

PRESS RELEASE

Press Contact: Jacob Green, Assistant City Manager
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[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

City of Ontario
Ontario Museum of History & Art

ONTARIO MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ART, ASSOCIATES' EIGHTH BIENNIAL *ONTARIO INVITATIONAL ART EXHIBITION* APRIL 7 THROUGH JUNE 5, 2016

The Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates is presenting its eighth biennial *Ontario Invitational Art Exhibition*, a collection of contemporary artwork by local and regional artists, on view from April 7 through June 5, 2016. The *Ontario Invitational* will feature artwork from the 2015 *Ontario Open Art Exhibition's* first, second and third place winners: David Rosales, Gina Lawson Egan and Marion Draayer, as well as Honorable Mention artists: Andrea Benitez, Karen Clark, Chick Curtis, Linda Garcia-Dahle, and Steven Long. The artists were chosen from over 80 artists who participated in the juried *Ontario Open Art Exhibition*. Juror Rebecca Trawick, the Director/Curator at the Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art, stated she was "struck by the diversity and level of skill and creativity in the work" seen at the *Ontario Open*.

This year's artists bring an eclectic array of artwork for visitors to see and enjoy. David Rosales' paintings uses vibrant color and captivating imagery. Gina Lawson Egan presents a series of sculptures which displays a reoccurring theme of balance, while Marion Draayer's oil paintings draw the viewer in with her naturalistic imagery. Linda Garcia-Dahle presents a series of oil

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paintings showing how light moves throughout the day, from sunrise to moonrise. Steven Long's abstract paintings are filled with layers and texture.

The *Ontario Invitational* gives artists the opportunity to showcase artwork in different mediums than they are commonly known for. Karen Clark, known for her watercolors, will also display work in fiber art and mixed media. Influenced by Native American Culture, Clark's work is an extraordinary display of talent. Chick Curtis will have works in oil, monotype and charcoals. Andrea Benitez takes a step back from pencil drawing and presents a beautiful series of acrylic paintings inspired by astrological constellations, the sea and mythology.

A tradition since 2002, the Museum Associates has hosted the *Ontario Invitational Art Exhibition* as a biennial event. To date thirty-nine artists have been awarded the opportunity to show their work in this popular museum exhibition.

Special Events that will be held in conjunction with the exhibition:

Eighth Biennial Ontario Invitational Art Reception and Recognition

Saturday, April 9, 2016 (2 PM to 4 PM)

Celebrate the *Eighth Biennial Ontario Invitational Art Exhibition*. Meet the exhibit artists, participate in hands-on art workshops and enjoy light refreshments. Free admission.

Hands On: Invitational Artists Share Techniques

Saturday, April 23, 2016 (1 PM to 4 PM)

Learn from master artists Chick Curtis and Karen Clark and gain experience in two art workshops in figure drawing and watercolor. \$5 material fee per workshop. Space is limited.

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Chick Curtis' figure drawing session: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM.

Karen Clark's watercolor session: 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM.

Getting it Together: Arts 101

Thursday, May 12, 2016 (6:00 PM to 7:30 PM)

Bring your portfolio, resume, and artist statement for tips and suggestions with Rebecca Trawick, Director/Curator of the Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art and professional artist Andrea Benitez. Space is limited. Free admission. Reservations are required.

The Ontario Museum of History & Art is located at 225 S. Euclid Avenue, Ontario, CA 91762. Gallery hours are Noon to 4 PM, Thursday through Sunday. Admission is free. For more information, call (909) 395-2510. The Ontario Museum of History & Art is a public-private museum operated by the City of Ontario with support from the non-profit Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates.

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