

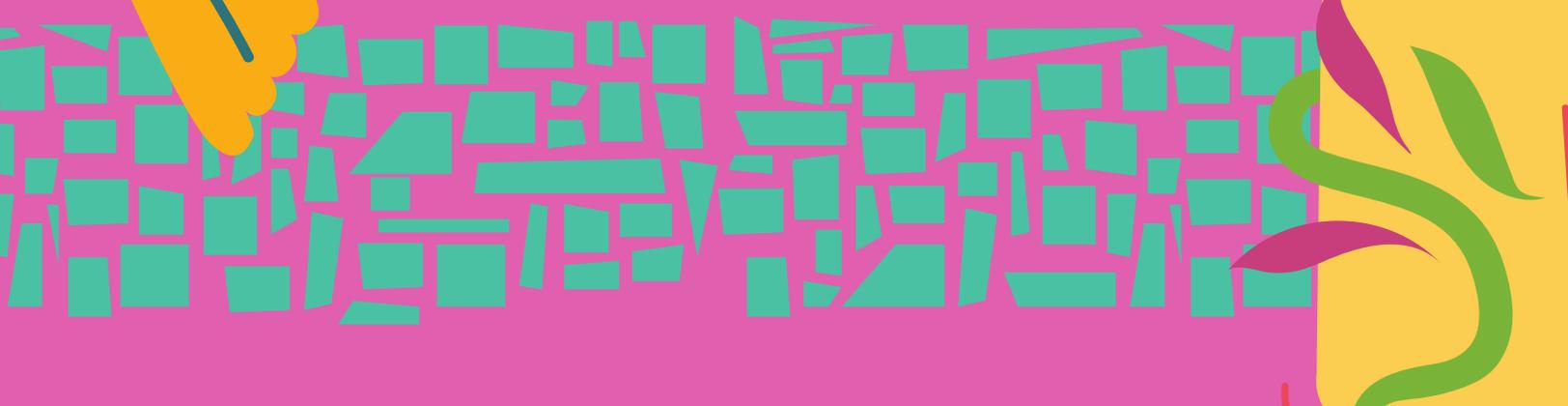


A GUIDE FOR ALL AGES

P. MANSARAM

The Medium is the Medium is the Medium

SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 - JANUARY 3, 2021





WHO IS P. MANSARAM?

P. Mansaram is an artist who grew up in **Mount Abu, Rajasthan, India**. He left his family home in order to fulfill his dream of becoming an artist.

As a young art student in Bombay, Mansaram took inspiration from both the **history of art** and his everyday surroundings, which included **billboards and advertising, posters** and early computer art. He also studied in Amsterdam, which is where he began to make more **experimental artwork**.

In 1966, Mansaram moved with his family to Canada, living in Toronto before settling in Burlington. For many years, he worked as both an artist, as well as a high school art teacher in Hamilton, Ontario.

As an artist, he developed a style he called "Mansamedia." This style of **mixed media art** took inspiration from both **Indian and North American influences**.

Today, P. Mansaram lives and Burlington, and still creates art!

TIPS FOR LOOKING AT ART

Art can be puzzling. Unlike familiar everyday objects, it can be hard to tell what art "is", and what it means.

Artists like P. Mansaram take inspiration from things they like, places they have been, and experiences they have had. The art they create is like a delicious soup that has many ingredients, but amounts to one flavourful experience for the person eating it.

Your ideas about a work of art are important! An artist's ideas, along with your ideas, are what makes looking at art meaningful.

Here are some questions to ask yourself while looking at an artwork:

- **What do I see?**
- **What do I like about this? What do I not like?**
- **Does this remind me of anything?**
- **How would I describe the colours/lines/shapes?**
- **Do I see a story in this work of art? What is it?**
- **What do I think the artist is trying to tell me?**



