

Varley Art Gallery of Markham
216 Main Street Unionville, ON L3R 2H1
T: (905) 477-9511 F: (905) 477-6629
www.varleygallery.ca

Summer Hours (July & August)
Monday–Saturday 10 am–5 pm Sunday 12–5 pm

Directory:

General Information	Information Officer ext. 221
Director	John Ryerson ext. 233
Public Programs	Cheryl Rego ext. 228
Collections/Facility	Brian Barnes ext. 225
Rentals/Membership	Doriana Cabeceiras ext. 223
School Programs	Sue Firkser ext. 234
Development Officer	Francesca Amato-Gauci (905) 946-0955
Summer Camp Director	Lauren McCallum ext. 227

What's Coming Up

Today's Parent Kidsummer - FREE FAMILY PROGRAMS
July 26, 2009 10 am - 5 pm

Civic Holiday Celebrations: Masks, Magic and Music—FREE FAMILY PROGRAMS
August 3, 2009 10 am - 5 pm

Markham Jazz Festival
August 14 - 16, 2009

Doors Open Markham
Free guided exhibition tours at 12 pm, 2 pm and 4 pm, and art activities for kids.
August 29, 2009



Unionville Heritage and Big Band Festival - FREE FAMILY PROGRAMS
September 7, 2009 10 am - 4 pm

Tea and Tour with Exhibition Curator & Artist Teodoro Dragonieri
Sunday, September 20, 2009 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Free with Admission

Workshop: Hands-on Session in Mask Building
Sunday, September 20, 2009 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Cost \$25 Non-Members, \$15 Members (\$15 Materials)
To register contact 905-477-9511 ext. 221

Complimentary exhibition tours every Sunday at 2 pm in JULY and AUGUST.

What's on at the McKay Art Centre this Summer

197 Main Street, Unionville



July 1 - 5: Toogood Pond Artists
July 8 - 12: Art Gala Forum
July 22 - 26: Raine Davis and Josée Savaria
August 5 - 9: Elizabeth Dabuleanu and Dr. Mary Dabuleanu
August 12 - 16: Estelle Vilensky
August 19 - 23: Vibrations 2009
August 26 - 30: Ben Lee and Yao-Hua Yan
September 2 - 7: Edward Abela
September 9 - 13: Varley Art Instructor's Exhibit
September 16 - 20: Quad Colourists
September 23 - 27: Shamsi Shahrokhi

A Message from the Varley-McKay Art Foundation's Development Officer



Silent Auction Table Monitor,
Carol Flor

This year's **art auction, Unmask Your Passion for Art** was a spectacular success! A sincere *thank-you* goes out to all the Varley Volunteers who helped make this event run as smoothly as it did!

Our latest event was held on June 7th when we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Unionville Festival with our **Carnival of the Arts**, a joint event with the Bluebridge Festival. None of our events would be possible without such a supportive and dedicated network of volunteers.

We are entering a very exciting time at the Varley Gallery, as we undergo a period of great transition. Follow all our happenings on the Varley Gallery's *Facebook* page and blog.

If you are interested in volunteering there are many ways to be involved. Please call me at (905)946-0955 or e-mail at famato-gauci@markham.ca

We wish you all a very pleasant and safe summer, and look forward to collaborating again for **Homes for the Holidays 2009**, being held on Friday, November 20th and Saturday, November 21st at the Town of Markham Civic Centre.

Francesca Amato-Gauci, Development Officer



Volunteers Cathy Harvey, Peggie Sewell, Felicity Bain and Janet Zheng at the Carnival of the Arts

Summer 2009

VARLEY

Gallery Newsletter

CARNIVAL: The Spirit and the Soul

Continuing until October 11, 2009

Co-Curated by Teodoro Dragonieri and Christopher Jackson



Claudio Ghirardo, *Venetian Mask, Wizard*, acrylic & w/c

The Varley Art Gallery has brought the Carnival to town! The *Carnival: The Spirit and the Soul* exhibition which opened on May 21st, is a multi-media exhibition that uses theatrical narrative and the mask as an element of storytelling, common to virtually every world culture.

Curators, Teodoro Dragonieri and Christopher Jackson, have included a range of over 200 works including carnival and theatrical masks, photography, and mixed media works. Many works relate to concepts of the mask as a metaphor, transformative medium and physical object. The goal is to engage the viewer and prompt a dialogue about the evolution and continued social relevance of the Carnival tradition and its parallels with today's artistic practice.

