

**Exhibitions & Programs report AGM 2019**  
**(submitted by Sophie Paskins GD, Ted Lind Programs Chair)**

**2019 Exhibitions & residencies / Programs & outreach**

The goal of the exhibition program is to present professional, contemporary visual art, support emerging, mid-career and established artists; encourage new artists, provide members with creative opportunities; to grow knowledge of contemporary art practice; to bring artists to the community and grow ARTSPLACE as a cultural centre. In coming years, ARTSPLACE will engage a professional curator to broaden our reach and knowledge, designing thematically and culturally diverse programs to enrich the existing framework of exhibits, residencies and outreach.

Our exhibitions are selected and planned to activate meaningful dialogue about art and larger societal issues. Artists can challenge fixed ideas about what a gallery space is for and use the resource to investigate how human needs for growth and expansion impact diverse species, environment and resources, and how cultural ideas about race, sexual identity, and class can be talked about in an open forum. In an area where there is a strong connection to traditional crafts, artists provide a different perspective and deeper survey of the link between gender, craft, and tradition.

Member shows - Each year ARTSPLACE member artists are invited to submit a single work for a group exhibition. Members can also request the use of the small Mym Gallery or the Pop-Up Gallery to show their work - often experimental or in-process. The shows in these spaces coincide with the exhibitions presented in the main gallery (4-6 per year) and the Chapel Gallery, a rental space.

We assess the success of the exhibition / residency program by artist satisfaction (artists network with their peers), member feedback and visitor numbers.

We have opened up other spaces within the gallery, to allow for pop-ups, overflow, residencies on the main floor and small programs. We will also be piloting a small storefront for artists and if this grows, consider adapting a larger area.

**2019: 6 professional, paid exhibits 5 Artist residencies; 10 members' exhibits; 5 rental exhibits; 2 school exhibit; 1 community exhibit; 8 opening receptions**

**Visitors (inc. opening receptions) 2945**

ARTSPLACE has selected exhibitions through open calls (30+ proposals per year) choosing work that is excellent and would interest, inspire, and challenge our small rural community. These exhibits are the core of our activity. Openings are well-attended and residencies and outreach activities bring the art into greater clarity.

We are slowly increasing artist residencies, and our goal is to be able to fund these adequately in the future. At the moment, we have a Member-in-Residence program, where the process is by application and the artist has full use of studio and gallery facilities for the duration of the residency. Alternatively, artists coming to exhibit, can stay for 2-4 weeks during their exhibition to participate in a residency.

An example of this was Ian McKinnon, Still/Life (2019) - This artist created a 'living' exhibition in the main gallery and was in residence in an adjacent space. His observational drawings of everyday objects

used coloured pencil worked over an iridescent gold gesso ground on small wood panels. The highly rendered objects express time, space, light and shadow. This exhibition/residency invited the viewer to engage contemplatively with the drawings and to ponder why we seek out art and why we make it; and to reflect further on the transcendence that can be found in things that surround us. Visitors to his studio space during the 4-week long residency were invited to bring in objects for him to consider, and he kept adding new work to the gallery.

**Feb & May 2019 Member-in-residence** Artist residency Lauren Soloy, Illustrator / Deirdre Dwyer, Writer  
Members of ARTsPLACE invited to submit a proposal for a no cost residency with outreach component (each held open studio days, Lauren Soloy presented a talk, Deirdre presented a reading).

**Feb 17-March 17 2019 The Schools Show:** Youth engagement, community. A collaboration with Clark Rutherford Memorial School, Champlain Elementary, Annapolis West Education Centre. A Biennial exhibition that opens the gallery space to the local schools to present select work of their students in a professional setting.

**March 24-Apr 27 2019 Exhibition / site-specific installation *Murmuration*** Rebecca Hamlin Green, US Artist. Juried, paid.

**May 5-June 16 2019 Exhibition & 4-week residency *still / life*** Ian McKinnon Artist. Juried, paid.

**June 23- July 21 2019 Exhibition to the Moon and Back.** Community program. Collaboration with professional local artists, Annapolis west Education Centre (AWEC) and their Annapolis Royal Space Agency, Royal Robots Youth robotics group, Shag Harbour UFO society. VR Flight to the Moon, Film Screenings and Documentaries (Plan 9 from outer space, Shag Harbour UFO incident, The Universe NFB).  
*Also supported through a \$500 Visual Arts NS small grant.*

**Jul 28- Aug 31 2019 Exhibition *Introvert*** Riisa Gundeson, Artist

**Jul 28- Aug 31 2019 Residency (4-week) with small exhibition *Crafting the Confluence*** Camille Bernard Gravel, Artist. Juried, paid.