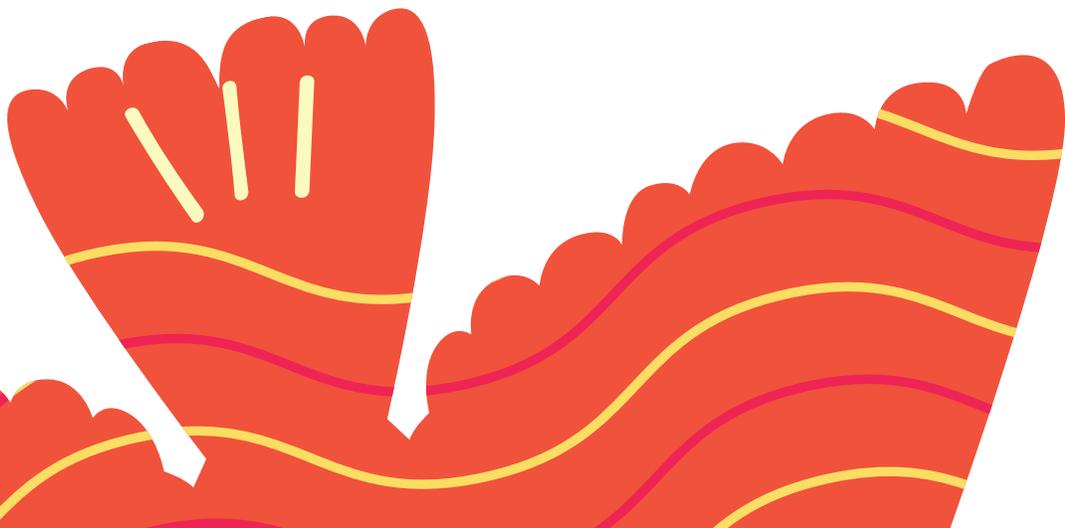
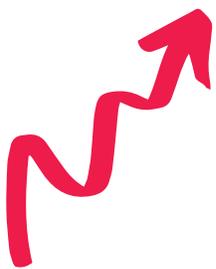


REAR VIEW MIRROR

This exhibition features a number of art works that belong to a series P. Mansaram calls **Rear View Mirror**.

This title hints that these works are about the act at looking back at the past while facing forward, as if you were looking through the rear view mirror of a car. The materials Mansaram used, such as newspaper clippings he saved and found items, reflect both the past and present.

Think back to something that happened to you that you remember well. Draw a picture of it in the rear view mirror above.



MIXING MEDIA

Would you like to know why P. Mansaram created art using many different media, such as ink drawing, collage, painting and use of found materials like doilies?

By mixing media, Mansaram can better represent and blend two different cultures, different time periods and influences, and things that are both real and imaginary.

TRY THE FOLLOWING MIXED MEDIA "RECIPES" AT HOME:

Potato Prints + Paint on Fabric (or a T-Shirt)

