



## Committee Report

**To:** Warden Janice Jackson  
Members of the Museum Committee

**From:** Cathy McGirr  
Director, Museum & Cultural Services

**Date:** April 1, 2021

**Re:** Weinstein Art Collection Donation Proposal Report

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### Staff Recommendation:

That the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre accept the proposal for the donation of the art collection of Alan Weinstein as outlined in the report; and

That staff proceed forward with processing a deed of gift for the art collection.

### Background:

In 2018 the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre had the rare and unique opportunity to host a retrospective of Alan Weinstein's life's work in an exhibition titled: The Ontario Studio: Five Decades.

This exhibition was a condensed retrospective of paintings and copperplate and relief prints from Alan Weinstein's Bruce County studio since 1969. Through 77 works, ranging from 8 by 10 inches to 9 by 12 feet, this exhibition followed the metamorphosis of thematic fixations and the restless explorations of media: a life of visual discovery.

Since his one-man show in 1961 at the Pollock Gallery, Toronto, Mr. Weinstein has been giving solo exhibitions in museums and galleries in Canada, the United States and Australia. He has participated in juried invitational and group shows nationally and internationally. Born in Toronto in 1939, Weinstein was educated at Princeton, BA, University of Iowa, MFA, and the Ecole du Louvre. He taught at the Universities of Saskatchewan, Guelph and Texas at San Antonio. Weinstein's work is represented in public collections across North America and abroad including museums in Vancouver, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, Binghamton New York, Eugene Oregon, Austin Texas, Bradford England and Melbourne Australia. His paintings and prints have received honours in the United States and Canada over the last fifty years. He maintains studios in Iowa and Bruce County, Ontario.

Mr. Weinstein has approached the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre with a proposal to donate approximately 25% of his collection which is valued based on sale listing at \$1.8 million. Mr. Weinstein has also offered the potential donation of his barn on the Teeswater property, which was his studio for future consideration. The offer of the barn is not part of the art collection donation in this report.

Alan Weinstein's work carries significant historical value. William Ronald, the founder of Painters Eleven, was considered a pioneer of the movement of Modernism in Canada dating back to 1954. It is apparent that Weinstein's work has been heavily influenced by this movement. Alan's works have been exhibited widely with a firm standing within a community of fine artists of this movement.

Weinstein's work is extremely relevant to Bruce County and should be included in the Museum archival collection, especially due to its historical relevance. Mr. Weinstein has exhibited widely, is respected in the arts community and is prolific in the output of work throughout the decades.

Other relevant aspects related to the donation would be to heighten the profile of arts in Bruce County, to be a representation of an in-depth example of a life's work in the arts, to encourage and validate the growth of the arts in Bruce County and to encourage further tourism-related travel and programs associated with heritage and culture. A collection of work this comprehensive is an unusual and rare opportunity to acquire the archives of an artist, like the Milne Collection at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

As noted, over the past few years, the Bruce County Archives have become the home to several significant archival donations such as the Peter Schmaltz Collection (Indigenous), Women's Institute Collection (Community & Women's Institute Histories), and Krug Collection (Krug Bros. Co. and County history). The acceptance of the Weinstein collection would be the first for the County specifically related to an artist's archive of fine art. This specific collection would further enhance the BCM&CC's collection and support further development of creative and arts-based research and insight into artists' lived experiences, views and development.

The donation inventory contains 525 original works. A full inventory is attached with the following breakdown: 50 paintings under 8'x10', 118 paintings under 12'x24', 142 paintings under 18'x24', 57 paintings under 30'x40', 35 paintings 24'x48' and 123 paintings of larger sizes. Currently, the inventory is mostly in Iowa, with some pieces within Bruce County.

While there is no set timeframe to take possession of the collection, it is anticipated that we would work towards transfer of the works (once all are in Canada), by the end of 2022. Estimated costs for the processing of the collection would be as follows: rental vehicle to transport larger items from the Teeswater location, appraisal of collection (as per Susan Whitney's quote), insurance on appraised value of the collection and storage for the collection since the Archives currently cannot accommodate a transfer of this size.

Acceptance of this unique and comprehensive collection into the archival collection, within the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre, would ensure that a valuable, relevant collection remains intact and is not lost or destroyed. It would also support the Museum's strategic goal of growing into a centre for cultural activity and would offer several opportunities for further community engagement and education focused specifically on the arts.

### **Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

There are no staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Financial considerations are outlined in the report.

### **Interdepartmental Consultation:**

Interdepartmental consultation with Corporate Services regarding storage has taken place.

### **Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:**

Goal #3 - Find creative new ways to engage our public

Element C - Make the County fully accessible to the people through access to information

Goal #4 - Find creative new ways to involve all our staff in our future

Element C - Invest in expanding the knowledge and skills of our staff

Goal #8 - Actively seek out a post-secondary campus for Bruce County

Element B - Capitalize on knowledge/skill/experience of our residents

### **Links to Museum Strategic Plan:**

Pillar #1 - Expanding BCM&CC's role as a Community Hub for the entire County

Objective 1.2 - Establish BCM&CC as a centre for Cultural activity

Action B - Revise programming plan to include expanded arts and cultural programming

Objective 1.3 - Build profile as a core tourism destination

Pillar #2 - Building infinity across the County

Objective 2.1 - Engage underserved audiences

Action C - Revise the collecting mandate to include "recent history" and "hidden history"

Objective 2.2 - Deepens relationships with communities across the County

Action A - Develop new digital educational outreach programming to expand reach K-12 students

Action C - Expand evening, adult programming strategically to engage Millennials and older Gen Z audiences

Action D - Activate the archive to drive audiences from across the County

### **Report Author:**

Cathy McGirr

Director, Museum & Cultural Services

### **Approved for Submission:**

Sandra Datars Bere

Chief Administrative Officer