**Sept 8 - Oct 12 2019 Exhibition *an Interior*** Jess Lincoln, Artist. Juried, paid.

**Oct 20 - Nov 16 2019 Exhibition & residency *The Mail Exchange Project*** Laura Kathleen Watson, Artist. Juried, paid.

**Nov 24 -Dec 19 2019 Exhibition Members**

**Mar 24 -Dec 19 2019 Exhibition - rotating members / open space x 7, Mym Gallery:** Jeannie Allen; Carol Tonkin; Madeleine Lajambe; SOFAAR (Society of Fibre Artists of the Annapolis River); Ted Lind; Will Allard

**Mar 24 - Apr 27 / Dec 12 - 19 2019 Exhibition - pop-up x 2** Jaime Lee Lightle, Julia Redgrave

**Mar 24 -Dec 19 2019 Exhibition – rental space x 5:** James & Jaime Lee Lightle; Elephant grass print collective; Barb Gibson & Blanchard Smith; Group Show x 5 artists; Ted Lind; My Story Photo Project (sponsored by ARTsPLACE)

### **Programming / Outreach 2019**

The goal of outreach programs is to engage face-to-face with the community; present professional artists to the community; build and nurture existing and new relationships with community organisations and schools; provide opportunities for artists and the public to share and learn.

We assess the programs via exit surveys, membership and user surveys, visitor numbers/attendance.

We have been increasing artist presentation and networking opportunities and will continue to build the Artists' Cafe afternoon series.

**17 film & documentary screenings (4 offsite); 5 workshops; 16 life drawing studio sessions; 15 Artist talks; 5 Artist's Café Open Mic events; 3 Youth special events; 7 community and national/International collaborations**

### **Attendance 2636**

Outreach Activity - As an active and responsive arts centre, we work to build an organizational model that provides many opportunities for substantive talk and conversation. During our last cycle outreach programs were well received and enabled us to consider more artist talks, basic classes in various art media, and film and digital media activity.

Formal outreach activities are learning experiences that address the identified needs of both artists and community. Programs integrate contemporary ideas with history to build a deeper understanding of how art and the arts are relevant today. Outreach programs are directly drawn from the artistic vision that recognizes the importance of artistic practice and the role of art in a creative, healthy, and sustainable community. The outreach activities enlist regional artists whenever possible, as presenters, idea-generators, participants, and thought-leaders. Others in the ARTSPLACE community who are not practicing artists benefit greatly through programs that enable them to interact with artists who 'live just down the street'.

ARTSPLACE successfully partnered with King's Theatre on the fourth annual Reel Art series in January and February. As a member of the ART21 film society, ARTSPLACE was also able to run a series of thematic documentary films about contemporary international artists. The Artist Talk series continued with a focus on regional artists. Three programs included 'distance learning' with videoconferencing - National Gallery of Art in Ottawa, Brandywine River Museum (Wyeth collection), and an art therapist associated with the Philadelphia Museum of Art (Amy Danford). A new informal Wednesday afternoon program series, Artists' Cafe, enabled the community to engage with regional artists, musicians, poets, and storytellers. ARTSPLACE was also privileged to premiere a 'rough cut' of the new documentary about local artist/writer Geoff Butler. Select hands-on workshops and an on-going life drawing series provided the community with opportunities to develop their artistic skills.

It is significant that community members can grow in their aesthetic development through close, personal, and frequent exposure to contemporary art and artists. Artist residencies, artist talks, documentary films about art history and current art, video conferencing with art museums and galleries, and artist-led workshops all serve to create a local culture that supports active thinking. Talking about contemporary art and the broader societal issues are often inherent in this art such as environment, gender inequities, cultural politics, and racism. Outreach programming is designed to both support and advance the production of art by artists in the ARTSPLACE community and to build a strong foundation of public understanding and appreciation. Open calls are also distributed to artists in the community, inviting them to submit proposals for workshops, art talks, and residencies.

**Jan 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb 4, 11 Reel Arts film series.** Collaboration with the King's Theatre. A series of art films and discussions at ARTSPLACE and King's Theatre. 1 KLIMT & SCHIELE: Eros & Psyche 2. When Paris was a Woman 3. MONET: The Magic of Water & Light 4. Our City Our Dreams 5. DEGAS: Passion for Perfection 6. AGNES MARTIN Before the Grid. **(60 attendees ARTSPLACE / 153 attendees King's Theatre)**

**Jan 8 Special film screening of “Do Not Go Gently”** at Annapolis Royal Nursing Home for the staff and residents **(25 attendees)**

**Feb 15 Mocean Dance & King’s Theatre Youth Movement Workshop and Adult Movement Workshop (20 attendees)**

**April 14 (at Annapolis Royal Library) Artist Talk: “We Rise Again”,** Wayne Boucher, about his painting in the Library and its’ history **(30 attendees)**

**April 10 & June 5 Art Seen: Live conferencing / screening**

**National Gallery of Canada** live teleconference with NG on their Indigenous Collection "Indigenous Perspectives"

**Brandywine Museum, US** live teleconference with curators regarding the Wyeth's. **(50)**

**June 17 Live conferencing.** Jaime Lightle, B.A. CHRP, DTATI, Cand. Art therapists Jaime Lee Lightle of Annapolis Royal, Canada, and Amy Danford of Philadelphia, USA, presented the therapeutic value of art, via teleconference. **(20)**

