

HAMILTON ARTISTS INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020–2021



Through My Eyes, Shabnam Afrand, Arif Bahaduri, Cemile Kaçmaz, Soyeon Kim, and Mariana Topfstedt. Banners at James and Wilson Parkette. July 1, 2021-March 15, 2022. Photo: Grant Holt.

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BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY WATSON and JORDYN STEWART

2021 has been a year of a lot of change for the Inc. This year, we welcomed our new Executive Director Derek Jenkins and Public Programs Coordinator John Hill—each of them have embraced the unknown that comes with starting a new role in the midst of a pandemic and continued to build upon the work of their successors, Julie Dring and Jasmine Mander. Although the Inc.'s physical gallery space has been closed since March 2020, the gallery was able to reopen this past August 2021 thanks to the hard work and detailed planning of staff who considered all the aspects of creating an accessible and safe space for fellow staff, exhibiting artists, and visitors. We were thrilled to have Radiant Temperature of Openings and the space in which we have dissolved as the exhibitions for the reopening. Reflecting on the last year, I want to thank the staff for all of their thoughtful work. Navigating a pandemic and delivering on our mission to empower artists and engage with the community is no small task and they have done it with so much care and thoughtful consideration at every step.

This summer, it was all hands on deck as we underwent a search for our next Executive Director as we said goodbye to the amazing Julie Dring. It was with much excitement that we welcomed Derek into this role in June. Derek brings with him a wealth of experience working in the cultural

sector across Canada and the US and knowledge of Hamilton's art scene as a resident and practicing artist in the city. Thank you to the Hiring Committee; Abedar Kamgari, Julia Huynh, and our past Board Treasurer Tal-Or Ben-Choreen-for your thoughtful consideration throughout this process. During Julie's time as the Executive Director, she was able to diversify revenues, develop extremely successful giving campaigns, and navigate managing a gallery space in the midst of a global pandemic. Derek has been building upon this work-creating a reopening plan for the physical gallery space, managing a successful audit and working alongside Abedar Kamgari to submit and secure various grants. Working off the foundation of Jasmine Mander, our past Communications & Outreach Coordinator, we welcomed John Hill into a newly developed full-time position of Public Programs Coordinator at the Inc. As a community-driven, local practicing artist we are thrilled to welcome John to our team. In this position they oversee online communications, organize public programs, and work closely with our members and volunteers.

In the past year, the Inc. experienced a lot of organizational change and want to acknowledge and say a special thank you to Abedar Kamgari for her continued leadership at the Inc. She was an integral part of hiring both of our new full-time staff, while simultaneously programming an incredible



BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR continued ASHLEY WATSON and JORDYN STEWART

year of exhibitions and events including *adapt*: Virtual Graduate Gallery Showcase by Mohawk College's photography still+motion students and *Through My Eyes*, an outdoor art exhibition which explored themes of displacement, belonging, labour, human fragility, and our place in the universe.

Our Board of Directors has also seen a lot of change this year as we were thrilled to welcome Ayda Ghaffari, Heather Kanabe, Jeannie Kim, Tyler Matheson, Erica Mogentale, Rachelle Wunderink, and Jaycee Tu, and said a warm good-bye to Tal-Or Ben-Choreen, Danica Evering, Charlit Floriano, and Setareh Masoumbeiki. Thank you to our outgoing Board members for their incredible work, dedication, and countless contributions to the growth and development of the Inc. As a Board we have held space for discussions, learning and actions that address our institutional and individual roles in the fight against systemic racism in our city and around the world that affects our communities. This year

we began a course with Goodbodyfeel called "Sharing Privilege" which taught us to not only acknowledge the privilege we hold as individuals and an organization, but how to practically redistribute our power through individual and collective action. While there is still so much work that can be done as we grow as an organization the Board remains committed to continuing the work of dismantling oppressive systems and behaviours that exist both within and outside of the Inc.'s stakeholders.

I want to thank all of the staff, artists, members, community partners, donors, Board Members, and all those who have contributed to the collective impact of the Inc.—thank you! We look forward to what this next year brings and to our continued collective work.



Radiant Temperature of Openings, Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour, and Ryan Ferko. Exhibition view. August 28-November 20, 2021. Photo: Abedar Kamgari

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEREK JENKINS

Even during the best of times, changes at leadership positions are not easy. I joined the staff at Hamilton Artists Inc. as Executive Director in June 2021 and found an organization that had already been guided by several steady hands through the choppiest waters of the pandemic. Financially and operationally stable, offering inventive and resilient programing and initiatives, Hamilton Artists Inc. was in good shape, even as the waters ahead remained uncertain. Nine months into my tenure here, with pandemic conditions potentially on the wane, the future looks bright, and we're making ambitious plans and preparing ourselves for new challenges.

Despite the transition in leadership, the Inc. finished the 2020-21 fiscal year with the largest payroll in the organization's history. Generous provincial and federal support allowed us to expand staff hours and extend the contracts of several gallery assistants to ease the administrative burden while the board and programming director looked to fill two major roles. Not only did this keep local arts workers on the payroll during the thick of the pandemic, it gave new staff time to grow into their duties. Now, with the addition of Public Programs Coordinator, a new full time staff position, we're focused on sustainability and building capacity to meet long term goals.

In September, we re-opened the gallery to the public for the first time

since March 2021. With previously postponed shows in the James and Cannon Galleries, it was wonderful to have the space activated by art again. To keep staff not only safe but comfortable, extensive protocols were in place, including strict cleaning schedules, capacity limits, screening procedures, and KN95 masks for all.

We were able to hold a private reception for artists in the James Gallery, and our first Art Crawl with the doors open brought in numerous visitors. While the Omicron wave forced us to postpone February's James Gallery exhibition, lessons learned from over a year of closures allowed us to make the tenth anniversary of *Ignition*, our partnership with McMaster University and the University of Waterloo, a highly successful online exhibition. However, we'll be back to normal public hours with in-person exhibitions in both galleries in March.

