

## Three New AGM Exhibitions Explore Past, Present and Future Interpretations of Landscape

*Beyond the Pines: Homer Watson and the Contemporary Canadian Landscape*

Faisal Anwar | *Tweetgarden*

Mary Grisey | *Sung from the Mouth of Cumae*

For Immediate Release September 8, 2015

MISSISSAUGA – This fall, the Art Gallery of Mississauga (AGM) invites visitors to explore a diverse range of approaches to the landscape genre in art with three new exhibitions. *Beyond the Pines* traces the history of Canadian landscape with paintings from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century by Homer Watson and works in a range of mediums by contemporary artists. In the Gallery's resource room and online, *Tweetgarden* creates a virtual community garden. Exploring themes of mythology and time, Mary Grisey's *Sung from the Mouth of Cumae* examines landscape's ability to shift and change.

### ***Beyond the Pines: Homer Watson and the Contemporary Canadian Landscape***

Jason Brown, Jennifer Carvalho, April Hickox, Brian Jungen and Duane Linklater, Gavin Lynch, Reinhard Reitzenstein, Monica Tap

*Beyond the Pines*, features the works of notable Canadian painter Homer Watson alongside eight contemporary Canadian artists. Homer Watson is considered to be one of the founders of the Canadian landscape painting tradition and has been called "the man who first saw Canada as Canada" due to his commitment to presenting 'truthful representations' of the Canadian wilderness. The AGM is proud to be working with Homer Watson House & Gallery to bring Mississauga a selection of work that highlights Watson's legacy. By juxtaposing contemporary work by emerging and established artists alongside that of Watson, *Beyond the Pines* presents the Canadian landscape as a subject that is consistently revisited and reinterpreted. Brian Jungen and Duane Linklater's *Modest Livelihood* (2012) stands as a testament to First Nations' land rights to fish and hunt on their own territory and references earlier films that documented First Nations lives through ethnographic lenses. April Hickox's work from her *Invasive Species* series examines human interaction in designated natural areas that have escaped drastic developments. Much like the vast and shifting geography of Canada, *Beyond the Pines* presents the winding history of Canadian landscape art from its idealized inception to the critical, polyvocal platform it is today.

A special acknowledgement and thank you to AGM Board Chair, Robert Tattersall and the Community Foundation of Mississauga for their generous sponsorship of this exhibition.



## Faisal Anwar | *Tweetgarden*

Displayed in the Gallery's resource room, *Tweetgarden* is an online, interactive installation that blurs the lines between the virtual and real world by inviting visitors to transform their private confessions and thoughts into a public artwork. Artist Faisal Anwar reimagines virtual networks as an interconnected tree that grows as participants share and connect – online and in gallery. Each interaction from the public will add to the tree, generating a shifting, growing and active visualization of Mississauga's digital landscape. This installment of *Tweetgarden* will be the first time that the work has been shown in Mississauga and will be thematically crafted to highlight the experiences of living in the city. The work has previously been exhibited at Scotiabank Nuit Blanche and the Royal Ontario Museum.

Share secrets, thoughts, confessions and wishes on twitter with the hashtag #treeconfessions to take part in the project!

## Mary Grisey | *Sung from the Mouth of Cumae*

Lastly, devoted to presenting exceptional artists from Mississauga and the GTA, the AGM's XIT-RM space is proud to present Mary Grisey's *Sung from the Mouth of Cumae*. Taking the form of an immersive, fiber, ceramic and sound installation, *Sung from the Mouth of Cumae* brings a unique perspective to the gallery's thematic examination of landscape and its ability to shift and change. Inspired by the legend of Cumean Sibyl – a Greek oracle who was said to have sung prophecies from the mouth of a cave, Grisey evokes the effects of time on landscape, history and mythology, creating an experience with the ephemeral.

The AGM kicks off the 2015 fall and winter programming with an opening reception on Thursday, September 24 from 7– 9 PM.

A free bus to the event will depart at 6 pm from The Gladstone Hotel (1214 Queen St W, Toronto), returning at 8:30 pm.

Exhibitions will be on view from **September 24, 2015 to January 1, 2016**

### QUOTE

"As a gallery devoted to presenting a range of periods and movements in Canadian art, the AGM believes that knowing our history is vital in forging our future. The Gallery presents three distinct exhibitions examining the subject of landscape from the work of revered painter Homer Watson to exceptional contemporary voices of today. We invite members of the public to consider what defines 'Landscape' and how these views shaped and evolving.

The AGM is excited to partner with Homer Watson House & Gallery to present an exhibition which features Watson's legacy and contribution to the genre of Canadian Landscape. A special thank you to AGM Board Chair, Robert Tattersall and the Community Foundation of Mississauga for their continual support towards the AGM and generous sponsorship of *Beyond the Pines*."

— Mandy Salter, Director | Curator, Art Gallery of Mississauga

## QUICK FACTS

- *Beyond the Pines* is presented with Homer Watson Gallery & House, a historic gallery that was previously Watson's place of residence which has preserved and celebrated his legacy since 1981.
- This installment of *Tweetgarden* will be the first time that the work has been shown in Mississauga and will be thematically crafted to highlight the experiences of living in the city. The work has previously been exhibited at Scotiabank Nuit Blanche and the Royal Ontario Museum.
- The exhibitions open to the public on Thursday, September 24 at 7 pm. There will be a free bus from The Gladstone Hotel (1214 Queen St W, Toronto) at 6 pm, returning at 8:30 pm.

## ABOUT THE ART GALLERY OF MISSISSAUGA

The Art Gallery of Mississauga (AGM) is a public, not-for-profit art gallery located in the Mississauga Civic Centre right on Celebration Square across from Square One Mall. The AGM is proud to admit people free of charge, serve communities, and provide positive visual art experiences for all visitors.

Engage. Think. Inspire. This phrase opens the dialogue at the AGM. The Gallery connects with the people of Mississauga through the collection and presentation of relevant works from a range of periods and movements in Canadian art. Expressing multiple ideas and concepts, this visual art translates into meaningful cultural and social experiences for all audiences. The AGM employs innovative education, artist projects and other forms of dialogue to advance critical enquiry and community connection to the visual arts. The mandate of the Gallery is to “bring art to the community and the community to art.”

## CONTACT

Shellie Zhang – Communications  
905-896-5893  
[shellie.zhang@mississauga.ca](mailto:shellie.zhang@mississauga.ca)

