

Homer Watson
House & Gallery



WATSnew

Homer Watson House & Gallery Bi-Annual Newsletter


A newsletter for the members and supporters of Homer Watson House & Gallery

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**Homer Watson
House & Gallery**

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Spirits Abound

Ghost Stories are spiritually charged, highly creative and often related to the past. It is no wonder that we hear of them so often here at the Gallery or that they inspired the late Gerald Noonan, a teaching alumni at Wilfrid Laurier University, Department of English, to write his book: *Refining the real Canada: Homer Watson's spiritual landscape*.

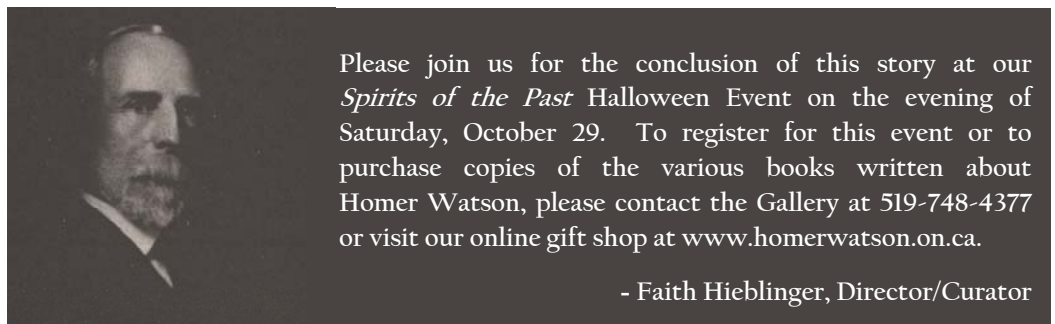
This autumn we will host a night of *ghost stories* at our first Halloween Event, *Spirits of the Past*. The night will capture a collection of real ghost events as explained by various individuals, guests, and past residents of Homer Watson House & Gallery. These often unexplained occurrences are gathered and retold in an accurate historic setting for your enjoyment. The following is a quote from one of these familiar ghost stories:

Alone in his studio, surrounded by half completed canvases, tubes of dried paint, and used brushes, Homer sits and rocks. A monstrous easel looms vacant in the corner and a large painter's utility box sits empty on the floor beside him. The floor boards are worn and splattered with remnants of paint and varnish, and they creak under his weight and slow steady rock. Left forgotten near the edge of the room sits an aged travel trunk.

The trunk reminds him of happier times: times when nature itself spoke to him with such energy and vitality that canvas after canvas filled with life. It also spoke of times he shared with Roxy, his wife, and the dreams and hopes of bringing art to the people. He reflects on how these travels took him away to explore the glory and vastness of nature abound; and times when he used his finely honed skills as a painter to let the force and power of his work elevate the very spirit and soul of his viewers.

Roxy is now gone and the landscape seems dull. Unsettled skies loom outside a large double-hung window and cast grey light through the rippled panes of glass leaving streaky shadows over his life's work; and the spirituality of his beloved forest seems gone now too.

It is in this moment, that Homer sees a peculiar amber glow and movement from his peripheral view. Homer stops rocking. He watches the glow change form. His heart beats faster. Homer rises cautiously and moves toward the vision.....



Please join us for the conclusion of this story at our *Spirits of the Past* Halloween Event on the evening of Saturday, October 29. To register for this event or to purchase copies of the various books written about Homer Watson, please contact the Gallery at 519-748-4377 or visit our online gift shop at www.homerwatson.on.ca.

- Faith Hieblinger, Director/Curator

Gallery Exhibitions



Untitled, Robert Achtemichuk, Gouache on Silk

Fall Exhibition

Isabella Stefanescu
Robert Achtemichuk
Ortansa Moraru

September 3 - November 6, 2011

Opening Reception:

Sunday, September 11, 2011 2pm - 4pm

Artist Talk:

Saturday, October 1, 2011 1pm - 3pm

End of Season Exhibition

Tom Dale
Jim Blomfield
November 12 - December 18, 2011

Opening Reception:

Saturday, November 19, 2011 6pm - 8pm

Artist Talk:

Saturday, December 10, 2011 1pm - 3pm

Open Gallery Program

Eastwood Collegiate Institute
January 7 - 27, 2012

Opening Reception:

Sunday, January 8, 2012

Special Thanks

Homer Watson House & Gallery would like to extend its gratitude to the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture for the generous grant through the Museum and Technology Fund. Homer Watson House & Gallery will use these funds to improve its current collections database and computer systems. Currently, the collection records are available in paper format only. By implementing an electronic collections management database, the Gallery will be able to maintain its archival records, photographs and condition documents in a more sustainable manner.

2011 Exhibitions at HWHG

Around the World in 80 Camps was a vibrant and colourful display of artwork from this year's talented summer campers, ranging from ages 4 - 14. Co-curated by Gillian McDonald, Dayna Horst, Shaikh Ahmed and Kayla Pilon, the exhibition showcased over 250 works of art. Thanks to all the students for a wonderful exhibition!

