



MEDIA RELEASE

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Virtual Arts Programs Being Offered by Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Thanks to the Resilient Communities Fund Grant

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON – The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre may have closed its doors due to the province-wide shut down, but it continues to engage the community virtually. During the winter months, the Arts Centre is offering free and paid art classes, workshops and lectures online for students of all ages, thanks to the Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Resilient Communities Fund was developed to help non-profit organizations recover and rebuild from the impacts of COVID-19 and continue meeting the needs of Ontario communities.

"This pandemic has been so hard on our community but it's places like the Pumphouse that are getting us through and showing how our communities are coming together," said Wayne Gates, MPP for Niagara Falls. "The way they've moved their classes, workshops and lectures online to continue to engage our community is so wonderful. These times have been so hard on people and their ability to continue to reach out to our community and provide a learning space and artistic output is so very appreciated during this time - I am so proud to have the Province funding their initiatives."

Adapting some of the art classes and workshops to remote delivery is one of the Arts Centre's major priorities for 2021. Through the Resilient Communities Fund grant, not only art programs, but also events and member services are made accessible online and delivered safely to the community.

The upcoming online programs being offered include:

- **The Joy of Gifting Presentation**, February 6
- **The Medieval World: Age of Pilgrimages, Crusades & Chivalry**, February 22 & March 1
- **Sculpt! Snowy Owl** (Ages 9-13), February 13
- **Sculpt! Snowy Owl** (Ages 6-8), February 15
- **Let it Glow**, February 20 & 21
- **Sketch & Watercolour Birds with Sandy**, March 5-April 30
- **Skies and Seas**, March 9-30
- **The True and Exciting Colours in Snow**, March 7 & 14
- **Paint! Van Gogh** (Ages 6-8), March 6 & 7
- **Paint! Picasso** (Ages 9-12), March 27 & 28
- **Portfolio Prep for Teens-Contour Drawing** (Ages 13-17), March 6-27
- **Beginners' Video Tips by Sandy**, Available to watch now until March 31



When it is safe to do so, in-person programming will resume with updated Health and Safety protocols in the areas of mask requirement; hand-sanitization and self-screening; facility use and capacity; and cleaning and sanitation. In addition, a high-quality ultrafine particulate HEPA Air Purification system will be installed in each room to greatly improve indoor air quality. In-studio capacity will be greatly reduced to small class sizes between three to six students and will be set up at individual, physically-distanced tables in its large Walker Room studio.

More information on the programs is available at www.niagarapumphouse.ca.

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The **Ontario Trillium Foundation** (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. OTF awarded \$115 million to 644 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario. www.otf.ca

The **Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre** is a not-for-profit community-based organization that supports and advances lifelong learning opportunities in the arts through our school and galleries, emphasizing community involvement and collaboration. Our mission is to engage, enrich and celebrate our diverse and growing population through the visual arts.

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