



POSITION DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Carol and Morton Rapp Curator, Contemporary Art

DEPARTMENT: Curatorial Affairs

REPORTS TO: Deputy Director & Chief Curator

WORK SUPERVISOR TO:

Assistant Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art
Manager, Modern and Contemporary Collections
Research Assistant

SUMMARY OF FUNCTION:

Leads and directs the activities of the contemporary curatorial department, including exhibition development, programming and collection building to contribute to the achievement of AGO's strategic goals as a leading presenter of the art of our time. Through their curatorial responsibilities, understands and practically implements the AGO's vision of leading global conversations from Toronto and reflecting the people who live here.

Inspires, engages, trains, develops and holds their team accountable for their work performance and delivery on Curatorial goals aligned to the AGO's vision, mission and values. Understands and thoughtfully interprets policies, procedures, practices, collective agreements and employment legislation to ensure their team works inclusively, safely and securely and is valued for their diverse skillsets, backgrounds and approaches.

Plans, builds, and presents the permanent collection of contemporary art; creates, organizes and executes major exhibitions; interprets works of art in meaningful, relevant ways for the AGO's audiences; identifies and researches significant tendencies, issues and opportunities in the visual arts and fosters a public understanding of art as a vital social and cultural force.

Partners with colleagues and teams across the AGO, including Marketing, Exhibitions & Collections, Education and Programming and Development, to achieve shared and measurable objectives and goals in a collaborative, inclusive, accountable way.

Directs a team of curatorial employees in their development and execution of innovative, substantive, relevant projects and functions; understands, demonstrates and fosters an integrated thinking, collaborative approach with their team and with internal and external stakeholders.

TASKS:

Manages work performance of department staff through hiring; training processes; assigning, scheduling and monitoring work completion; and managing work performance. Manages delivery of services in accordance with department systems and procedures, applicable collective agreements; and AGO's policies and procedures on security, administration, human resources, and department manager/supervisor responsibilities for workplace health and safety.

Curatorial Leadership**50%**

1. Leads creative concept and planning processes with curatorial staff and colleagues (internal and external to the AGO) to develop annual and long-range contemporary exhibition programming and presentation of the collection in the context of AGO's strategic plan and overall programming goals.
2. Creates, organizes and delivers exhibitions and publications of contemporary art, often in partnership with global museum peers; produces a major special exhibition approximately every three years that has broad public appeal and engages the AGO's diverse audiences. Serves as Curator-in-charge of selected exhibitions co-organized and hosted by AGO.
3. Establishes linkages and engages with international colleagues to collaboratively develop projects, to place AGO-organized exhibitions in other institutions and to identify exhibitions of possible interest to the AGO.
4. Plans, establishes and enhances standards of excellence in the contemporary curatorial department by increasing capabilities in collection building, conservation care, research and publishing, and interpretive programming.
5. Clearly articulates the scope and focus for the contemporary collection through gift and purchase. Conducts research on works of art to build the permanent collection. Vets works of art for presentation to the Curatorial Committee. Negotiates terms and conditions, and perfects gifts and acquisitions through the appropriate internal and external channels. Collaborates with other curatorial departments that collect contemporary art.
6. Collaborates with the Deputy Director & Chief Curator and Committee Chairperson for contemporary art to plan, facilitate and execute effective committee meetings. Inspires support for the AGO and engages committee members in understanding the artistic and cultural significance of acquisitions and exhibitions as well as their roles as supporters of the Gallery's artistic mission.
7. Takes a leadership role in all activities pertaining to contemporary art for AGO donor and travel groups, such as AGO Travel Circle; plans and conducts travel and special programs to enhance donors' knowledge of, engagement with, and support for contemporary art. Leads AGO Travel Circle group on a domestic or international trip on average every 12 months.

8. Liaises with government agencies and other cultural institutions (national and international) in matters relating to funding, partnerships, joint ventures, loans, etc.

