections, programs, and behind-the-scenes activities has helped increase awareness of the museum's work while fostering meaningful community interaction.

The Collection Highlight Reel series on Instagram generated over **70,000 organic views** across **22 unique videos**



Social media stats:
10,776
subscribers

30,000+
avg. monthly views

100+
original posts



Website views increased by 11.3% year over year, reaching 60,136 views in 2025-2026.

The museum has over 2,000+ email subscribers to its dedicated mailing list.
Subscribe:

PEOPLE

MUSEUM TEAM

Mary Reid, MA, MBA
Director and Chief Curator

Betty Julian, CTP Dipl
Senior Curator

Julie Bronson, BA (Hons)
Collections & Exhibitions Coordinator

Dr. Spencer Pope
Honorary Coin Curator/Dept. of Classics

Nicole Knibb, MDes
Senior Educator: Academic and Professional Engagement

Teresa Gregorio, MMEd, MA
Educator: Campus and Community Engagement

Alejandra Mendoza, MMst
Assistant Educator

Jeff Jung Sing Chow, MA
Communications Officer, July 2025 - August 2026

Elyse Vickers, MA
Communications Officer, Returned August 2026

Kate Hand, BA (Hons)
Operations and Accounts Payable Associate

Sonya General
Information Assistant

Paula Rebello, BFA (Hons)
Information Assistant

Samuel de Lange, MFA
Senior Preparator

Nicole Levaque, MFA
Assistant Preparator

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Matheus Grasselli
Provost's Designate

Saher Fazilat, MA, MBA
V.P. (Operations and Finance)

Dr. Tracy McDonald
Dean of Humanities Designate

Dr. Teal McAteer
Faculty/Chair

Dr. Vanessa Watts
Faculty

Dr. Selina Mudavanhu
Faculty

Chris Myhr, MFA
Faculty

Dr. David Wilkinson
Community Member

Dr. Clare Warner
Community Member

Mosa McNeilly, AOCA, MES, PhD Candidate
Community Member

Lorrie Gallant, Associate Expressive Arts Practitioner, McMaster Family Medicine Lecturer (Adjunct)
Community Member

STUDENT PLACEMENTS & VOLUNTEERS

Julia Dalafu
Heritage Placement Student January - April 2026

Clara May Sherman-Vickers
Heritage Placement Student January 2026 - April 2026

Alyssa Hinchcliffe
Volunteer

Jack Kessig
Volunteer

Irena Radisevic
Volunteer

Edie Rankin
Volunteer

Shivani Singkh
Volunteer

Charlotte Thompson
Volunteer

Sadie Thompson
Volunteer

Maggie McLean
Volunteer

Fulden Elif
Volunteer

Janice Waldrum
Volunteer

IMAGE CREDITS:

Cover image: Visitors at the opening reception for *Meryl McMaster: Bloodline*, January 2026. Photo by Jeff Jung Sing Chow.

1. McMaster Museum of Art, 2022. Photo by Georgia Kirkos, McMaster University.

2. Portrait of Mary Reid, 2025. Photo by Jeff Jung Sing Chow.

3. Museum staff at the Hamilton Arts Awards ceremony, 2026. Photo by City of Hamilton.

4. Portrait of Nicole Knibb, 2025. Photo by Jeff Jung Sing Chow.

5. Museum staff and colleagues receive the award for Exhibition of the Year at the Ontario Galleries Awards, 2025. Photo by Ontario Galleries.

6. Installation view of *About Abstraction: 1911-1966*. Photo by Joseph Hartman.

7. Installation view of *The Great Unseen*. Photo by Darren Rigo.

8. Installation view of *What of the eternal harm lurking all around*? Photo by Darren Rigo.

9. Installation view of *The Great Sea*. Photo by Darren Rigo.

10. Installation view of *iArts Expo: Pilot*. Photo by Joseph Hartman.

11. Installation view of *Meryl McMaster: Bloodline*. Photo by Darren Rigo.

12. Henri Matisse (French, 1869-1954), *Le Cauchemar de l'elephant blanc / The Nightmare of the White Elephant*, Plate IV from Jazz, 1947. pochoir on Arches paper. 41 x 64 cm. McMaster Museum of Art Collection, Levy Bequest Purchase, 1995.