Behind the scenes, the staff and board have been building the skills we need to reach long term goals around equity, access, and sustainability. Funding from the Hamilton Community Foundation's Pandemic Response Fund allowed us to dig deep into anti-oppression training with the folks at Goodbodyfeel. Board members and staff participated in a two-month course called "Sharing Privilege" to prepare ground within the organization for operational planning that will make the Inc. a more welcoming place to work, visit, and engage.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR continued DEREK JENKINS

Additionally, members of the Development and Special Events/ Fundraising committees, in addition to the Public Programs Coordinator and myself, honed skills necessary to bolster and expand our revenue streams. A generous City Enrichment Fund capacity grant allowed us to take the Good Partnership's rigorous Flipside Fundraising course. At the same time, outgoing executive director Julie Dring composed a custom tailored Development Plan, which aims to bring in \$100,000 in new revenues (\$70,000 in unrestricted revenues) over a three year period.

No matter what challenges the future brings, we have accepted hybrid delivery models not only as a new reality but as a welcome one. Always keen to increase the accessibility of all of our programs and initiatives, the Inc. will be making major improvements to both its facilities and its website in the next year. A grant from Service Canada's Enabling Access Fund will allow us to convert both existing washrooms for universal access, as well as add automatic buttons to the courtyard doors. At the same time, a comprehensive website overhaul will address shortcomings identified by a recent accessibility audit, greatly expanding our digital possibilities. With these and other improvements ahead, the waters may be uncertain, but new horizons are within our reach.



New New Deal, Tara Bursey. Installation on street-facing windows. July 30-September 27, 2021. Photo: Abedar Kamgari.

PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR ABEDAR KAMGARI

Programming at the Inc. is split across two key tiers. The first is exhibitions which are presented through our Cannon Gallery, James Gallery, and Cannon Project Wall, along with related activations such as publications, artists talks, and other offerings. The second is public programs, which include our professional development workshops, screening series, Photophobia: Contemporary Moving Image Festival, the Incoming! program for refugee, newcomer, and immigrant artists, special projects, residencies and more.

In 2020-21, we continued to make decisions around health and safety in consultation with our staff, board, and exhibiting artists. While the physical gallery remained closed to the public due to COVID-19 for most of the year, we developed a range of unique online and outdoor initiatives that showcased the incredible creativity, and resourcefulness of artists from Hamilton and beyond.

Our full roster of programs would be far too much to summarize in this report; I can only mention a few highlights out of many. I encourage you to refer to the 2020-21 programming timeline following this report for a detailed view of all we accomplished this past year.

We launched the new position of Artist-in-residence / Gallery Assistant, hosting two wonderful artists—Bhavika Sharma and Valentin Brown for the majority of the year. Recognizing that many artists are forced to abandon their art practices post-graduation in order to work, this unique

internship allows emerging artists to split their time between the studio and working as a gallery assistant. Artists focus on their own creative projects while spending a couple of days each week gaining valuable administrative and curatorial skills in an artist-run centre. We are hoping to offer this position every other year, depending on available funding from the Young Canada Works Building Careers in Heritage program.

In spring 2021, we welcomed Alex Jacobs-Blum, our inaugural Indigenous Curatorial Resident. Alex was selected from many talented and inspiring applicants by jurors Vanessa Dion Fletcher, Sahra Soudi, and Naomi Johnson. They were deeply moved by Alex's strong ethics, her desire to build reciprocal relationships, seek ongoing consent, and her first-hand experiences as an emerging artist and curator. The Indigenous residency program at the Inc. is a new program designed to provide dedicated space for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit artists, curators, or writers to take a project from the idea stage all the way to public presentation. Mark your calendars for Alex's final curatorial exhibition, entitled *Born Celestial*, which will be shown in our Cannon Gallery in summer 2022. Running every two years, this residency program will cultivate opportunities for Indigenous practitioners to grow their practices through long-term access to resources and mentors of their choice.

We envisioned this year's Incoming! program for refugee, newcomer, and immigrant artists as an outdoor exhibition spanning multiple windowfronts



PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR continued ABEDAR KAMGARI

in downtown Hamilton. Five incredible artists were chosen from an open call—Shabnam Afrand, Arif Bahaduri, Cemile Kaçmaz, Soyeon Kim, and Mariana Topfstedt—to participate in the *Through My Eyes* exhibition in July 2021. In addition to each artist showing at a carefully-selected location, an installation of banners by all five artists was mounted at the James and Wilson Parkette. The project was complete with a series of four professional development workshops as well as audio interviews with each exhibiting artist in their mother tongue. Thanks to our generous venue partners: the Gasworks, Tourism Hamilton, Immigrants Working Centre, Needlework, and the City of Hamilton's Public Art Department. And of course, a huge thank you to Jasmine Mander, our outgoing Communications and Outreach Coordinator and Incoming! Project Coordinator who worked tirelessly to make this ambitious, large-scale project a reality.

Being able to offer so many special projects was another highlight of this year! Developed by the NEW Committee, special projects are shortrun initiatives that do not take the form of a gallery exhibition, such as workshops, zines, posters, performances, screenings, digital projects, site-specific or offsite programs, just to name a few. This year's special projects included the *Instant Class Kit*: Socially-engaged art as radical pedagogy workshops led by Stephanie Springgay and Andrea Vela Alarcón with Syrus Marcus Ware; an onsite residency with Aeris Körper Contemporary Dance Collective; *Monologue Harmonic*, a new video work by Janet Marie Rogers and Bawaadan Collective screened in

partnership with Factory Media Centre; and *New New Deal*, a colourful, site-responsive vinyl installation on our front windows by Hamilton-based artist Tara Bursey. Special projects expand possibilities of contemporary art beyond exhibitions, demonstrating the breadth of creative practices artists are engaging with today—in and outside the white cube.

In fall 2021, we reopened the gallery with two incredible exhibitions. *Radiant Temperature of Openings* by the collective of Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour, and Ryan Ferko presented materials drawn from community archives, government reporting, and oral testimony to consider how a river was manipulated into both a piece of infrastructure and a political boundary. Curated by Alexis Moline, *the space in which we have dissolved* exhibition explored how place affects identity formation in visible and invisible ways through works by emerging Hamilton-born artists Brendan Hendry, Jessy Kitchen, and Eli Nolet. Hosting in-person exhibitions and having visitors in our space once more was such a pleasure. We can't wait to welcome folks back to the gallery again soon.

