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CCGG Receives Award of Excellence from Ontario Museum Association

WATERLOO (ONTARIO) CANADA, October 31, 2023 – The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery is thrilled to announce that we have received an [Ontario Museum Association \(OMA\) Award of Excellence](#) in Programs for *Creative Connections: Art & Dementia*. The Award was presented virtually on October 27th. Shannon Quigley, Public Programs Manager, created and oversaw the project in collaboration with Indigenous artist and educator Naomi Smith. This important achievement marks the third time in three years that the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery has received an Award or Honourable Mention from the Ontario Museum Association.

The *Creative Connections: Arts & Dementia* project was an intergenerational community art project and exhibition at the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery. In collaboration with Gallery staff, Naomi led free clay workshops with seniors living with dementia and grade 5 students. The work that participants made was exhibited at the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery, and a public celebration brought all project participants together. Alongside the exhibition, a public event about Arts & Dementia, co-run by the Gallery and the Alzheimer Society of Waterloo Wellington, raised awareness about dementia and how to live well with dementia through creative and social engagement.

Smith selected an artwork from the permanent collection that gallery staff brought off-site to care homes in Elmira and Kitchener. Bringing original art objects into community spaces allowed the Gallery to connect with audiences in an imaginative and accessible way, simultaneously enriching the lives of elders and young people within its community and speaking to the role that museums and galleries can play in well-being at every stage of life.

"We are grateful to the Ontario Museum Association for recognizing the unique and creative programming offered at the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery," Denis Longchamps, Executive Director stated. "Working with seniors and youth has been a focus for the Gallery over the past year and this program demonstrates the need for this type of programming and the new connections that it can build within our community."

The *Creative Connections: Arts & Dementia* program was generously supported by the Government of Ontario, Seniors Community Grant Program.



ABOUT THE CANADIAN CLAY & GLASS GALLERY

The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery is an award-winning national institution based in Waterloo Region, celebrating the art and craft of clay, glass, and enamel. In an inclusive community space and cultural hub, we engage artists and the public through exhibitions and collaborate in accessible education programming. We amplify diverse and often untold stories to open dialogue and inspire social change. For more information, visit: www.theclayandglass.ca

CONTACT

To schedule a media interview or for more information, contact Denis Longchamps, Executive Director & Chief Curator, at 519-746-1882 ext. 231 or director@theclayandglass.ca