Our *Fall Exhibition* displays local landscapes with abstract woodcut engravings that make a dramatic and fascinating show.

Isabella Stefanescu's show deciphers the pattern of fields, trees, grasses, buildings, and fences, to become individual glances translated into individual brush-strokes. The sum of which creates innovative paintings. Stefanescu writes: "I look for landscapes that the imagination can enter, even if real access might be temporarily blocked by a chain-link fence."



The Grand at Pilkington,
Isabella Stefanescu, Oil on Masonite

Robert Achtemichuk, a local artist, creates unique paintings made of water-based opaque pigments on silk canvas. Exploring the visual phenomenon happening in his own backyard, Robert explains his inspiration for these works, "Light spilling from windows, the divisions made when fences bisect open spaces, and the infinite, minute changes that occur because of light and weather, become reflections of my surroundings and their effect on me."

Ortansa Moraru, a printmaking artist, produces distinctive woodcut prints on delicate Japanese paper. Ortansa states, "I have reinvented myself, maybe because of the urge to wrestle something - working against the grain... miraculously balancing the spectacular results in the quality and accuracy of the cut."



The Hearing Sense, Ortansa Moraru,
Woodcut Print on Japanese Paper

The *End of Season Exhibition* is dedicated to the art of photography and features works created by two local artists. Tom Dale is a fine art photographer whose artwork seeks to draw the audience closer to the photographic experience that encapsulates "the moment locked in time". Tom explores the architectural heritage of the world and creates an exhibition about diversity, acceptance and beauty.

Jim Blomfield makes a link with Kashuby, Ontario, and the Kaszuby homeland in Poland, on this 150th anniversary of the arrival of Canada's first Polish settlers, through his black and white photographic images. Blomfield asks, "After more than a hundred years of isolation and fading memories, do the genetic makeup and handed-down skill set of an immigrant people remain strong enough to provide concrete clues of their heritage?"

For any curatorial questions, please contact me at the Gallery or email exhibitions@homerwatson.on.ca.

- Sandu Sindile, Curator

Special Events

Cozy up with friends and families this fall and join us for exciting and new special events! We hope to see you at the Gallery soon!



Halloween Family Fun Day
Sunday, October 23, 2011
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Join us for spooky fun art activities, face painting, and tasty treats!

Pre-register at the Gallery
\$20.00 per family of four
(\$3.00 per additional member)



A HOMER WATSON HOUSE & GALLERY EVENT
SPIRITS OF THE PAST
GHOST TOURS • PSYCHICS • SÉANCE • CANAPÉS

OCTOBER 29, 2011 7-10 PM \$60 PER TICKET
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL THE GALLERY
WWW.HOMERWATSON.ON.CA | 519.748.4377



Celebrate the Season

JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE EVENING AT THE GALLERY FOR OUR

HOLIDAY PARTY & OPENING RECEPTION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2011
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

ENJOY A WONDERFUL DISPLAY OF ART AND JOIN IN SOME HOLIDAY CHEER
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

Education & Program News

“...Landmarks are benchmarks, high-water marks and they are something out of the ordinary. If we look upon today’s and tomorrow’s landmarks as opportunities for learning, we can realize a great deal about our communities, about our society, and about life in general.”
-Ray B Browne

Museums and galleries offer a valuable resource for developing students’ literacy, verbal communication skills and understanding of community. Public art exhibitions encourage students to explore and engage in dialogue, allowing for both contemplative and reflective thought to ensue. Homer Watson House & Gallery offers a variety of museum education programs that gently guide teachers and students through the process of making meaning through appreciating, creating and thinking about art, history and community.

As a local landmark, our organization uniquely offers both a historical and contemporary context for students and teachers to consider community values, develop opinions and respectfully debate multiple viewpoints and differences; building upon and supporting each other’s ideas of diversity. The ultimate goal is to create socially relevant museum education programs that have a positive impact on mainstream culture, proliferating interaction between differing cultural groups through the engagement of the Arts.

Building upon the strong foundation of our current school programs, Homer Watson House & Gallery is excited to be offering culturally rich and innovative aboriginal museum education programs that are accessible

to both native and non-native educational communities. Creative collaborations with aboriginal educators and artists will offer a valued understanding of Indigenous Culture within a museum setting. We are proud to introduce four new museum education programs that are designed and delivered to school aged children by local Ojibwa Elder, Artist and Storyteller, Rene Meshake.



Rene Meshake

Striving to be more often seen as a place to meet on all levels, contemporary museums and galleries are growing in their global presence whether virtually or in reality, attempting to create the intangible *third* place. Building on this idea, museums become a plausible free space for cultural interaction and knowledge exchange where differences are enunciated.