Pan-Gallery & Community Collaboration **25%**

9. Together with the Deputy Director & Chief Curator, creates and develops contemporary programming initiatives to ensure the appropriate balance of temporary exhibitions (AGO-originated and travelling), permanent collection presentations, publications, and related programs.
10. Fosters and demonstrates collaboration with appropriate Gallery staff throughout each stage in the exhibition development process, including fundraising, marketing, interpretive planning, design, production and installation.
11. Promotes collaboration with colleagues in Education and Public Programming to jointly create interpretation for exhibitions and collection and to shape integrated contemporary programming.
12. Communicates directly with trustees, members, staff, volunteers, the media, and the public on collection initiatives, exhibitions, publications and other aspects of the AGO's artistic program through print and digital media, membership events, public presentations and internal communications.
13. Represents the AGO at local, national and international art world events and public functions including conferences and openings.
14. Provides expert advice on contemporary art to a broad range of stakeholders including Committees, AGO donors, collectors, other institutions etc.
15. Performs other duties as assigned.

Management Responsibilities (as a subset of all other responsibilities) **25%**

Leadership

- Directs and supervises the work of curators and curatorial staff in the contemporary & modern departments. Responsibilities include hiring, setting overall objectives, assigning and monitoring work, managing and evaluating work performance.
- Manages and provides leadership to department staff including objective setting and evaluation, training and development, and administrative and financial reporting.

Budgets and Cost Effectiveness

- Develops annual resource needs and budgets for the department, with Manager, Modern and Contemporary Collections. Plans department and project budgets

and manages resources within approved budget parameters. Demonstrates commitment to cost-effective solutions for all gallery programs and functions.

- Collaborates with other Curatorial Affairs division members in developing and adhering to managerial and administrative routines to ensure coordinated cost-effective efforts; maintains shared understanding of programming and collecting goals and agreed achievement measures.

RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES:

Technical	Leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated advanced knowledge of art history including expertise in a specialized area(s) of contemporary art. • Master’s degree or Ph.D. in contemporary art history or similar subject matter • Minimum of 10 years of related museum experience in exhibition research and development and/or collection development • Superior expertise in working collaboratively with teams to implement complex projects with contemporary artists is key • Proven track record in partnering with others across a museum(s) to establish a long term, comprehensive vision for Contemporary Art • Minimum 2 years of demonstrated experience in cultivating sustainable, relevant donor and stakeholder relationships aligned to the overall direction of a museum(s) • Practical awareness of museum best practices and trends that engage audiences through art, collections and exhibitions • Superior expertise in English language proficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent skills in relationship building, diplomacy, judgment, influence and poise in interacting with all levels of an organization(s) • Demonstrated a minimum of 2 years of ability to lead and inspire a team, as well as hold them accountable to deliver exceptional results with available resources and budget • Proven capability to partner and collaborate well with artists, other teams and internal and external stakeholders to accomplish goals • Superior communication skills including examples of publishing relevant, reputable scholarly material on an area(s) of expertise • Innovative, generative and creative approach to developing ideas and solving problems in order to establish practical, implementable deliverables • Evident experience in short and long term planning and delivery of complex initiatives with clear capacity to be agile to meet changing audience needs • Strong discretion and confidentiality skills including understanding how to build trust effectively with others

EFFORT

- Ability to collaborate and communicate across departments.
- Ability to motivate colleagues and co-workers.

- Pressure related to frequent and short deadlines.
- Conducting research and analysis.
- Management of multiple and competing priorities.
- Ongoing attention to detail, mental and visual concentration.

WORKING CONDITIONS

- Flexibility to varying work schedule and significant travel is required, occasionally in excess of 20 days per annum,

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent in confidence to:

**Sarah James and Claire Hennessey
Isaacson, Miller**

The Art Gallery of Ontario is an equal-opportunity employer committed to employing a diverse workforce.