Doilies + Watercolour Paint on Paper

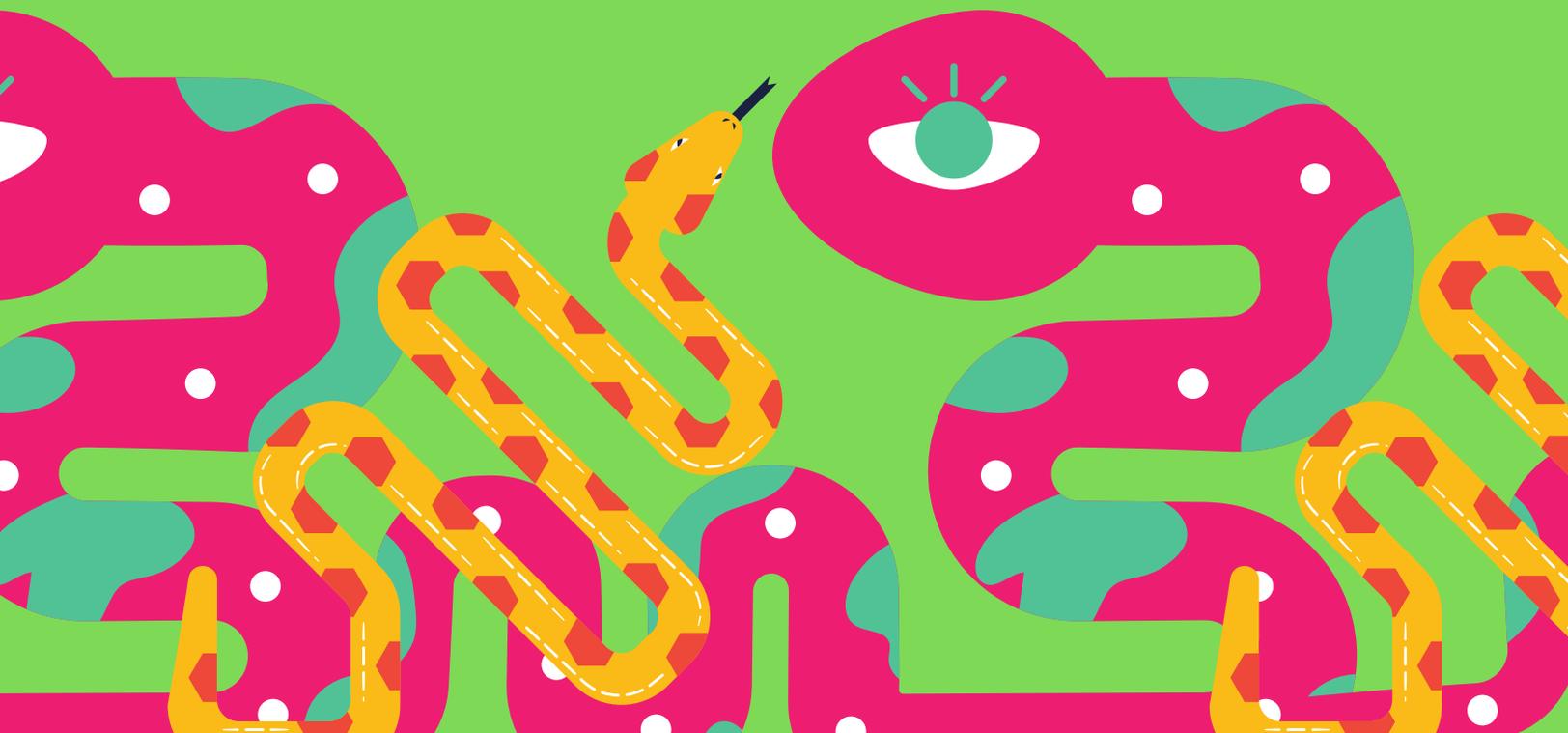
Yarn + String glued on Cardboard

Twigs + Leaves glued on Construction Paper

Magazine Pages + Paint on Aluminum Foil

Fabric + Paper glued on Wood

Paint + Felt sewn or glued onto Denim



MATERIALS MAKE MEANING

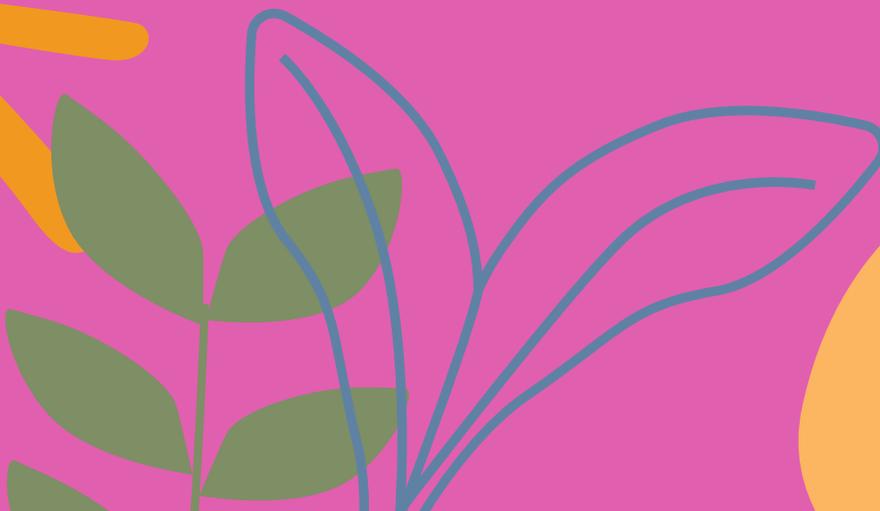
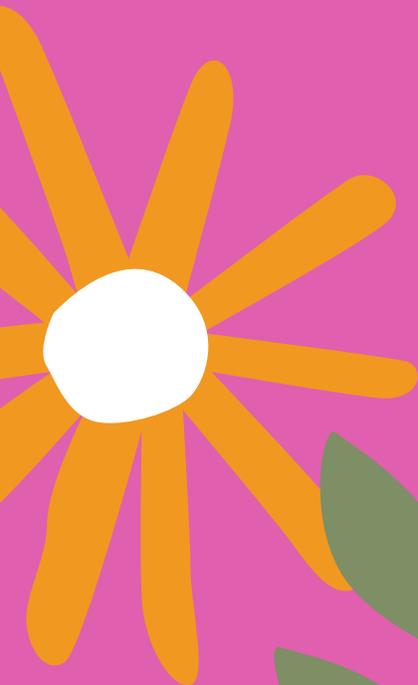
Artists who mix media in paintings and sculptures often choose their materials carefully. This is because materials can provide the viewer with clues about what the artist was thinking about while creating a work of art.