For more information on this program initiative please contact programs@homerwatson.on.ca.

- Chandra Erlendson, Director of Education & Public Programs

Remembering Endla Loney

1932 – 2011

Homer Watson House & Gallery is deeply saddened by the passing of **Endla Loney**, artist, benefactor and long time supporter of local charities. Her last exhibition, *Reflections*, was hosted by the Gallery and received glowing reviews by the public. She will be greatly missed by the artistic community and the staff of Homer Watson House & Gallery.

Special Thanks to our 2011 Donors

Anonymous, President’s Circle
 Carolyn Anderson, Watson Friend
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 Gioja Loney, Watson Friend
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 Francis McIntosh, Art Associate
 Ontario Ministry of Tourism & Culture, President’s Circle
 Helena Pravda, Watson Friend
 A.B. Robertson, Watson Friend
 The Waterloo Region Record, Curator’s Circle
 Roy Williams, Watson Friend

Spectacular Summer Students!



Dayna Horst was this summer’s Program Assistant. Dayna is currently enrolled at the University of Guelph in the Honours BA Program majoring in the Studio Art Program and intends to continue at Teacher’s College. Dayna worked on several projects throughout the summer her favourite of which were researched based and lesson planning.



Gillian MacDonald was the Exhibition Assistant this summer and comes to the Gallery with a wealth of experience from her previous exhibition with Eastwood Collegiate in 2009. Gillian is studying Anthropology and Equity Studies at University of Toronto. This summer she led the summer student team in preparing for Summer Colours.



Our Marketing Assistant this year was Shaikh Ahmed, a third year Communications Studies student at Wilfred Laurier University. Shaikh thoroughly enjoyed working collaboratively on the Summer Colours Exhibition, promoting the show and obtaining donations for the closing reception.



St. David’s Secondary Catholic High School student Kayla Pilon joined our team this summer as a co-op student for 6 weeks. Kayla assisted in the Summer Colours Exhibition and daily supervision of summer campers. Kayla was a true asset to the team and showed her enthusiasm for the Gallery by volunteering her time for the rest of the summer.

Board of Directors

President Brian Wadsworth
Vice President Ian Tarrant

Past Chair Carl Totzke
Secretary Gerry Engel

Treasurer Jim Cooke

Members Bob Cowan, Doris Cowan, Susan Janakovic, William Schwartz, Charlotte Tarrant

Staff

Executive Director/Curator Faith Hieblinger

Curator Sandu Sindile
Development Officer Kate Macpherson

Director of Education & Public Programs Chandra Erlendson

Marketing & PR Coordinator Helena Ball

Research & Archive Coordinator Laura Mabee

Please Show Your Support for Homer Watson House & Gallery by Becoming a Member Today!

It is the mission of Homer Watson House & Gallery to preserve and celebrate the legacy of Homer Watson's creative spirit by stimulating the appreciation, enjoyment and practice of the visual arts. Accomplishing this mission takes dedication, passion and support from donors, volunteers and the community. Donations from individuals and organizations contribute to the overall improvements to our facilities, programming and continued growth. Please show your support today, so we can help encourage the artists of tomorrow!

All Members Receive:

- Invitations to opening exhibition receptions
- FREE *Meet the Artist* talks
- 10 % discount on fees for workshops and art classes
- Free bi-annual newsletter
- Invitations to FREE Family Fun Days
- Discounts on art supplies & gift shop items.
- A Vote at the Annual General Meeting
- Advanced information on Programs and Gallery events

Levels of Giving:

**Watson Friend
(\$100-\$499)**

- A one year membership to the Gallery
- Charitable tax receipt
- Organization name listed on our website for one year
- Organization name listed in the WATSnew Newsletter for one year

**Art Associate
(\$500-\$999)**

- All the benefits of Watson Friends, plus:
- Item of HWHG Memorabilia
- An embossed certificate of appreciation

**Curator's Circle
(\$1,000-\$9,999)**

- All of the benefits of the Art Associates, plus:
- A designated spot on our Wall of Prominence located in the front lobby of the Gallery

**President's Circle
(\$10,000 and above)**

- All of the benefits of the Curator's Circle, plus:
- A one year Web-link to your organization on our website
- Organization name featured in our program flyer for one year

Charitable Registration # 11896 2174 RR0001

YES! I want to show my support for Homer Watson House & Gallery



Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

- Individual Membership - \$18.00
 Family Membership - \$30.00
 Corporate Membership - \$100.00

Level of Giving

- Watson Friend
- Art Associate
- Curator's Circle
- President's Circle
- Other amount _____

Payment Method

- Cheque (payable to Homer Watson House & Gallery)
- Visa Master Card



Credit Card Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____ Donation Amount \$ _____

Mail To: Homer Watson House & Gallery, 1754 Old Mill Rd, Kitchener, ON N2P 1H7
or **donate online** by visiting http://www.homerwatson.on.ca/form_donation.htm