A photography component includes the work of Michael Semak, Teodoro Dragonieri and Vincenzo Pietropaolo. Semak's early documentation of Caribana parades provides the background to his interest in the mask as metaphor and a tool for social commentary. Dragonieri's photographs document religious festivals both at home and abroad and examine their links to the visual traditions of masks whose form originated in the Commedia del'Arte of Italy. Photodocumentarist Vincenzo Pietropaolo captures the complexity of immigrant, refugee and working class experience in Central and South American as expressed through the integration of the mask to religious processions and carnival celebrations.

Mask makers such as Trish Leeper, Robert Faust, Paolo and Paola Consiglio, and Esther Dragonieri, showcase masks drawing from traditional and modern responses to the themes of religious and cultural narrative. Their masks stand in similarity and contrast to the historic wooden masks from Indonesia and Mexico.

List of Contemporary Artists: Mieke Bevelander, Jeffrey Chock, Paolo and Paola Consiglio, Esther Dragonieri, Teodoro Dragonieri, Robert Faust, Franco Fontana, Claudio Ghirardo, Heather Kent & Students of Humber College, Trish Leeper, Susan Low-Beer, Robert Paquette & Students of Sheridan College, Vincenzo Pietropaolo, Michael Semak, and Ras Stone

COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMING:

Simcoe Day Celebrations: Masks, Magic & Music

Monday, August 3, 2009 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Free Carnival themed art activities for kids, entertainment and free admission to the exhibition.

Tea and Tour with Exhibition Curator & Artist Teodoro Dragonieri

Sunday, September 20, 2009 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Free with Admission

Workshop: Hands-on Session in Mask Building

Sunday, September 20, 2009 2:00 - 4:00 pm Cost: \$25 / \$15 for members
To register contact 905-477-9511 ext. 221

GUIDED TOURS EVERY SUNDAY at 2:00 PM in JULY and AUGUST

Coming this Fall.....

The Automatiste Revolution: Montreal 1941 - 1960

October 23, 2009 – February 28, 2010

Curated by Dr. Roald Nasgaard



Artist Trish Leeper with her mask, *Despair*, from the series "Seven Lively Sins"



Artist Susan Low-Beer with her art work, *Fleeting Moment*

Director's Report

A great and busy summer ahead with our major exhibition *Carnival: The Spirit and the Soul* and a great kick off opening during the Unionville Festival weekend (June 6th & 7th). To complement this show, the Gallery in partnership with the **Bluebridge Festival**, hosted **The Carnival of the Arts** on the Sunday of Unionville Festival which was a feast of arts programming. The response was very positive and we hope to build on the program with our partners in the future. A sincere thank you to the Unionville Festival, the Bluebridge Festival, and all the volunteers who supported this event, with a special thanks to **Cheryl Rego** and **Brenda Muller**, for their coordination.

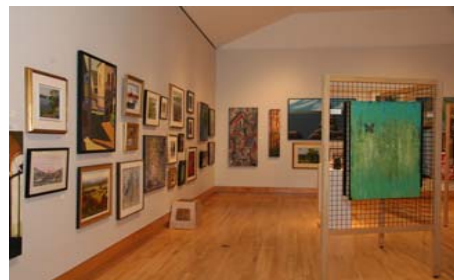
The Wallace Joyce award from the Varley-McKay Art Foundation to a graduating student in Fine Arts from Unionville High School has been awarded to **Kelly Eng**. Kelly will be coming in to the gallery to plan the exhibition of her work in our lobby in the near future. The quality of the UHS graduating student work is outstanding. To see the students move beyond curriculum and discover the joy of their new skills is inspiring.

The gallery expansion is now in detailed design phase with a fall tender expected.

Last month, Dr. Roald Nasgaard and I were at the Albright Knox Gallery in Buffalo to view the exhibition space for our March opening of *The Automatiste Revolution: 1941 - 1960*.

Thank you to **Sue Firkser**, Education Co-ordinator at the Varley, for her leadership in the Hospital Pilot Project, which brought the arts into the Markham Stouffville Hospital. We have more than met our goals of learning about the arts and wellness movement and extending the reach of the gallery. The project was funded by the Ontario Arts Council and we are looking for ways to continue this support. Wishing you a great and safe summer! **John Ryerson**

The 11th Annual Art Auction A Great Success!



