



ART GALLERY
BURLINGTON

PRESS RELEASE

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Exhibitions, Conversations, and Creative Experiments in Ceramics

The Art Gallery of Burlington is placing ceramics at the centre of a major new season celebrating artistic experimentation, emerging talent, and community connection.

Launched on May 22, the season brings together a dynamic series of exhibitions, artist conversations, and creative programs that highlight the expressive power of clay and the AGB's distinctive role as a gathering place for artists, audiences, and cultural partners. Anchored by Chukwudubem Ukaigwe's *Locutions: Fragments out of a Deluge*, the inaugural *Henry Goodman Exhibition for Emerging Artists*, Sheridan College's 2026 Ceramics and Glass Graduates exhibition, and the 2026 FUSION Conference, the program celebrates contemporary ceramics as a site of innovation, exchange, and shared experience.

The opening celebration featured remarks from AGB Executive Director Emma Sankey; intentions from WhiteEagle Stonefish; and remarks from MP Gould, MPP Effie Triantafilopoulos, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, and MPP Natalie Pierre. AGB Artistic Director and Curator Suzanne Carte introduced the exhibitions, followed by remarks from Adeline La, President of FUSION and an artist talk by Chukwudubem Ukaigwe.

"The Art Gallery of Burlington is a cultural cornerstone for our region and a fitting home for their first-ever Henry Goodman Exhibition for Emerging Artists – in partnership with FUSION, a charitable organization that supports clay and glass artists," said Effie Triantafilopoulos, Member of Provincial Parliament for Oakville North–Burlington and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. "As home to the largest collection of contemporary Canadian ceramics in the world, the AGB continues to play an essential role in supporting artists, strengthening community connections, and enriching Burlington's cultural landscape."

Refreshments for the season celebration were generously provided by Café del Cielo, Familia Fine Foods, and Longo's.

The Art Gallery of Burlington is supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Burlington, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. AGB programming has been sponsored by the Burlington Community Foundation, The Joyce Family Foundation, and the Incite Foundation for the Arts.

Locutions: Fragments out of a Deluge

Chukwudubem Ukaigwe

May 22, 2026 – August 30, 2026

Perry Gallery

In *Locutions: Fragments out of a Deluge*, Chukwudubem Ukaigwe builds an exhibition around this question of containment: what things carry, what they cannot, and what leaks through regardless.

Ukaigwe arrives here through an expanded practice of many utterances in paint, ceramics, sound, video, printmaking, all of which treat making itself as a form of listening. The ceramic vessels at the centre of this work were built fragmentarily, stacked bowl on top of bowl, resting on pillars adhering them together with layers of textured clay. Ukaigwe came to ceramics wanting immediately to work at scale, large, and ambitious before he had yet learned the language of clay. The vessels are anthropomorphic without being portraits, communal without being anonymous, shaped, perhaps, the way communities are shaped: by pressure, by accumulation, by the decision to keep building on top of and around each other.

These vessels hold sound. Microphones are nestled within their hollow interiors so that noise overflows like a fountain. The sounds were commissioned from Ukaigwe's three brothers in Lagos, who were challenged and invited to listen to their environments differently. They captured the everyday sounds of the city. What they produced was not the sound of nostalgia, but something more precise: the attuned record of a place shaped by specific histories, frequencies of joy, and ways that people live with one another and contribute to the publicness of life in a city.

The vessels sit atop collected furniture. The locally sourced objects, a wooden desk, table, chairs, spinning wheel, and butter churner, are not props. They are prompts. The vessels rest on them like offerings. Or conversations. Or archives.

The dichromatic ceramics glazed in yellow and black are the colours of buses in Lagos, and the bus stations where they gather are the epicentres where social and political life unfolds. Here the vessels are the transportation, and the Gallery becomes the place where all of this arrives: the sound, the object, the memory, the overflow.

Locution means utterance, a particular style of speaking, the grain of a voice. Ukaigwe asks what it means for objects to speak. What grain of voice does the vessel hold. What form of temperance does the furniture take. What sound does a city really make.

