

Canada's longest continuing  
art society

established  
1872



The Ontario Society of Artists

### WHO WE ARE

The Ontario Society of Artists is a vibrant hub of creative energy providing exhibition and professional opportunities to artists living throughout Ontario and working in a wide range of media and form, with varying backgrounds and cultures. OSA has a long history and its members are among the nation's most recognized and accomplished artists. The OSA mandate is to foster and promote the visual arts through exhibitions, education, special projects, and arts advocacy. It is a non-profit, charitable organization, administered by a volunteer executive council of members.

The OSA Honorary Patron is the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.



The  
Ontario  
Society of  
Artists



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The  
Ontario  
Society of  
Artists



Sheila Davis



Sally Wildman



Germinio Pio Politi



John Bennet



Jane Geard



Pat Dumas-Hudecki



## OUR PAST

The influence of the OSA has been so widespread during its first hundred years that its effects can be traced throughout the cultural life of Ontario and Canada today. Established in 1872, the OSA played an important role in establishing several major Canadian art institutions such as the Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts, the National Gallery of Canada, the Toronto Art Gallery, (currently the Art Gallery of Ontario), and the Ontario College of Art, (currently the Ontario College of Art and Design). Many individual disciplines are now represented by Societies and Clubs formed because of the influence of OSA. The OSA has always attempted to be valid and viable by endeavouring to meet the express needs of its cultural surrounds.

A wealth of archival information about the Ontario Society of Artists is available in electronic form, on the website, for educational and research opportunities. Included are OSA exhibition catalogues dating back to the late nineteenth century, along with other significant historical material from the OSA files.

To see more about our history, go online under 'archives' at: [www.ontariosocietyofartists.org](http://www.ontariosocietyofartists.org)

## OUR PRESENT

Today, the OSA is a province-wide professional organization which fosters and promotes the visual arts in all disciplines-through exhibitions, special projects, and arts advocacy. It is a non-profit organization, administered by a volunteer executive, and currently has an active membership of over two hundred artists living throughout Ontario.

An important purpose of the OSA is to provide members with a collegial atmosphere and a forum for the interchange of ideas and information. Emerging professional artists are offered encouragement and opportunities to reach a wider public with their work; established artists benefit from a supportive and stimulating fellowship. The Society offers many different member exhibitions annually at several Ontario gallery locations and a prestigious Annual Open Juried Exhibition at the John B. Aird Gallery in Toronto, open to all artists (non-members and members) who are working in two and three-dimensional media as well as video. The OSA encourages emerging and established professional artists to apply to the organization for membership.

To find out more about the requirements for election to membership into the Ontario Society of Artists, go to the website [www.ontariosocietyofartists.org](http://www.ontariosocietyofartists.org)

## OUR FUTURE

The OSA is an arts organization engaged with the community. It aims to expand the range of exhibitions available to our membership, and to continue to educate the public about the visual arts. By partnering with galleries in various parts of the province of Ontario, the OSA presents exhibitions of work by members living in those local regions and thus reaches province-wide.

The OSA offers outreach education activities, such as the "Ways of Seeing" 2017 speakers series and the pARTners 2012 mentoring project. With our projects we aim to broaden the scope of artistic growth of both emerging and established artists and offer work related experience, public exposure as well as networking opportunities through exhibitions in public and private galleries to all participating artists. Currently we are planning projects for our upcoming 150th OSA anniversary, increasing and improving our online presence and planning for member artists located in a wide range of Ontario towns and cities.

For a list of upcoming activities by the OSA, please visit the web address: [www.ontariosocietyofartists.org](http://www.ontariosocietyofartists.org) or reach us on social media!

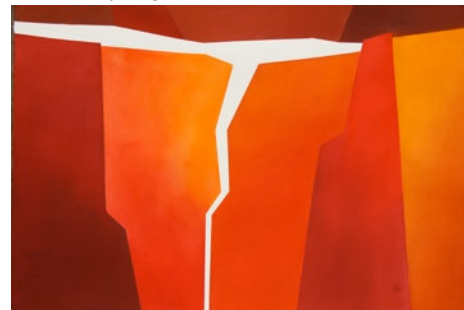
Artwork shown here is included in **MOSAIC**, our 145th Anniversary Exhibition in Aurora, Ontario, May-August 2017.



John Ashbourne



Corrine Duchesne



Vera Bobson



Francis Patella



Diana Harding-Tucker