

June 12, 2008

## **Treasures from the City of Toronto's Collections at the Market Gallery**

Art & Artefact: Fine and Decorative Art from the City of Toronto's Collections opens at the Market Gallery July 12 and runs through to October 18. This exhibition showcases rarely seen fine and decorative art from the City of Toronto Fine Art Collection and the Museum and Heritage Services Collection. The display focuses on pairings of paintings and objects that portray complementary themes, events, trends and phenomena all relevant to the city's character, past and present.

Art & Artefact: Fine and Decorative Art from the City of Toronto's Collections surveys a wide range of material found in the City's collections in order to find relationships between the paintings by artists such as William Brymner, Clara-Sophia Hagarty and Frederic Marlett Bell-Smith and artefacts found in the City's collections, including The Eaton Collection. The exhibition draws on the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century strength of the City's holdings. In some cases a secondary object depicted in a portrait, like a mid-nineteenth century walnut Mayor's chair, is highlighted by displaying the very same chair from the painting beside the portrait. In other cases, a seemingly ordinary landscape painted in the early twentieth century by a Toronto artist, John William Beatty, is tied to a narrative of war and Canadian nationalism. This exhibition also illustrates the depth and richness of the City of Toronto's fine and decorative art collections and showcases many important pieces to the public, in many cases, for the first time.

Guest curator Neil Brochu has pursued an interest in fine and decorative as they relate to local history through a variety of research and collections based projects. Art & Artefact: Fine and Decorative Art from the City of Toronto's Collection is the culmination of his work over the past several years cataloguing and studying works in the City's Fine Art Collection and the Museum and Heritage Services Historical Collection.

The Market Gallery is a program of Toronto Culture and presents changing exhibitions dedicated to Toronto's art, culture and heritage. Located in Toronto's oldest neighbourhood, the main gallery occupies the nineteenth-century city council chamber, which is all that remains from the City Hall that stood on this site from 1845-1899. The gallery offers educational programs for school groups and adults.

Admission is free. The Market Gallery is located on the second floor of the South St. Lawrence Market, 95 Front St. E. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are now closed on Sundays.

Toronto is Canada's largest city and sixth largest government, and home to a diverse population of about 2.6 million people. It is the economic engine of Canada and one of the greenest and most creative cities in North America. In the past three years, Toronto has won more than 70 awards for quality, innovation and efficiency in delivering public services. Toronto's government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and liveability for all its residents.

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