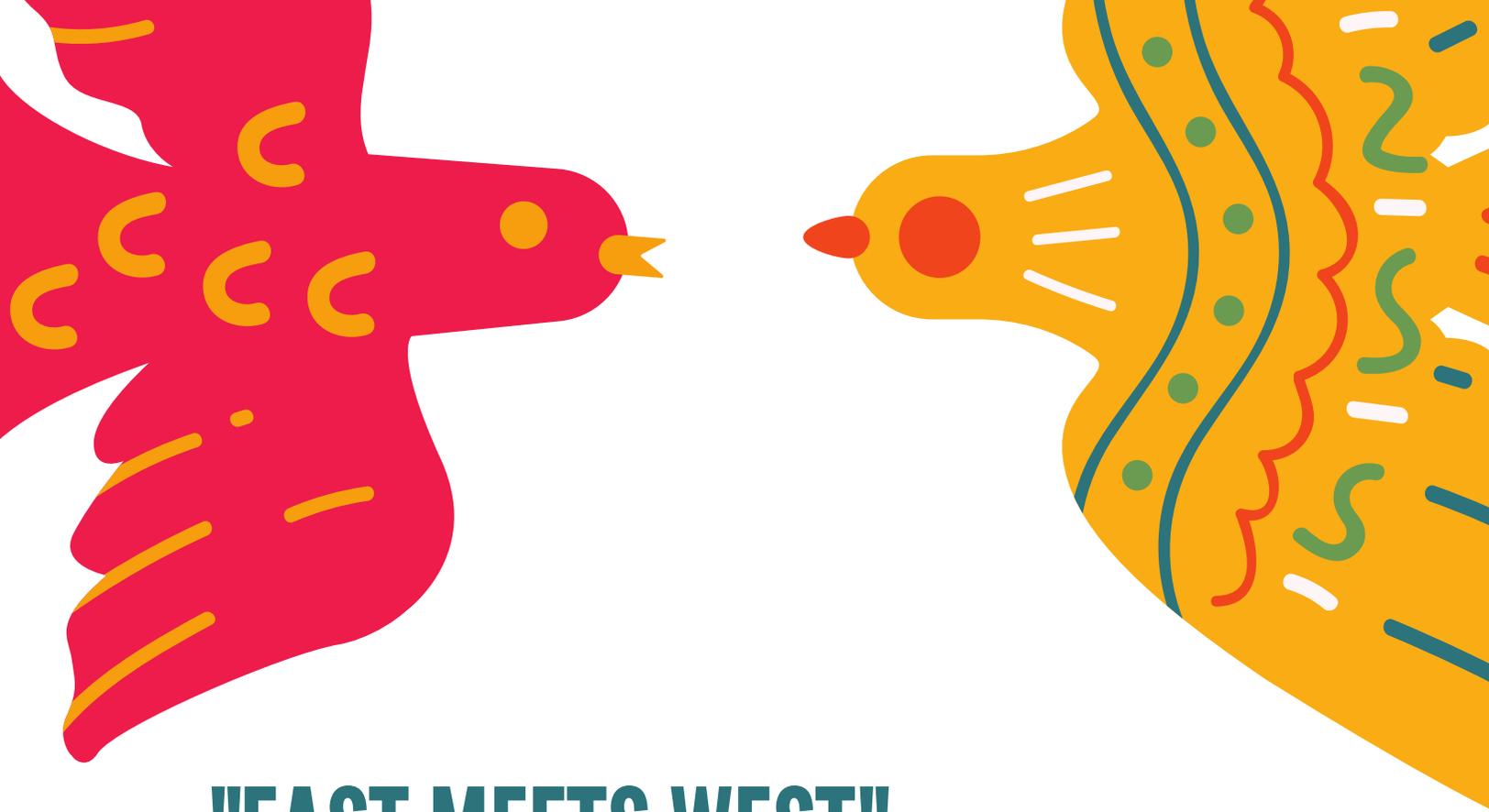
For example, P. Mansaram uses printed, repeated images in his art to hint at his other artistic interests, film and photography. The repeated images on canvas look a bit like strips of film from a old camera.