It has been an honour to work with so many inspiring artists over the past year! I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our artists for trusting me with their work, for engaging me in dialogue, for thinking deeply, and teaching us all about the transformational potential of curiosity, criticality, and creativity!





Monologue Harmonic, Janet Marie Rogers and Bawaadan Collective. Video still. June 18-July 15, 2021. Image courtesy of the artists.

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PROGRAMMING TIMELINE

September 12, 2020-July 6, 2021 Breaking News: Geneviève Thauvette Cannon Project Wall installation Publication essay by Jill Glessing

August 2020 – February 2021 Artist-in-residence: Aeris Körper Collective Sid Ryan Eilers, Mayumi Lashbrook, Mikaela Demers Special Project

Related programming:

October 31: Public performance in the street-facing windows January 13, 20 and 27: Creative collaborations in movement over Instagram livestream

October 17, 2020 Artchives 101: Julia Huynh Digital Zine October 22, 29 and November 5, 12, 2020 The Instant Class Kit: Socially-engaged art as radical pedagogy Stephanie Springgay and Andrea Vela Alarcón with Syrus Marcus Ware Series of four workshops Special Project

October 24, 2020 At-Home Art Documentation: Natalie Hunter Professional Development Workshop Presented in partnership with Factory Media Centre

November 1, 2020-August 30, 2021 Artist-in-residence: Bhavika Sharma

Funded in part by Young Canada Works Building Careers in Heritage

Related programming: August 18, 2021: Retracing/Forgetting: Open Studio Session



November 17-30, 2020 Quirky AF | Online Art Fair Fundraiser

December 1, 2020-September 30, 2021 Artist-in-residence: Valentin Brown Funded in part by Young Canada Works Building Careers in Heritage

December 8, 2020-April 27, 2021 Window Activations by Inc. Members Eight rounds of exhibitions in street-facing windows

Exhibiting Artists:

Alejandro Tamayo, Alexander Notarangelo, Allie Gingerich, Ashley Plante, Bhairavi Jathar, Fiona Freemark, Gary Muller, Gerten Basom, Janice Kovar, Jet Coughlan, Karen Klucowicz, Kathryn Killackey, Loraine Mohar, Madeleine Lychek, missELAINEous, Natalie Hunter, Nikola Wojewoda, Olivia Brouwer, Oshi the Artist, Paige Paton, Professor Hall, Ralph Caterini, Rhiannon Barry, Serena Valerio, Spencer Blackwood, Stephanie Vegh, Susan Robinson, Suzan Fawcett, Trisha Lavoie, Vanessa Cress Lokos December 10, 2020 Annual General Meeting 2019-20

December 12, 2020 Faraway Flowers Fundraiser

January 9 and 12, 2021 Submission Cafés Info sessions / one-on-one support for preparing exhibition proposals

January 19, 2021 Places: an evening of storytelling, poetry and music

Danielle Boissoneau, Kahsenniyo Tahnee Williams, and Piper & Carson Publication launch of Bury My Heart at King and James by Danielle Boissoneau



PROGRAMMING TIMELINE continued

January 30-March 1, 2021 Ignition 9: Online Artist Showcase

Hamilton Artists Inc.'s Award for Distinction in the McMaster and Waterloo Visual Art Programs

Exhibiting Artists:

Jet Coghlan, Teba Faisal, Lupita Guerrero, Baz Kanold, Jill Letten, David Nguyen

Related Programming:

January 30: Launch Party and Awards Ceremony, featuring INC.spots artist talks February 2-15: Ignition Window Activations Round 1 February 16-March 1: Ignition Window Activations Round 2 February 9, 17 and 23: Instagram Live Open Studio Sessions

March 4, 2021 Camerawork: Luther Konadu

Online publication with writings by Nasrin Himada, Luther Konadu and Aaron Moore

Presented in partnership with Images Festival

March 6, 2021 Exhibition Proposal Writing: Nahed Mansour Professional Development Workshop

Part of the Incoming! Program for refugee, newcomer, and immigrant artists and open to Inc. members

April 7, 2021

Behind the Scenes of the Art World: Saša Rajšić

Professional Development Workshop Part of the Incoming! Program for refugee, newcomer, and immigrant

artists and open to Inc. members

April 28, 2021 Promoting Your Artwork Online: Meera Sethi Professional Development Workshop

Part of the Incoming! Program for refugee, newcomer, and immigrant artists and open to Inc. members



PROGRAMMING TIMELINE continued

April 15, 2021-September 30, 2022 Indigenous Curatorial Resident: Alex Jacobs-Blum Indigenous Residency Program

May 9, 2021 Faraway Flowers Fundraiser

May 15-22, 2021 Adapt: Virtual Graduate Gallery Mohawk College's photography still+motion students

Exhibiting Artists:

Arjun, David Alexis Canola, William Chornobrywy, Lyndsay Emily, Michele Reyes François, T-Frank Creations, Aaron Hood, Madison Hotel, Devon Joynt, Rachel Kudrenski, Sandra Lebel, Michelle Lindsay, George Lohin, Robyn McKay, Adam Kurnell Mendonca, Alexa Nikita Media, Dylon North, Montanna O'Keefe, Udit Panchal, Emma Perry, Brent Shuter, Jesse Valvasori, Amber Violet Yorke, Yogo You June 18-July 15, 2021 Monologue Harmonic: Janet Marie Rogers and Bawaadan Collective Online screening in partnership with Factory Media Centre Special Project

July 1-23, 2021

Through My Eyes: Shabnam Afrand, Arif Bahaduri, Cemile Kaçmaz, Soyeon Kim, Mariana Topfstedt

Off-site art exhibition in street-facing windows at the Gasworks, Needlework, Tourism Hamilton, Immigrants Working Centre, and Hamilton Artists Inc.

