



Opportunity Knocks: Visual Arts and Music

Thursday, November 9, 6 pm, Art Gallery of Guelph

Presenter Bios

Barbara Hobot

Barbara Hobot holds an MFA from Western University and a BA in Fine Arts from the University of Waterloo. She has shown her work most recently in solo exhibitions at the University of Waterloo Art Gallery, Olga Korper Gallery, and group shows at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery and Cambridge Galleries (all in 2016). Other exhibition venues include AKA Artist Run, Saskatoon; Art Gallery of Windsor; DNA Artspace, London; Art Mûr, Montreal; Harbourfront Centre, Toronto; Galerie Kurt im Hirsch, Berlin; Chiellerie Gallery, Amsterdam; and Weglowa Art Studios, Bialystok. Hobot has participated in artist residencies in Canada, the United States, and Europe, and she is the 2017 City of Waterloo Artist-in-Residence. She is the recipient of awards from the Ontario Arts Council and numerous academic scholarships. Hobot lives and works in Kitchener and is represented by Olga Korper Gallery in Toronto.

John Kissick

Trained as a painter and writer, John Kissick has held numerous academic posts, including Chair of Critical Studies at Penn State University's School of Visual Arts, Dean of the Faculty of Art at the Ontario College of Art & Design and most recently as Director of the School of Fine Art and Music at the University of Guelph from 2003 to 2014. Kissick's exhibition record includes over 30 solo exhibitions in Canada, the USA and Germany, and his work has been included in a number of important survey exhibitions, national tours and public collections. He is also the author of *Art: Context and Criticism* (1992/6), was editor of the *Penn State Journal of Contemporary Criticism* from 1990 to 1995 and has written numerous catalogue essays and articles for periodicals. He is represented by Katzman Contemporary.

Shauna McCabe

Shauna McCabe is the Director of the Art Gallery of Guelph (AGG). Former Executive Director of the Textile Museum of Canada, McCabe brings a depth of art museum management and academic expertise to the AGG, with more than 15 years' experience as an arts administrator, as well as professor and Canada Research Chair at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick. McCabe is credited with raising the profile and engagement of Toronto's Textile Museum of Canada, which she joined in 2010. During her six-year tenure, attendance and generated revenues increased through landmark exhibitions such as *Marimekko, With Love* and *Artist Textiles: Picasso to Warhol*, strategic partnerships and investment expanded, the TMC undertook its first major capital renewal and cemented its digital leadership with award-winning platforms that extended the museum's impact beyond its walls.

Previously, she was Director of The Rooms Provincial Art Gallery in Newfoundland and Labrador, and Senior Curator at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery in Prince Edward Island. In 2007, she was appointed Canada Research Chair in Critical Theory in the Interpretation of Culture, leading interdisciplinary research and practice at Mount Allison University where she was also Associate Professor. McCabe completed a PhD at the University of British Columbia, an MA at Simon Fraser University, and a BA at McGill University.

Petra Nyendick

Petra Nyendick is the Executive Director of Silence in Guelph. This position is the most recent facet in a life's work in art; a long, strong involvement in the arts as a successful artist, agent and arts organizer. She brings to Guelph her committed vision of the guild of the creative community and its importance to society as a whole. Originally from Toronto, Nyendick moved to Indiana in 2001, living in Indianapolis and Terre Haute. After realizing the need for a commercial art gallery in Terre Haute, she was founding director of 333 Visual Art Gallery for one year. The success of that gallery and attached working studio morphed into an opportunity to launch Halcyon Contemporary Art Gallery at the Sheldon Swope Art Museum. Nyendick's success as founding director of Halcyon and director of the Swope Art Museum's Summer Youth Art Program led to a five-year tenure as Director of Indiana State University's Community School of the Arts.

Nyendick holds a MFA from Indiana State University and a BFA from York University. She served on the board of directors of Wabash Valley Art Spaces, where she was Chair of the Site Selection and Acquisition Committee, The Terre Haute Children's Choir, and the Wabash Valley Youth Orchestra. She currently serves on the board of directors of the Guelph Arts Council.

Carmen Spada

A highly respected educator, Carmen Spada currently resides as a sessional lecturer at the University of Guelph, specializing in jazz piano instruction. He also conducts various clinics and master classes at secondary schools in the Greater Toronto Area and he operates a very successful in-person and live, online private teaching studio, featuring instruction on contemporary improvisation, harmony, composition, ear training, songwriting, and post-secondary music curriculum and audition preparation for prospective undergraduate students.

Though firmly rooted in jazz and world music, Spada has enjoyed pursuing and establishing his solo career in a unique jazz crossover to pop niche, due to his success as a songwriter. Carmen currently performs and tours with Juno award winning guitarist Robert Michaels and was previously pianist and arranger for *Luna Bianca*, and Henri Smith's *Sounds of New Orleans* ensemble, based in Boston. In addition to a busy schedule of performing and teaching, Carmen is also the co-founder and Artistic Director of B-Jazzed, a non-for-profit organization curating performances, promoting jazz education, and preserving jazz heritage in the city of Brampton, as well as hosting the annual World of Jazz Festival. Spada graduated Summa Cum Laude from Berklee College of Music, in Boston, MA, obtaining a dual major in Piano Performance and Jazz Composition, and he continues to represent Berklee as an Alumni Ambassador for the Southern Ontario region.