Pick three materials you might use in mixed media art work about the following experiences. Tell a friend or family member why you chose the materials you did.

A DAY IN THE WOODS:

A LOOK INSIDE YOUR REFRIGERATOR:





"EAST MEETS WEST"

When we think of the directions **EAST AND WEST**, we think of opposite sides that are complete separate and away from one another. After all, you can't go in both directions at once!

Mansaram's art reflects his **DIASPORIC EXPERIENCE**: the "in-between" feeling of moving from one's home country to another place.

Mixing different images and together media allows Mansaram to bring **EAST** (India) **AND WEST** (Canada) together through art that reflects his unique, blended experience.



Name two opposite words.
Can you think of a word that
sits "in-between" the two
opposite words?



ART WORDS

COLLAGE

An art form where different types of paper, fabric and found objects are pasted with glue onto a surface, like paper or cardboard.

SERIGRAPH

This is another word for the process of *screen printing*. This is a type of art where ink is pushed through a mesh screen stapled to a frame to make an image on paper or fabric.

CANVAS

A heavy cotton fabric used as a surface for painting. Canvas is usually stretched on a frame before it is painted on. Many of Mansaram's mixed media art is on canvas.

MEDIA VS. MEDIUM

Media is the plural of *medium*. A medium is one method of making art, like painting. Media is what you say when you are talking about more than one *medium* (ie: painting, printing and ink).

"Mediums" is not a word! If someone uses this word when talking to you about art, please (politely) correct them!





REPEAT PATTERNS

Repeat patterns are often made up of shapes, flowers, animals or abstract designs. They are found everywhere, from clothing, to kitchen tiles, to works of art. Where else do you see repeat patterns in everyday life?

Want to create art like P. Mansaram that uses a repeated image? Make your own repeat pattern below by drawing the exact same thing over and over again in each of the squares.



WHAT DOES
THAT MEAN?

"THE MEDIUM IS
THE MESSAGE"

"The Medium is the Message" is a quote by Marshall McLuhan, a well-known professor and thinker who was interested in media (like film, television, and photography) and communication. He became famous in the 1960s, when the world was being changed by new technologies.

Marshall McLuhan's ideas inspired P. Mansaram. They even became collaborators, working on a series of paintings together!