Chukwudubem Ukaigwe is an artist, curator, and writer. Exercising material as an experimental device for cross-examining plural themes, his interdisciplinary practice is an inquiry into semiotic dissonance. Tapping into a diverse spectrum of influences - from experimental music

and literature to history and futurisms – Ukaigwe approaches his art practice as a double gesture.

His social practice is established on the foundations of splintered or shared authorship, community input, fracturing time, and relativity. On obtaining a BFA (Hons.) from the University of Manitoba in Canada, Ukaigwe has presented exhibitions and effectuated artist residencies locally and intercontinentally. Ukaigwe is a founding member of the curatorial force, Patterns collective.

The 2026 FUSION Conference took place May 23 – 24 at the Art Gallery of Burlington, bringing together three powerhouse voices in contemporary clay: Tony Clennell, Bruce Cochrane, and Kiefer Floreal from *The Great Canadian Pottery Throwdown*.

The Henry Goodman Exhibition for Emerging Artists

May 21 – June 21, 2026

AGB's Permanent Collection Corridor

The exhibition brings together emerging ceramic and glass artists from across Ontario, each responding to the theme of “*Gathering*” through functional and sculptural work.

The works in this exhibition reflect a wide range of interpretations drawing on personal history, cultural tradition, material process, and lived experience to explore what it means to gather.

The AGB is excited to host the inaugural *Henry Goodman Exhibition for Emerging Artists*. This exhibition honours the legacy of Henry Goodman – a ceramic artist, educator, and former President of FUSION whose lifelong dedication to mentoring early-career artists continues to shape the field.

The exhibition was juried by artist, curator, and 2025 Sobey Art Award finalist, Chukwudubem Ukaigwe, featured in the AGB's Perry Gallery. *The Henry Goodman Exhibition for Emerging Artists* will travel to Rails End Gallery, Haliburton (July 15 – September 8, 2026) and Neilson Park Creative Arts Centre, Mississauga (September 21 – October 11, 2026).

Grace Han: AGB Mentor-In-Residence Program

May 18 – 22, 2026

AGB Studios

Freedom as Method was a 5-day, participant-led intensive with acclaimed ceramic artist Grace Han, designed for makers eager to expand their sculptural vocabulary and deepen their studio practice. Taking place in the AGB's clay studios, this workshop invited ceramic artists to explore process-driven methods of making, develop new techniques, and refine how they bring ideas into physical form. Drawing inspiration from the AGB's permanent collection of over 4,000 Canadian contemporary ceramic works, participants strengthened both their looking and making skills while engaging in a supportive environment of community exchange.

Sheridan College's Ceramics and Glass Graduates

May 22 – August 9, 2026

Featuring the 2026 Ceramics and Glass graduates of the Bachelor of Craft and Design Program at Sheridan College, this exhibition showcases a new generation of makers working across disciplines and material traditions. Through explorations of form, colour, texture, and narrative, these emerging artists push the boundaries of craft, transforming personal ideas and lived experiences into tangible works that invite reflection, connection, and curiosity.

This exhibition brings together works by Alyssa Laffrenier, Charlotte Bridge, Chloe Lipczynski, Eleanora Debono, Elisa Banks, Erin Merkley, Hyemin Kim, Ivy Hills, Jolie Neeve, Natalia Lopez, Seren Kwasniewski-Burke, Thomas Paik, Vera Urban, and Yanick Robichaud.

About the Art Gallery of Burlington

The AGB is a hub for artistic excellence and community connection in downtown Burlington. The AGB presents thought-provoking exhibitions, hands-on learning opportunities, and public programs that invite visitors to see, think, and create in new ways. Home to the largest collection of contemporary Canadian ceramics in the world, the AGB champions a unique artistic perspective that challenges traditional boundaries and celebrates innovation.

The AGB is located on the ancestral territory of many Indigenous Nations including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, and Métis peoples. The territory is mutually covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy, the Ojibway, and other allied Nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We acknowledge that the land upon which we gather, to create and learn, is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

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