13. Levy storage vault at McMaster Museum of Art, 2022. Photo by Georgia Kirkos, McMaster University.

14. Janice Reid (Canadian, b. 1987), *Marcus II,* 2023. Inkjet print on Hahnemühle Hemp paper mounted on Alupanel. 76.2 x 61 cm. Edition 1/5 + 1 AP. Museum of Art Collection Trust, 2026.

15. Andréanne Michon (Canadian, b. 1981), *Collapse*, 2019. archival pigment prints (diptych). 101.6 x 81.3 cm each. Edition of 3 +AP. Museum of Art Collection Trust, 2026.

16. John Hartman (Canadian, b. 1950), *Salvage*, 2000. colour drypoint and spit bite aquatint on Somerset cream wove paper; unique proof, 2nd colour proof. 30 x 50 cm. Gift of the artist, 2025.

17. John Hartman (Canadian, b. 1950), *Expulsion From Paradise-Port Severn*, 1991. colour lithograph on white wove paper; edition 21/80. 80 x 53 cm. Gift of the artist, 2025.

18. John Hartman (Canadian, b. 1950), *Shaganash Bearing Gifts,* 1987. silkscreen on white wove paper; edition 9/20, 46 x 61 cm. Gift of the artist, 2025.

19. John Hartman (Canadian, b. 1950), *London Bridge*, 2008. colour drypoint on white wove paper; edition 7/10. 17.5 x 20 cm. Gift of the artist, 2025.

20. Carl Beam (Ojibway, 1943-2005), *Spirit of the Eagle*, 1980. lithograph on paper. O/S II (collected for the Open Studio archive), created as a numbered edition of 100. 76.2 × 55.9 cm. Museum of Art Collection Trust.

21. Rita Letendre (Abenaki, 1928–2021), *Orani*, 1978. screenprint on paper; edition 3/3. 101.6 × 73.7 cm. Museum of Art Collection Trust.

22. Janet Cardiff (Canadian, b. 1957), *She Crossed the River at Daybreak*, 1986. screenprint on paper, edition 4/9. OS Proof (collected for the Open Studio archive), created as a numbered edition of 15. 175.9 × 87.6 cm. Museum of Art Collection Trust.

23. Rajni Perera, Installation view, *2021 Sobey Art Award Exhibition*, 8 October 2021 to 20 February 2022. National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. © Rajni Perera Photo: NGC.

24. Installation view, *Monet's Ecology*, May 16 – September 7, 2025 at Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis, Chateaubriand, São Paulo, Brazil. Photo: MASP.

25. Installation view: *Tim Whiten: A Little Bit of Light,* March 26 - August 17, 2025, Art Gallery of Ontario. Artworks © Tim Whiten. Photo: AGO

26. Cover for *Tim Whiten: Elemental*. Book design by Cristian Ordonez.

27. Cover for *Ascending Horizons* catalogue, design by Fresh Art & Design Inc.

28. Visitors at *The Great Sea* exhibition, 2025. Photo by Jeff Jung Sing Chow.

29. Students sketch in the galleries during Sketching Thursdays, 2025. Photo by Jeff Jung Sing Chow.

30. Teresa Gregorio guides a group on an exhibition tour, 2025. Photo by Jeff Jung Sing Chow.

31. Heritage Placement students Julia Dalafu and Clara May Sherman-Vickers.

32-34. Art of Seeing participants at the Art Gallery of Hamilton program led by Nicole Knibb, July 2026. Photo by Paulina Rzeczkowska.

35. @MacMuseum Instagram feed, 2026.

36. *Meryl McMaster: Bloodline* exhibition page on museum. mcmaster.ca

The McMaster Museum of Art gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Arts Council (OAC), an agency of the Government of Ontario.





M(M)A

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