

For immediate release

## Art Gallery of Guelph Reopens to the Public on July 16 Four new exhibitions on view to kick off the summer season

GUELPH, ON July 16, 2021 – The Art Gallery of Guelph reopens to the public on Friday, June 16, as the province moves into Step 3 of the Government of Ontario’s Roadmap to Reopen plan. With four exhibitions on view that have been installed since May, the gallery’s staff, board, and volunteers are eager to welcome the community to a brand new summer season of arts and culture.



Open Tuesday to Sunday, noon to 5 pm, AGG is committed to ensuring the safest possible conditions for visitors, with limited capacity, mandatory masks and social distancing, as well as enhanced sanitizing. Visitors are asked to review the Art Gallery of Guelph’s [COVID-19 protocols](#) prior to their arrival.

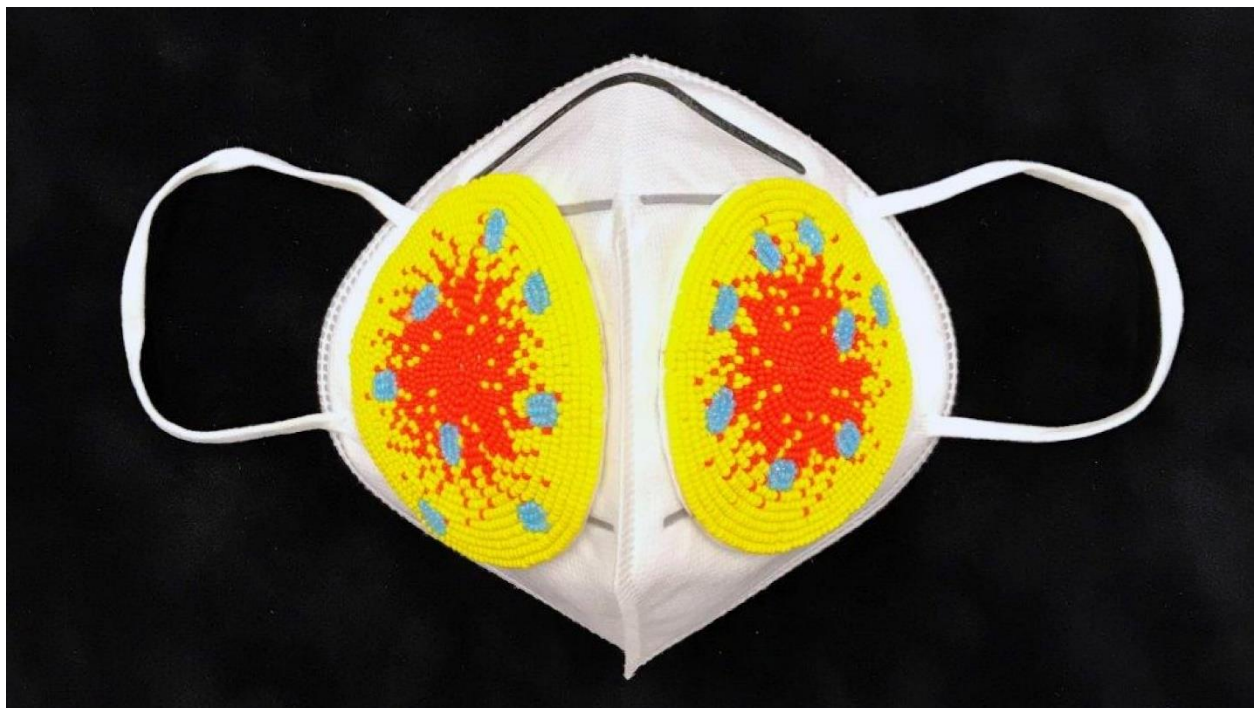
The summer exhibition season includes four exhibitions that explore the capacity of art to not only shape our perception of everyday life and everyday places, but to open our eyes to shared

experiences of the pandemic, social isolation, and our awareness of the need for positive social change. While *Permanent Danger* features intensely embroidered textiles by artist Anna Torma created meticulously over the last decade, *For a moment* brings together the lush paintings and collages of Emmanuel Osahor. Responsive to this moment of profound change, *Vectors of Transmission* highlights recent projects by five Indigenous artists in response to the evolving pandemic, while *Breathe* assembles 44 handcrafted masks that speak to both cultural resilience and strength of community in the face of COVID-19.

[Anna Torma: Permanent Danger](#) takes its title from Anna Torma's 2017 artwork of the same name, evoking ideas of human strife and vulnerability, conditions of sustained risk, threatened natural environments, and the highs and lows of daily life. Her dense and vivid embroidered textiles are the perfect expression of such complex experiences and deeply embedded in traditional Hungarian embroidery.

Infused with transnational poetics, Nigerian-born artist Emmanuel Osahor's exhibition, [For a moment](#), centres on tensions of place and displacement. Coalescing in lush paintings of gardens, each work emerges from his own photographic snapshots of encounters with garden spaces, recapturing his fleeting experiences by reconfiguring the images.

[Vectors of Transmission](#) highlights recent projects by Indigenous artists Ruth Cuthand, Bonnie Devine, Bea Parsons, Barry Pottle, and Katherine Takpannie in response to the pandemic. Offering insight into how the impacts of the virus are not experienced equally and consistently, this work underscores the particular vulnerability of communities that continue to experience social, economic and health inequities as well as disparities in decision-making power.



[Breathe.](#) features a collection of handcrafted masks that speaks to both cultural resilience and strength of community in the face of a pandemic, responding to artists' experiences navigating changing COVID-19 conditions. Many of the masks apply Indigenous beadwork techniques, while others are crafted using an array of traditional and contemporary materials and methods.

*Anna Torma: Permanent Danger* is circulated by the Textile Museum of Canada with the support of The Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation and Carole Tanenbaum. The Art Gallery of Guelph is grateful for the support of the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

### **About the Art Gallery of Guelph**

The Art Gallery of Guelph (AGG) is one of Canada's premier public art spaces, engaging audiences with innovative artists and ideas from around the world. Through a rigorous and collaborative artistic program that positions visual culture in an ever-changing cultural landscape, the gallery supports social exchange and shapes public discourse. Located in one of Canada's most innovation rich and socially engaged urban environments, the AGG offers compelling artistic encounters and contributes to a thriving national artistic climate through global connections that foster and proliferate creativity and imagination. For more information, please visit [artgalleryofguelph.ca](http://artgalleryofguelph.ca).

### **Media Contact**

Nicole Neufeld

Art Gallery of Guelph

358 Gordon Street

Guelph, ON N1G 1Y1

[info@artgalleryofguelph.ca](mailto:info@artgalleryofguelph.ca)

Images: Anna Torma, *Dionysia* (detail), 2020, hand embroidered collage on several layers of transparent silk fabric, silk thread, 105 x 180 cm. Courtesy of the artist; Ruth Cuthand, *Covid-19 Mask No. 6*, 2020, mixed media, dimensions variable. Courtesy of University of Regina President's Art Collection.