**June 20 & July 3, 5, 13, 17 2019 To the Moon and Back exhibition ancillary events** to complement the lunar exhibition

AWEC Youth Annapolis Royal Space Agency “Painting in Space” space balloon launch with CBC National coverage (results displayed in the ARTsPLACE Space Lab, with the balloon – included 3D printed bust of the Annapolis Royal Mayor Peter Davies that went in to space; **(10)**

Looped presentation: George Melies 1902 archival film, A Trip to the Moon; **(# inc. in exhibitions)**

Looped presentations: Shag Harbour UFO incident documentary plus NFB Film the Universe; **(# inc. in exhibitions)**

“Battlebots”, Youth Royal Robots robot building and battle at ARTsPLACE (in the Space Lab) **(40)**

Artist Talk: “Moon Art” Ted Lind **(10)**

Film screening: “Plan 9 From Outer Space” **(8)**

Lunar Night Hike with naturalist Paul Lalonde **(10 attendees)**

**Jul 3 VR Talk** A talk and presentation from 2018 ARCAC Scholarship recipient, Jonah Flett, age 10, on his Virtual reality gaming course. Scholarship recipients are invited to return the following year to give a talk or an exhibition/performance depending on what they used the funding for in their application. **(10)**

**Aug 17 & 18 2019 Paint the Town:** 80+ Artists, volunteers. An outdoor art weekend where 80 artists set up throughout Annapolis Royal. This popular event draws onlookers and art buyers from around Atlantic Canada and beyond. Spectators can meet the artists at work. As their paintings are finished, volunteers deliver the artwork to the Paint the Town Gallery set up at the local Legion. The first of its kind in its 24th year, and intended as a fundraiser, Paint the Town generates over \$30K in art sales, split 50/50 with organisation and artist. The event acts as a community outreach, promotion of artists, support of artists, art in the community as well as an attraction for national and international visitors. **(1000)**

**Nov 2- 9 2019 Youth Instagram Film Festival,** collaboration with King's Film Society and students and staff of Annapolis West Education Centre (AWEC). Blending youth film, with professional presentations. Grades 8-12 AWEC students are invited to create and post 60 second films to Instagram using the #kfs\_festival; no theme or restrictions. Films are juried by local community members, artists and professionals and three are selected. Also includes 3 Honourable Mentions and a Student Choice award.

Reel is presented for 1-week at ARTsPLACE and later at the AWEC school assembly for prize presentations. The top three films are screened before the King's Film Society films at the King's Theatre, as trailers, during the Fall/Winter season. In 2018, the top prizes included paid social media internships at the Kings Theatre as well as donated cash prizes for the winners. In 2020, the 2019 winners will be offered a paid social media internship at ARTsPLACE or to present a paid workshop in collaboration with the Annapolis Library Innovation Centre as part of the annual Scholarship. **(500)**

### **2019 Program Series'**

**June 19, Sept 25, Nov 27, Dec 11 Artist's Café** An afternoon of arts programming; presentations (live conferences /artist talks) music and literary events, opportunities to present and engage, open mic opportunity. Various presenters. **(40)**

**June 15, 17, Jul 13, Oct 26, Nov 16 & 17 Workshops** Professional development: Holly Carr (silk painting); Jaime Lee Lightle and Amy Danford (Hands on/Minds on art therapy); Bonnie Baker (cyanotypes); Kate Ward (Shibori & Sashiko), Brenda Thompson (writing). By proposal Spring/ Fall workshop series between 1 and 4 days. Fee paid. **(37)**

**Spring & Fall 2019 Life Drawing** Professional development. 16 x Open sessions for access to a live studio model for a nominal fee (to pay the model). **(128 / 8 per session)**

**March 18, Apr 15, 29, May 27, Sept 30, Oct 21, Nov 25, Dec 9** Spring and fall sessions (4 each) **ART21 Film Series.** Community engagement, education. ARCAC is a PBS member and has permission to screen their ART21 series. Series includes discussions and resource materials. **(160)**

**Feb 25, Mar 4, 15, 24, Apr 1, 14, May 5, 6, June 2, 3, 24, Jul 3, 28 Oct 20, 28 Art Talks.** Community outreach, professional development. Presenters: Lauren Soloy ARTsPLACE Member-in-residence, children's book author & illustrator; James Lightle (Veteran, PTSD sufferer) art and healing; Devin Fraser filmmaker, showing rough cut of film about artist Geoff Butler; Deirdre Dwyer, ARTsPLACE Member-in-Residence, writer/poet; Ted Lind artist, talking about his work; Susan Tooke CARFAC representative introduced artists rights; Bonnie Baker, printmaking/cyanotypes; Richard Rudnicki illustrator and fine artist, talked about his work within social justice; Allan Holtz a comic strip historian, talked about his work archiving and researching. Exhibiting artists presented talks on their exhibition and work; Ian McKinnon, Rebecca Hamlin Green, Riisa Gundeson, Laura Kathleen Watson. **(325)**