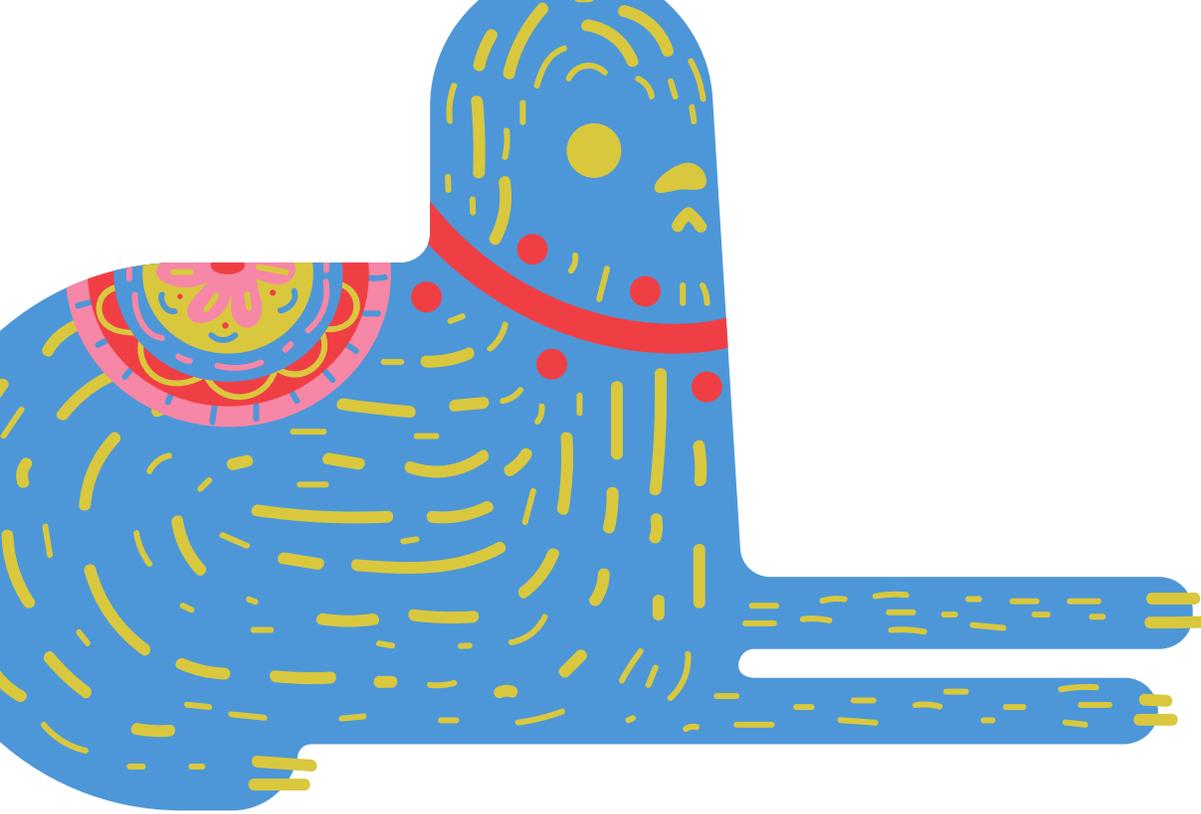
When he said "The Medium is the Message," Marshall McLuhan was suggesting that the way we choose to communicate (email, art, text messaging, TikTok, Twitter) shapes what we say and how we say it.

Imagine telling your friend about your new puppy. How would a text message you send them about it be different than a painting you make of it to show them?



Find the print in the exhibition called
The Message Man.

On it, there is a drawing of Mansaram's famous
collaborator, Marshall McLuhan.
Can you find him?



FAMILY OPEN STUDIO AT THE AGB

SATURDAYS FROM 1-3 PM

This fall, come out to AGB's **FREE family art studio**. Our friendly facilitators will help you create art projects inspired by our current exhibitions. All materials are provided! All children must be accompanied by parents or adult caregivers.

Pre-registration is required. Visit our website for the final schedule, to reserve a spot for your family, and for complimentary online projects to enjoy.

**A NEW PROJECT EACH WEEK,
A NEW THEME EACH MONTH!**

September/October: Print, Stamp, Repeat!

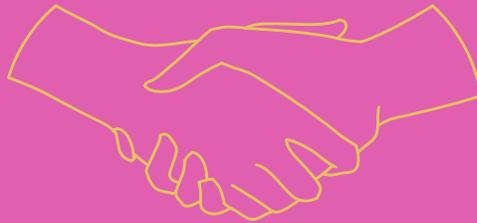
November: Mixed Media Mash-Up

December: I Made This For You: Art Gifts

We want to ensure you and your family have the best experience possible. We ask that all guests visit our website to review our safety guidelines before arrival at the gallery.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land where we are located is part of the ancient Dish With One Spoon Treaty and also the Brant Tract Purchase, Treaty No. 3 3/4 of 1795, 1797 and 2010, and we are grateful to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River for sharing this territory with us.



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For more information on memberships, programs, and special events,
visit our website, or connect with us!

Hours of operation

Tuesday - Saturday 12:00 - 5:00 pm Sunday & Monday CLOSED

(905) 632-7796 | www.agb.life | [@artgallburl](https://www.instagram.com/artgallburl)

The Medium is the Medium is the Medium circulating exhibition is co-organized by SAVAC and the Art Museum at the University of Toronto and with the financial support of the Ontario Arts Council.

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