Part of the Incoming! Program for refugee, newcomer, and immigrant artists

Related Programming:

July 6, 2021-March 15, 2022: Banner installation at James and Wilson Parkette

July 20-23, 2021: Podcast interviews with each artist in their mother tongue



July 6, 2021 – May 29, 2022 take care: Karice Mitchell Cannon Project Wall installation

July 14, 2021 Grant Writing: Petrina Ng

Professional Development Workshop Part of the Incoming! Program for refugee, newcomer, and immigrant artists and open to Inc. members

July 30-September 27, 2021 New New Deal: Tara Bursey Vinyl installation on the street-facing windows Special Project

August 5-9, 2021 Photophobia: Contemporary Moving Image Festival Online screenings in partnership with Art Gallery of Hamilton

Participating Artists:

Batoul Faour and Alex Sassine, Christina Hajjar, Dallas Fellini, Janet Marie Rogers and Jackson Twobears, Jinyoung Kim, KanikaXx, Laura Magnusson, Lupita Guerrero, Sadaf Khajeh and Dorsa Asadi, Sandy McLennan, Shahrzad Amin, Valentin Brown, Isa P. G, Jennifer Wanner, Bryan Angarita, Justine Smith, Jet Coghlan, Shon Kim, Yuan Zheng, Effy Adar and NASRA Adem, Diana Thorneycroft, K. MacNeil and Zhang Yang, Ida Kammerloch, Gabriella Mykal

August 28-November 20, 2021

the space in which we have dissolved: Brendan Hendry, Jessy Kitchen, and Eli Nolet Curated by Alexis Moline James Gallery exhibition

Related Programming:

November 18, 2021: Closing reception and publication launch



PROGRAMMING TIMELINE

August 28-November 20, 2021 Radiant Temperature of Openings: Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour, and Ryan Ferko Cannon Gallery exhibition

Related Programming:

New edition and dissemination of 2015 publication with contributions from Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour and Ryan Ferko, as well as Felix Kalmenson, and Aisha Sasha John

September 30-October 3, 2021 Survivance Online screening in partnership with CFMDC

Participating Artists:

Terry J. Jones, Thirza Cuthand, Natalie King, Rob Fatal, JJ Neepin & Justina Neepin, Lindsay McIntyre, Justin Ducharme



Radiant Temperature of Openings, Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour, and Ryan Ferko. Exhibition view. August 28-November 20, 2021. Photo: Abedar Kamgari

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PUBLIC PROGRAMS COORDINATOR JOHN HILL

Hello! She:kon! Shekoli! My name is John Hill. I'm the Public Programs Coordinator for the Hamilton Artists Inc. I started at the Inc. in June 2021, taking over the duties and responsibilities of Jasmine Mander, the Communications and Outreach Coordinator. My responsibilities include helping to deliver a range of public programming, foster ongoing community partnerships, develop communications, and enhance membership, volunteer and visitor relations with a focus on equitable and accessible models. I've learned a lot about being a community liaison in this position, and I am thankful for the opportunity to share what I have been working on in my nine months here at the Inc.

The Hamilton Artists Inc's social media engagement has remained consistent throughout 2021. Our current array of social media and outreach channels include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, the podcast, our website, and our newsletter. Our current follower total across the three major platforms is 17,710. Our current follower count on Instagram is 5574, 5232 for Twitter, and 6904 for Facebook. We have gained a total of 1661 followers since October 2020. Our top performing posts included the announcement of Derek Jenkins as the new Executive Director, our reopening in August, and our statement of support and solidarity with encampment residents and Black housing activists.

Another important aspect of my position is the efforts in outreach, including volunteering, committees, and programming. Some of the programs I have helped bring together include screening series, including the online screening series *Survivance*, with films presented courtesy of CFMDC. I also had the privilege of assisting in the launch of the Incoming! program for refugee, newcomer, and immigrant artists, which kicked off with a series of artist talk interviews with the artists of the *Through My Eyes* exhibition conducted in their first language.

Overall, I'm excited at the potential energy of this position. I have much to learn, but I am confident and excited to carry out the responsibilities of the Public Programs Coordinator to the best of my ability and continue to foster relationships with long-term and first-time community partners.

PROJECT ARCHIVISTS LODOE LAURA HAINES-WANGDA AND BRIANNA SEFERIADES

Throughout the years, the Inc. has retained records and ephemera related to its programming and operations. Until recently, much of this material was informally stored and organized. In 2021, the Inc. began a project to more effectively archive the material related to its near 50-year history.

At the start of this process, Project Archivist Julia Hyunh began assessing and cataloguing the Inc's programming and operations records. Julia started a finding aid for the records and rehoused many of the objects and documents. Julia's efforts created order in the programming and operations records, and were a great first step in the Inc.'s archives project.

Lodoe-Laura Haines-Wangda joined the Inc. in October with the hope of being able to process and rehouse the Inc.'s multimedia archive. Throughout its history, the Inc. has created and retained thousands of objects, including photographs, postcards, graphics, multimedia tapes, scrapbooks and other ephemera which document the exhibitions, performances, artists talks and other events presented at and by the Inc. since 1975. Currently, this archive of material is inaccessible due to storage concerns and at-risk media formats.

The unstable material and the age of the Inc.'s multimedia collection mean that it requires particular attention for long-term storage and preservation. Archival rehousing for the multimedia collection is expensive, so we have been working on accessing funding for these specialty materials and for the digitization of objects with obsolete or at-risk media formats.

Since January, Brianna Seferiades has also been working in the Inc.'s archives. Brianna has continued Julia's work processing and cataloguing the Inc.'s programming and operations records. She's been working on restoring order to a collection of scrapbooks from the 1970s and 1980s. These handmade scrapbooks are records of the earliest years of the Inc.'s exhibitions and events.

As the Inc. approaches its fifth decade of operations, there is a desire and a commitment to reflect on its history as an organization. The processing, rehousing and cataloguing projects will ensure that the Inc. is able to provide stable storage and preservation of its records and collections for future use.



View of the Inc.'s archives. February 2022. Photo: Brianna Seferiades.

