

**Burnaby Art Gallery Celebrates 50 Years with
Special Anniversary Exhibition, Launch of a Commemorative Art Book
& Garden Cocktail Reception July 13**



BURNABY, BC – The Burnaby Art Gallery (BAG) is excited to present *The Ornament of a House: 50 Years of Collecting* from July 14-September 3. Honouring BAG's 50th anniversary, this special exhibition showcases masterworks from the City of Burnaby Permanent Art Collection. Featuring historical works by European masters and contemporary works by prominent Canadian artists, this exhibition is composed of artworks selected by friends of the gallery from the past five decades. Accompanying the exhibition is the launch of a deluxe anniversary publication featuring 50 authors on 50 works by 50 artists.

The public is invited to a **50th Anniversary Garden Cocktail Reception on Thursday, July 13 at 7pm** for the opening of *The Ornament of a House*. Mingle over refreshments, listen to live music by *Van Django*, enjoy roving entertainment and learn more about the gallery's 50th anniversary and the current exhibition and artworks on display. The signature cocktail for the evening is the *Ceperley Sipper* honouring the gallery's heritage home namesake.

**The Ornament of a House: 50 Years of Collecting
July 14-September 3, 2017**

In honour of BAG's 50th anniversary, *The Ornament of a House: 50 Years of Collecting* is inspired by a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson carved in the Gallery's fireplace mantel: *"The ornament of a house is the friends who frequent it."*

The 'ornaments' of the BAG are the artists, patrons, donors, volunteers and staff who have helped create the spirit and character of the building. Over the years, Ceperley House, home of the Burnaby Art Gallery for half a century, has welcomed many residents --from Henry and Grace Ceperley who built the home in 1911, to the St. Benedictine monks who purchased the home in 1939 and students from SFU's "Delta Upsilon" Fraternity in 1965--before becoming the Burnaby Art Gallery in 1967.

When the Burnaby Art Gallery first opened its doors, local volunteers formed the beginnings of an art collection which 50 years later holds more than 5000 significant works by artists from around the world.

One of those volunteers, Polly Svangtun, a member of the Burnaby Art Society from 1967-1968, still resides in Burnaby and remembers the Burnaby Art Gallery fondly from those days.

“I was introduced to the Burnaby Art Society by a friend of mine, Barbara White, a member of the Burnaby Art Society at the time. I joined as a member because it seemed to be an interesting and active group - and it was. We hosted many social fundraisers such as an English-style pub night and a gala dinner held right in the main room of the Ceperley House. I remember hanging many paintings back then – we put on a lot of art shows that provided opportunities for Burnaby residents to be introduced to art and artists from across Canada and the world. We hosted the first Canada-wide print show. ”

The Burnaby Art Society was formed in 1958 and in 1960 the first donation of artwork entered the collection of the Burnaby Art Society – Jack Shadbolt’s *Still Life with Red Colander* (1957). The artwork hung in City Hall while the group looked for a permanent art space. The Burnaby Art Gallery officially opened on June 10, 1967.

Bringing together 50 individuals who have played a part in building the gallery’s character—the collectors, curators, and especially the artists themselves—*The Ornament of a House: 50 Years of Collecting* focuses on the treasures of the collection, including **historical works by European masters Francisco Goya and Rembrandt van Rijn and contemporary works by Canadian artists Sonny Assu, Gathie Falk, Susan Point, and Gordon Smith.**

The Burnaby Art Gallery has been a staple of Metro Vancouver’s fine arts community for 50 years. With exhibitions that have featured top Canadian artists and a Permanent Collection of over 5000 pieces, the gallery is recognized as a strong supporter of artists and art production.

The Ornament of a House: 50 Years of Collecting runs from July 14 – September 3. For more information, visit: burnabyartgallery.ca.

LAUNCHING JULY 13: 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE ART BOOK

A 50th anniversary commemorative art book *The Ornament of a House* features all 50 of the selected artworks from the exhibition, alongside 50 entries by artists, art historians, collectors and critics as well as past and present curatorial staff. The book also features a history of Ceperley House and a chronology highlighting the evolution of the house and gallery. *The Ornament of a House: Fifty Years of Collecting* is available for purchase at the gallery from July 13 for \$50.00 including taxes— perfect as a gift or keepsake.



SAVE THE DATE! SPECIAL EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Garden Cocktail Reception Party

Thursday, July 13, 7pm, everyone welcome, free to attend

Curator's Tour: The Ornament of a House

Sunday, July 23, 2-4pm, everyone welcome, free to attend.

MEDIA CONTACT

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High-resolution images are available upon request.

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Top: collage on paper, © Gerry Gilbert, Michael de Courcy/The Intermedia Catalogue, 1970.

Bottom left and middle: Pages from *The Ornament of a House* commemorative art book.

Bottom right: Roy Kiyooka(1926-1994), *#2-Haida*, 1971, serigraph on paper, 14/50, 76.4 x 63.5cm.

ABOUT THE BURNABY ART GALLERY

Since 1967, the Burnaby Art Gallery (BAG) has been dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting a contemporary and historical visual art program by local, national and internationally recognized artists. The BAG acts as a leader in the collection, preservation and exhibition of artists who choose to work on paper—the only public art museum in Canada dedicated to works of art on paper. Through our collection and exhibition practices the BAG endeavours to represent the best and most promising Canadian artists. The BAG cares for and manages over 5,000 works of art in the City of Burnaby's Permanent Art Collection. In 2017, BAG is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a full year of special events, exhibitions and programs.

Website: www.burnabyartgallery.ca

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The Burnaby Art Gallery acknowledges the generous support provided by: the City of Burnaby; the British Columbia Arts Council; the Province of British Columbia, its sponsors, patrons and visitors.



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