On May 14th, the Varley staff and an army of dedicated volunteers hosted the **11th Annual Varley Fine Art Auction - "Unmask Your Passion for Art"**. The art auction continues to be one of the Varley's two key fundraisers that helps raise needed funds to support the Varley's mission to be an extraordinary community art gallery. By all accounts the evening was a huge success! We simply couldn't have been more pleased with the results and the positive feedback we received from those who attended.

The night started off with a silent auction where almost 150 items were up for bid. Before the live auction started, the attendees mingled, enjoyed food and drinks and listened to

Cuban duo, Picolina in Habana. Then, **Stephen Ranger**, the evening's auctioneer and President/Chief Operating Officer of Ritchies, kicked off the live auction at 7:30 sharp. Over 100 artworks were on the auction block provided by local galleries and participating artists. All in all, both the silent and live auctions helped raise nearly **40% more** proceeds than the previous year that go directly back to the Varley to support its many initiatives.

I'd like to formally thank all those who helped make this year's auction an enormous success. In particular, I'd like to thank an amazing art auction committee who spent countless hours preparing for the big event: Alan Bryce, Beverly Schaeffer, Christina Assmann, Dolores Croth, Doriana Cabeceiras, Elizabeth Plashkes, Francesca Amato-Gauci, George Huff, Joanne Olson, Johanna Meharg, Julie Christian, Laura Bennett, Maryam Mokhtari, Patty Loveland-Gutzke, Paul Keeling and Peter Wales.

A special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, **IBM Canada Ltd.**, our Supporting Sponsors, donors, art galleries, artists and volunteers who contributed to this successful evening. Hope to see you at next year's auction!

Patrick M. Carr, 2009 Varley Art Auction Chair and Varley-McKay Art Foundation Board Member



A Memorable Moment

The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario at the Official Opening of Legally Deafblind Exhibition on March 15, 2009



Front Row (L-R): Councillor Valerie Burke, Warren Rupnarain, The Honourable David Onley (Lieutenant Governor of Ontario), The Honourable Michael Chan (MPP), Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Back Row (L - R): Howard Back (Chair of the Varley McKay Art Foundation), John Livey (Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Markham), John Ryerson, (Director, Varley Art Gallery), Natalie Schönfeld-Howard (Artist and Curator), Councillor John Webster (Town Crier)

Building Our Palette, by John Ryerson, Director

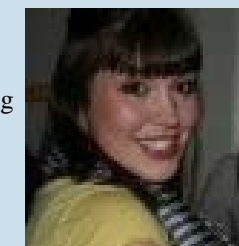
Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors, artists, art galleries, volunteers and attendees for helping make the 11th Annual Varley Fine Art Auction such a tremendous success.

With revenues up 38%, your generous support allowed us to raise funds that will ensure we can continue to bring the highest quality of art exhibitions and art education programs for all ages to your Varley Art Gallery. This year, our outstanding results indicate the value the visual arts have to our community and its success as a great place to live and work. We cannot accomplish all we do without support like yours. On behalf of the staff, please accept our sincere appreciation for your contribution to art and the Varley.

There are many ways to support the Varley through your time or contributions towards exhibitions, publications and programming for all ages. Please take a moment and complete the enclosed card to make your contribution, or please contact me at (905) 477-9511 ext. 233.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW SUMMER CAMP DIRECTOR



Twenty-three and two degrees in hand, education is a field I am only too familiar with. This year while completing OISE teacher's college at the University of Toronto I was assigned teaching placements in both Unionville and Richmond Hill. To my delight, I was informed that my third and final placement could be at any location of my choice; as so long as that site pertained to education. I immediately contacted the Varley Art Gallery and have been thriving in an environment of creative pedagogy ever since.

The gallery has taken me out of my classroom experiences and into the heart of the community. The education that occurs here considers all ages, interests, and cultures without hesitation. Whether in-house or out-reach programming, the variety of artistic extensions to generic curriculum has re-infused my passion for student-centered learning and emphasized the importance of community support for arts education.

This summer I will be taking the role of camp director and can not wait to see what amazing and imaginative works the campers will produce. In this atmosphere, only steps from where Fred Varley himself painted timeless pieces of Canadian culture, children are free to express themselves through paint, clay, set design and much, much more. The Varley Gallery continues to design educational programming that enlightens the mind, inspires the spirit, and builds bonds between history, schools, families, and artists of all areas and abilities. I would like to thank the staff for an unforgettable experience of professional growth and learning.

Lauren McCallum, 2009 Summer Camp Director