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

ABEDAR KAMGARI

Current Members: Nicole Clouston, Laura Marotta, Yara El Safi, Bojana party company requested its immediate removal as well as payment Videkanic, Linda Columbus, Danica Evering, Adrienne Crossman; and Abedar Kamgari as staff.

Past Members: Kiera Boult.

I would like to extend my appreciation to our wonderful programming committee members who do integral work to support the Inc.'s programs behind-the-scenes. The committee provides guidance and advice to staff, Throughout 2020-21, programming committee members focused participates on juries, gives oversight to ensure our calls and selection criteria are responsible, equitable, and avoid nepotism and conflicts of interest, and assist with setting long-term goals and developing programming policies. A warm thank you to all committee members and a special shout out to outgoing member Kiera Boult for her many years of thoughtful work on the committee focused on engaging and empowering regional artists and curators.

In spring 2021, the committee advised on an unexpected situation involving alleged copyright infringement. The gallery was contacted by a third-party company representing Reuters News and Media Inc. regarding an image owned by Reuters, which was used in a critical intervention and collage work by one of our past exhibiting artists. The artist's work was included in an exhibition publication posted on our website, and the third-

of a small sum in compensation. In close consultation with the artist and after seeking professional legal advice, we decided to remove the exhibition publication from our website to avoid the third-party company from escalating matters or potentially targeting the artist directly. We will continue working with the artist to explore alternative solutions for making their thoughtful work and exhibition publication available to our communities once more.

largely on supporting with calls for submission and sitting on our many juries. Overall, the committee had a quieter year than usual for several reasons. The first being the unfortunate reality that hosting in-person exhibitions was not feasible for most of the year, and as a result, we prioritized an increase in special projects and public programming. And second, the internal focus on maintaining operations during a major transiton in staff leadership necessitated that the committee not take on any new large-scale initiatives. We are excited to continue dreaming up and developing thoughtful programming offerings throughout 2022 and the coming years.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

ALLIE GINGERICH and SARAH SPROULE

Current members: Elsa Brittin Howieson, Hannah Mostert, Mark Prier, Allie Gingerich, Sarah Sproule; and John Hill and Derek Jenkins as staff.

2021 was a year of recalibration for the Special Events and Fundraising Committee. We focused on small-scale community-building fundraisers, and professional development for our committee, building on and up from the great strides we were able to take in 2020. With the continued disruption of COVID-19, we have continued our lockdown-friendly event Faraway Flowers and introduced a new fundraiser titled Mystery Mail Postcard Packages.

Mystery Mail Postcards was a great success, bringing contemporary art into the home in small and accessible sizes that connected one another while we spent the winter inside. We designed postcards with images from the archives of the Inc., celebrating its long history in Hamilton. As well as this, we included photos of art from current board members, beautifully tying in both past and present pictures of the Inc. community members would donate to the Inc., and in turn, they would receive a package of 10 unique postcards and five stamps, to keep or to share. We launched the postcards project, and with almost 100 donations, it made Mystery Mail Postcard Package's inaugural launch a fantastic way

to connect with our community and provide even more support for our programming initiatives.

With the success of Faraway Flowers in 2020, a doorstep delivery service of fresh flowers and plants for select holidays, we decided to continue the fundraiser into 2021 with a refreshed iteration of the fundraiser for Mother's Day. The committee wanted to create a one-of-a-kind and thoughtful gift that included handmade elements made by local artists. The packages included either a succulent or a spiderwort plant in a handmade ceramic pot by Committee Member Elsa Brittin and two floral prints printed by our Co-chair Sarah Sproule. Our wonderful volunteers hand-delivered each package on the morning of Mother's Day to the recipient of the donor's choosing. This fundraiser was a great success. Although it was a much smaller run with only 25 available packages, we sold out within one day. We greatly exceeded our fundraising goal thanks to the generosity of our community.

The Special Events and Fundraising Committee, in collaboration with the Development Committee, is currently working on professional development through workshops and consultation thanks to a successful capacity grant, allowing the committee to create a new development plan to better support programming at the Inc.



SPECIAL EVENTS & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE continued ALLIE GINGERICH and SARAH SPROULE

This year the committee welcomed Elsa Brittin Howieson as our newest committee member and welcomed new staff members, Derek Jenkins and John Hill. After the AGM, Sarah Sproule will be stepping down as Cochair to become Co-chair of the Board of Directors, while continuing with the committee as a member. Allie Gingerich will continue as Co-chair, and Hannah Mostert and Mark Prier will continue as committee members. We are so thankful for the success and continuous engagement this year has brought! As always, we would like to thank our volunteers, members, and community for their continued support.





take care, Karice Mitchell. Cannon Project Wall installation. July 6, 2021-May 29, 2022. Photo: Grant Holt.

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DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ERICA MOGENTALE

Current members: Jaycee Tu, Erica Mogentale; and Derek Jenkins as staff.

This year the Development Committee has grown and transformed to welcome two board members, Jaycee Tu and Erica Mogentale, as Co-Chairs. The Committee has been working closely with the Special Events & Fundraising Committee to aid the Executive Director in pursuing and evaluating major goals in fundraising and community engagement.

Due to a successful capacity grant for 2021, the Development Committee, in collaboration with the Special Events and Fundraising Committee, is currently working on professional development through course modules and training with The Good Partnership and Flipside Fundraising, as well as participating in consultation and workshop sessions in development plan creation. This training will guide the Committee's goals of strategizing and constructing a new development plan for the next three years at the Inc. in hopes to better support programming and growth.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers, members, donors and community for their continued support!



the space in which we have dissolved, Brendan Hendry, Jessy Kitchen, and Eli Nolet. Curated by Alexis Moline. Exhibition view (left to right): collaborative work by Brendan Hendry and Jessy Kitchen, and works by Brendan Hendry. August 28-November 20, 2021. Photo: Abedar Kamgari.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

JAYCEE TU

Current Members: Tyler Matheson, Arturo Jimenez, Lauren Harnish, Elsa Brittin Howieson, and John Hill and Abedar Kamgari as staff.

Past Members: Jay Blackwood, Laura Palumbo, Avery Brooks-Joiner.

