

MACLAREN**ART**CENTRE, BARRIE

For immediate release: June 1, 2017



The MacLaren Art Centre in Barrie is pleased to announce a project made possible by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation through the Ontario 150 Community Capital Grant program (<http://bit.ly/2sa6jEj>). With support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the MacLaren will conserve and make accessible two significant sculptures from its Permanent Collection for the public. As well, the Gallery will be able to continue to address much-needed repairs to Ron Baird's *Spirit Catcher* (1986), a corten steel sculpture from the MacLaren's Collection, on view on the shores of Kempenfelt Bay since 1987, ensuring its presence as an enduring icon in the Barrie landscape (<http://bit.ly/2jXieDC>).

This summer, the MacLaren will conserve and install on its grounds two works from its Permanent Collection, *Dream Chamber* by Sorel Etrog (<http://bit.ly/2sa6jEx>) and *Shlosha* by Kosso Eloul (<http://bit.ly/2smMidi>), sculptures by two individuals who immigrated to Canada, making their homes in Ontario, and became world renowned artists. The sculptures will be installed on Collier Street in front of the Carnegie Library and at the corner of Mulcaster and Collier Streets, respectively. Executive Director Carolyn Bell Farrell remarks, "As a public art gallery, we are committed to presenting a wide range of artwork by contemporary Canadian artists for our audiences, indoors and outdoors. These installations—and the repairs to the *Spirit Catcher*—are exciting and necessary to revitalize this important community space while marking

Canada's sesquicentennial. We hope they will continue to inspire our imagination. We are grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for helping to make this project possible, in addition to the support of the City of Barrie's Public Art Committee and the Estate of Charles McCrea Peacock."

The revitalized sculpture garden is a Canada 150 legacy project, marking this important national milestone. It also celebrates the centennial of the 1917 Carnegie Library that remains at the heart of the Gallery. The public launch and celebration is scheduled for September 29, 2017. That day the MacLaren will also honour the 30th anniversary of the installation of the *Spirit Catcher* at Barrie's waterfront and the generous bequest from the Estate of Charles McCrea Peacock for its long-term care.



Top: Ron Baird, *Spirit Catcher*, 1986, Corten steel, 21.3 m high with 16 kinetic quills, 2 wings, 3 legs and a pair of kinetic antennae. Collection of the MacLaren Art Centre. Gift of the Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation, 1987. Photo: Joseph Hartman, 2013.
Above left: Sorel Etrog, *Dream Chamber*, 1976, bronze casting, 150 x 60 x 60 cm. Collection of the MacLaren Art Centre. Gift of the artist, 1999. Above right: Kosso Eloul (Mourom, Russia, 1920 – Toronto 1995), *Shlosha*, 1974, Stainless steel, 1/3 119.5 x 307.3 x 142.2 cm. Purchase, Horsley and Annie Townsend Bequest. Photo MBAM, inv. 1976.37

An agency of the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is one of Canada's largest granting foundations. With a budget of over \$136 million, OTF awards grants to some 1,000 projects every year to build healthy and vibrant Ontario communities. 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of Canada and the Province of Ontario. For the Ontario Trillium Foundation, this milestone in Ontario's history provides a unique opportunity to strengthen our communities and celebrate the people, places and events that make Ontario a global leader in diversity, creativity, innovation, accessibility and inclusion.



An agency of the Government of Ontario
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About the MacLaren Art Centre

The MacLaren Art Centre is the major public art gallery in central Ontario serving the residents of Barrie, the County of Simcoe and the surrounding area. The Gallery has a Permanent Collection of over 27,400 works of art and presents a year-round programme of innovative world-class exhibitions, education activities and special events.

Acknowledgements

The MacLaren Art Centre gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of its Members, Patrons, Donors, Sponsors, Partners, the City of Barrie, the Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Government of Ontario, the Canada Council for the Arts and Canadian Heritage.

Gallery Location

37 Mulcaster Street, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 3M2, 705-721-9696 www.maclarenart.com

From Toronto: From highway 400 north, 90 km north of Toronto, take the Dunlop Street East exit to Mulcaster Street and turn left. The MacLaren is one block north on the right hand at the intersection of Collier Street and Mulcaster Street.

Gallery Admission

Suggested admission \$5

Gallery Hours

Monday to Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Wednesday 10:00 am to 7:00pm

Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed Statutory Holidays

Wheelchair accessible

