



**ART GALLERY  
BURLINGTON**

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Exhibition guided tours are available upon request.

**The Art Gallery of Burlington's (AGB) new winter exhibitions, launching January 15, 2021, look at family histories through adornment, action, autoethnographic production, and ancestral knowledge.**

This season marks the first Canadian exhibition of Kuwaiti artist **Monira Al Qadiri**. From **January 22 – April 25, 2020**, AGB presents Al Qadiri's *Diver*, an immersive video installation which is part of her ongoing search for historical ties between the pre- and post-oil worlds in the Gulf.

For hundreds of years, the economy of the coastal region was based on decorative pearls. After the discovery of oil in the twentieth century, a massive transformation took place in the affected societies and this part of history was erased, relegated to popular fiction. The video proposes to bridge that gap through the formal abstraction of colour; it follows the movements of synchronized swimmers wearing dichroic body suits akin to the sheen of both pearls and oil, fully choreographed to a traditional pearl-diving song.

The work directly ties the industrial history of the region to her family's story of survival, as Al Qadiri's grandfather worked as a singer on a pearling boat. *Diver* questions the popular romanticization of the pearling industry's past, which sanitizing the poverty, labour, and hardship experienced on the boats. The use of these bodies as ornamentation manifests the placement of these histories in contemporary society – as embellishment and décor – but at the same time reflects the artist's absolute effort to sincerely articulate them as a solid component of regional identity through exhausting physical action.

Curated by Hitoko Okada, *In Visible* runs in the Perry Gallery from **January 15 - April 25, 2021**. The exhibition pairs the work of Toronto-based artists, **Marina Dempster** and **Meera Sethi** to honour and celebrate connections between personal healing and political transformation through self-fashioning. Donning an article imbued with powerful energy or styling an expression of who we are, can be ways of connecting to our personal and collective histories, signals of reclamation, and acts of social resistance. In these ways, objects that we wear can have powerful transformative qualities within ourselves, what we may believe about belonging, and act as visual interruptions to dominant culture in public spaces.

*Peeling the Sticker Off an Overripe Pear* opens in the Lakeshore Gallery on **February 5, 2021** and runs until **May 16, 2021**. St. John's-based artist **Larry Weyand** explores family and memory through yarn and cloth, transforming moments in time into a series of two- and three-dimensional rugs. Bright, colourful, and humorous mats softly and safely start conversations about mental health, intergenerational dysphoria, trauma, and the act of making as a coping mechanism, and occupy the space where narrative, psychological resilience, mat-making and food intersect. Curated by Tara Bursey, the exhibition is the basis of a rug hooking workshop series, part of the new AGB Digital program, presented in partnership with Reach Out Centre for Youth (ROCK) and the Positive Space Network (PSN). Work from the sessions will be mounted in the exhibition during April and May.

AGB continues to engage public programming with hybrid experiences that unite in-person activities with at-home participation. **Marina Dempster** hosts an online introductory rug hooking workshop, **February 24, 6 - 7 pm**, exploring textiles as metaphor for personal transformation and **Meera Sethi** leads an online workshop, **March 12, 6 – 7 pm**, discussing regional South Asian textiles. No prior experience is necessary. Registration is required, visit [www.agb.life](http://www.agb.life) to reserve your spot.

A virtual Photo-Based Rug Hooking course with **Larry Weyand** focuses on digital patterning and photo-based design strategies. Over six weeks, participants will learn to create bold and original layouts for their mats, learning simple yet effective photo-transfer technologies, basic Photoshop knowledge, transfer techniques, and the exploration of alternative materials. Classes are held Mondays from **January 18 - March 5 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm**. To register please visit [www.agb.life](http://www.agb.life).

AGB's winter exhibitions have been supported by the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts. AGB Digital is supported by the Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund and Burlington Foundation.

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**ART GALLERY OF BURLINGTON** is Burlington's art gallery and community art centre, a place of intersection where creators, cultures and communities converge. It presents many regional, national and international exhibitions each year, and is home to the world's largest collection of contemporary Canadian ceramics, as well as seven art and fine craft guilds. The AGB provides art and craft education programs and public tours for people of all ages, and spans over 44,000 square feet with seven fully equipped studios, three galleries, a one-of-a-kind gift shop, a sculpture courtyard and year-round conservatory. The AGB is proud to acknowledge that the land where it is located is part of the ancient Dish With One Spoon Treaty and also the Brant Tract Purchase, Treaty No. 3 3/4 of 1795, and it is grateful to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River for sharing this territory. The location of the Art Gallery of Burlington is one of the most stunning spots in all of Burlington, facing Lake Ontario. The Art Gallery of Burlington is located at 1333 Lakeshore Road, Burlington, Ontario.

[www.agb.life](http://www.agb.life)

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