The Communications Committee works to ensure accessible communication and continued outreach across the Inc.'s website, social media, email and other forms of communication. The committee is comprised of members with a wide variety of skills and knowledge, whose contributions are countless and deeply appreciated.

In Winter 2020, the Communications Committee audited the Inc.'s website for accessibility based on WCAG 2.0 standards and prioritized areas in need of upgrading in order to enhance accessibility - particularly on screen readers.

This year, the committee is in the process of reviewing quotes from a shortlist of website developers. This shortlist comprises freelance

developers and agencies, with the prioritization of developers who are also practicing artists. Once chosen, we will be working with an external company to refresh the website in 2022.

The Committee is also strategizing ways to drive more traffic to the Inc., including the use of Google and Facebook Reviews, and the use of QR codes and e-blasts.

This year, the committee welcomed Tyler Matheson and Jaycee Tu as our newest members. Jaycee Tu was also appointed to Chair the committee. The committee also welcomed a new staff member John Hill, who is our Public Programs Coordinator. Abedar Kamgari, Arturo Jimenez, Lauren Harnish and Elsa Brittin Howieson continue as committee members.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, members, and community for their continued support!





An Endless Cycle of Retracing and Forgetting, Bhavika Sharma. Polyvinyl alcohol, thread, and dyed fabric. August 2021. Image courtesy of the artist.

HAMILTON ARTISTS INC. | ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Current members: Derek Jenkins as staff.

Past members: Lydia Santia and Brittany Sostar.

The return to in-person exhibitions in 2021 increased activity on-site for the first time since March 2020. Contributions from committee members Lydia Santia and Brittany Sostar were instrumental to maintaining the building while staff were working in a hybrid capacity.

The facility is in good shape, requiring only routine maintenance in this fiscal year. Coming back in July and August, we discovered that the courtyard had been overtaken by wild plant growth. As much as we wanted to support this return to nature, we had the space cleared to make way for more intentional plans for the garden plots in Spring 2022.

In the fall, we found a small leak above the entranceway. After consulting with volunteer Taras Beha, we determined that this was the result of a plugged drain on the roof rather than faults with previous repairs. A.M.

Roofing performed minor repairs, but there is some paint and potential ceiling damage above the doors to be addressed in 2021-22.

While the building presents no urgent needs in 2021-22, several exit signs must be replaced, office space is not sufficient to current staff levels, our lighting system should be updated soon, and the executive is still seeking long-term solutions to snow removal along Cannon Avenue following major storms.

The major work being done in the coming year is yet another investment in the space's physical accessibility. A generous grant from Service Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund has allowed us to invest in two universal washroom conversions and automatic door buttons for courtyard access. Though for us these kinds of physical alterations represent the baseline of access, they are yet another step forward in offering our community the most welcoming and accessible facility possible.



Current members: Setareh Masoumbeiki, Ayda Ghaffari, Charlie Star, Bhavika Sharma, Valentin Brown, Jeannie Kyungjin Kim; and John Hill and Abedar Kamgari as staff.

Past members: Sara Ghahremani, Taien Ng-Chan, Alejandro Tamayo; and Jasmine Mandar as staff.

Since its inauguration in 2016, the NEW Committee has gathered to integrate structural barriers and question what inclusion means for all artists and community members in Hamilton and surrounding regions. Made up of artists, educators and the Inc. staff, the NEW Committee provides space for artists, especially those in marginalized communities, to propose and execute alternative artistic possibilities and foster community engagement. Despite the pandemic, the NEW Committee has continued to provide public programs and opportunities, including:

Special Projects

The Inc. has continued the work of defying traditional art exhibition norms by initiating Special Projects, where artists are provided with creative opportunities for critical social, political and cultural exploration. This year's Special Project jury reviewed 19 applications and two projects were realized during the summer and fall of 2021—*Monologue Harmonic*: an online screening by Janet Marie Rogers & Bawaadan Collective in partnership with Factory Media Centre, and *New New Deal*, a window installation by Tara Bursey.

Incoming! A Project for Refugee, Newcomer and Immigrant Artists:

To continue serving and highlighting the works of refugee, newcomer and immigrant artists in Hamilton and surrounding areas, two projects were initiated in 2021 as part of Incoming! programming: a workshop series and the *Through My Eyes* outdoor art exhibition.

1. Professional Development Workshop Series

From March to July of 2021, four online professional development workshops were held that dealt with exhibition proposal writing, navigating the Canadian art world, promoting artwork online and grant writing. Workshops were free, open to all regional artists and facilitators were members of the BIPOC community.

2. Through My Eyes Outdoor Art Exhibition

The Incoming! exhibition *Through My Eyes* was installed from July 1-23, 2021 in five window spaces throughout downtown Hamilton that explored themes of displacement, belonging, labour, human fragility, and our place in the universe. The exhibition featured works by Shabnam Afrand, Arif Bahaduri, Cemile Kaçmaz, Soyeon Kim, and Mariana Topfstedt. In addition, the artists were interviewed regarding their work in their mother tongue, and during the exhibition their interviews were posted online for all to listen. We would like to thank Incoming! Project Coordinator Jasmine Mandar for her dedication and execution of this exhibition.



Reviewing the NEW Committee's Goals and Language

The NEW Committee continues to revisit and evaluate its goals and language used in our public domains. Specifically, we are critically evaluating the term 'inclusion' in the context of the NEW Committee's goals and editing the language presented in our call for Special Projects in the hopes that the general public will be encouraged to apply. We would like to acknowledge the work of Setareh Masoumbeiki who stepped down as the NEW Committee Chair earlier this year to continue on as a member. Setareh's dedication and commitment was highly regarded and her labour in the development of the NEW Committee programming during the pandemic was beyond measure.





Through My Eyes, Shabnam Afrand. Off-site art exhibition as part of the Incoming! program for refugee, newcomer, and immigrant artists. July 1-23, 2021. Photo: Grant Holt.

HAMILTON ARTISTS INC. | ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

FINANCIAL REPORT HEATHER KANABE

The financial report enclosed is in draft form and is only partially reconciled to the audited financial statements. The primary discrepancy between the financial reports and the draft audited financial statements is application of the CEWS funding against wage expenses instead of as other income and the inclusion of the (non-cash) amortization in revenue and expenses. These draft audited financial statements are reviewed and approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

Following the fiscal year 2020-2021, Hamilton Artists Inc. remains in a strong financial position. We were able to maintain robust staff levels throughout the year while delivering a strong range of programming activities. Annual operating grants came in as planned and were supplemented by grants from the Incite Foundation, Hamilton Community Foundation, Young Canada Works, the Summer Experience Program, and the new Tweed Collective grant.

Staff wages continue to increase year-over-year. In 2021 programming assistant hours expanded and contracts were extended to several gallery assistants to ease the administrative burden of the leadership transition. A third full time staff position, the Public Programs Coordinator, was hired in June. Additionally, an external bookkeeper was hired in April.

Several capital improvements were made, including laptops for remote work and a camera to improve documentation capabilities and open up new hybrid delivery options.

Funds to be deferred until the 2021-2022 fiscal year include a portion of the CCA grant for staff wages and a City Enrichment Fund Capacity Grant associated with the creation of a comprehensive Development Plan.

Ontario Small Business Support Grants (\$20,000) and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (\$72,775) offset any fundraising shortfalls due to reduced Bingo Fundraising and the impact of the pandemic on fundraising activities. These unplanned revenues resulted in a surplus, compared to the projected deficit.

The year ended with a significant surplus. This surplus will support expanded staffing levels (roughly 50k from 2020 to 2021) until other regular revenue sources are in place to cover these annual operating expenses, they also mitigate the financial risks associated with unplanned facility related expenses and uncertain pandemic related economic conditions. We plan to incur modest deficits in the next three years to slowly draw down the accumulated surplus and to align with grantors expectations of not-for-profit organizations.

Hamilton Artists Inc. **Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual October 2020 through September 2021***

*UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

0-2021 Budget vs. Actuals	Approved Budget 2020/2021	Actuals 2020/2021	
inary Income/Expense			
Income			
4029 · AEF (Arts Endowment Fund)	650.00	735.00	
4000 · Subsidies & Grants		i, _i,	
4001 · Provincial Grants	53,400.00	34,867.00	
4002 · Federal Grants	54,584.00	72,399.00	
4003 · Local Government Grants	67,300.00	59,303.00	
4014 · Foundation and Trust Grants	43,400.00	60,400.00	-
4100 · Corporate and Business Grants	0.00	20,000.00	
Total 4000 - subsidies & grants	218,684.00	246,969.00	
4005 · Donations			
4006 · Sponsor Donations	7,500.00	6,500.00	
4005 · Donations - Other	4,000.00	7,391.00	
Total 4005 - donations	11,500.00	13,891.00	
4007 · Memberships	7,000.00	6,166.00	
4015 · Fundraising Income			
4008 · Bingo Fundraising	17,000.00	5,517.00	
4017 · Special Events Fundraising	10,500.00	6,160.00	
4015 · Fundraising Income - Other	1,000.00	1,309.00	
Total 4000 - fundraising income	28,500.00	12,986.00	
4280 · Other Types of Income			
4460 · Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00	235.00	
4280 · Other Types of Income - Other	0.00	72,775.00	
4028 · Rentals	1,780.00	0.00	
Total Income	268,114.00	353,757.00	

Hamilton Artists Inc. **Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual October 2020 through September 2021***

Expense	suspended transactions			
Reco	nciliation Discrepancies	0.00	0.00	
5400 ·	Exhibition Expenses			
5460 · Installation		7,600.00	11,933.39	
	5550 · Publicity			
	5520 · Receptions	\$900	\$28	
	5416 · Catalogues	\$1,750	\$1,627	
	5500 · Advertising	\$2,750	\$1,477	
	5550 · Publicity - Other	0.00		
	Total 5550 · Publicity	5,400.00	3,132.31	
	5415 · Artist Fees			
	5420 · Artist Talk / Performance Fees	\$2,925	\$825	
	5431 · Community Programming Fees	\$13,055	\$18,181	
	5410 · Curatorial Fees	\$2,500		
	5430 · Writing Fees	\$1,200	\$600	
	5418 · Artist Exhibition Fees	\$21,820	\$14,461	
-	5415 · Artist Fees - Other	\$1,250	\$2,700	
	Total 5415 · Artist Fees	42,750.00	36,767.00	
	5570 · Shipping	\$335	\$627	
Hamilton Artists Inc. **Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual October 2020 through September 2021***

5560 · Travel & Accomodations	\$700	\$596
5400 · Exhibition Expenses - Other	0.00	1,170.00
Total 5400 · Exhibition Expenses	56,785.00	54,226.45
5000 · Operations/Admin		
5130 · Building Improvements	300.00	560.00
5170 Accessibility	4,325.00	1,386.73
5347 · Volunteer Expense	400.00	125.00
5030 · Bank & Interest Charges	- 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
5011 · Paypal Fees	280.00	342.35
5030 · Bank & Interest Charges - Other	130.00	230.88
Total 5030 · Bank & Interest Charges	410.00	573.23
5045 · Rentals Expense	-	
5050 · Fundraising Expense	3,290.00	2,676.34
5060 · Fundraising Fees (Bingo)	1,900.00	79.49
5100 · Insurance	6,300.00	6,743.17
5110 · Repairs & Maintenance	4,000.00	3,534.39
5120 · Cleaning & Janitorial Services	1,000.00	583.31
5150 · Postage, Mailing Service	850.00	1,194.00
5160 · Office & General	6,200.00	4,411.42
5222 · Marketing & Advertising	850.00	1,852.68
5032 · Bookkeeping	0.00	1,663.78
5230 · Professional & Accounting Fees	6,700.00	6,485.50

Hamilton Artists Inc. **Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual October 2020 through September 2021***

5260 ·	Salaries & Wages	-		
	5295 · Casual labour	19,750.00	2,360.00	
	5270 · CPP Expense	7,245.91	8,379.10	
N.	5280 · El Expense	3,852.77	3,934.46	
	5290 · WSIB Expense	409.87	658.30	
	5265 · Salaries & Wages	146,382.00	175,898.95	
5260 · Salari	es & Wages - Other	6,200.00	6,453.73	
6600 · Payroll Expenses		183,840.55	197,684.54	
5310 · Security		750.00	601.08	
5315 · Board/Staff Development		6,000.00	4,194.82	
5320 · Subscriptions & Dues		325.00	1,230.00	
5330 · Telephone & Internet 5335 · Gas & Hydro		1,300.00	1,521.49	
		4,800.00	3,481.70	
5337 -	Property Tax	7,500.00	7,452.08	
5000 · Operations/Admin - Other		10,000.00	0.00	
Total 5000 · Operations/Admin		251,040.55	248,034.75	
69800 · Unc	ategorized Expenses			
Total Expense		307,825.55	302,261.20	
Net Ordinary I	Net Ordinary Income		51,495.80	



Window Activation 3, (right to left) Allie Gingerich, Jet Coughlan, Spencer Blackwood, and Alejandro Tamayo. Installation in the street-facing windows. January 5-18, 2021. Photo: Valentin Brown.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

CORE STAFF

Abedar Kamgari – Programming Director Derek Jenkins – Executive Director John Hill – Public Programs Coordinator Kristina Durka – Programming Assistant / Rental Coordinator

CONTRACT STAFF

Lodoe Laura Haines-Wangda – Project Archivist Brianna Seferiades – Project Archivist; Gallery Assistant Bhavika Sharma – Artist-in-Residence / Gallery Assistant Valentin Brown – Artist-in-Residence / Gallery Assistant Jessica Hannigan – Gallery Assistant Julia Huynh – Interim Administrative Assistant Julie Dring – Operations and Finance Consultant

AS ALWAYS WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS!

Allie Gingerich, Adrienne Crossman, Alejandro Tamayo, Arturo Jimenez, Avery Brooks-Joiner, Bhavika Sharma, Bojana Videkanic, Brianna Seferiades, Charles Star, Danica Evering, Elsa Brittin Howieson, Hannah Mostert, Irene Loughlin, Jay Blackwood, Kiera Boult, Laura Marotta, Laura Palumbo, Lauren Harnish, Linda Columbus, Lydia Santia, Mark Prier, Nicole Clouston, Sara Ghahremani, Setareh Masoumbeiki, Shauna Margaret, Taien Ng-Chan, Taras Beha, Valentin Brown, Yara El Safi



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONTINUING

Jordyn Stewart - Co-chair (Joined October 2020, elected at 2020 AGM)

RENEWING FOR A SECOND TERM

Ashley Watson - Treasurer (Joined November 2019, elected at 2019 AGM) Sarah Sproule - Co-chair (Joined October 2019, elected at 2019 AGM)

INCOMING

Ayda Ghaffari (Joined July 2021) Erica Mogentale - Development Chair (Joined March 2021) Heather Kanabe - Treasurer (Joined September 2021) Jaycee Tu - Communications Chair (Joined November, 2021) Jeannie Kim - Secretary; NEW Committee Chair (Joined March 2021) Rachelle Wunderink - Special Events and Fundraising Co-chair (Joined January 2022) Tyler Matheson (Joined July 2021)

MANY THANKS TO OUR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS!

Danica Evering - Programming Chair (Joined August 2019, elected at 2019 AGM) Charlit Floriano - Secretary (Joined October 2020, elected at 2020 AGM) Setareh Masoumbeiki - NEW Committee Chair (Joined November 2019, elected at 2020 AGM) Tal-Or Ben Choreen - Treasurer (Joined February 2020, elected at 2021 AGM)



DONORS

Alexander William Warrens, Alexandra Jacobs-Blum, Ashley Watson, Barry Spinner, Bryce Kanbara, Carol Ashurst, Fatima Garzen, Geoffrey Malcolm, Graham Fenton, Jason Blackwood, Julia Florio, Julia Van Der Lann De Vries, Margaret Kelly, Mark Prier, Monika Ciolek, Patrice Niro, Richard Milne, Spencer Blackwood, Stephanie Vegh, Taien Ng-Chan, Tor Lukasik Foss, Tracy Bruce





the space in which we have dissolved, Brendan Hendry, Jessy Kitchen, and Eli Nolet. Curated by Alexis Moline. Exhibition view of work by Jessy Kitchen. August 28-November 20, 2021. Photo: Abedar Kamgari.

PARTNERS, SPONSORS and FUNDING AGENCIES

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Ontario Arts Council Canada Council for the Arts City of Hamilton Incite Foundation for the Arts Hamilton Community Foundation Summer Experience Program - Government of Ontario Young Canada Works - Canadian Museums Association Service Canada - Enabling Accessibility Fund Tweed Collective

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CONTINUED







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Please consider making a donation in support of our many upcoming programs.

Your support will allow us to continue to run free		SUPPORTER		FRIEND					PATRON				
 and accessible programming to the community. Donors will be a according to their contribution upcoming Inc. publication or ver Donors will receive a charitable donations over \$25.00. Online donations can be made www.theinc.ca/our-sponsors or 	o all members of acknowledged level in an erbally at an event. tax receipt for at	Snacks for one reception	Books for the Inc. Ibrary	Art supplies for the Children's Nook	Installation costs for one exhibition	Advertising costs for one exhibition	Printing costs for exhibition catalogue	Closed Captioning for online programs	Professional Development Workshop	Preservation materials for Inc. archive	Courtyard gardening support	Installation for Cannon Project Wall	Curatorial fee for one exhibition
	Contribution	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$150	\$225	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$500	\$750	\$1,500	\$2,500
	Tax Receipt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Recognition Online	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Recognition at Event				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Recognition in Print			ie al	التمسك			0	0	0	0	0	0
	Behind-the-Scenes Tours							0	0	0	0	0	0
	Inc. Merchandise Gift							0	0	0	0	0	0
	Champagne Reception												0
	SELECT YOUR DONATION	1		1	1		1. 7			St. 1.	1		



From the Inc.'s archives. Various postcards sent to the gallery, 1984. Photo: Brianna Seferiades.

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Thank You!