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## **MacKenzie Art Gallery Announces Appointment of John G. Hampton to Newly Created Position of Director of Programs**

**Regina, SK** - The MacKenzie Art Gallery today announced the appointment of John G. Hampton to the newly created position of Director of Programs. This new position will oversee all of the Gallery's curatorial and education initiatives and will be instrumental in the ongoing transformation of the Gallery's exhibitions and programs, creating more dynamic experiences for visitors. Hampton will be joining the gallery on October 1, 2018.

"We are excited to welcome John to the Gallery, and grateful for his wealth of experience, knowledge and success in deepening connections with diverse communities, and creating and implementing innovative curatorial projects," said Anthony Kiendl, Executive Director and CEO of the MacKenzie Art Gallery. "As an artist, as well as an administrator, John is very attuned to the changing role of art museums in the 21st century, from the content we present to the approaches we take in engaging and educating audiences. Moreover, we are thrilled that he will be able to build upon deep community connections that come from his time growing up, studying and previously working in Regina."

The new Director of Programs will provide the oversight and expertise necessary to lead the Gallery's curatorial and education departments, as well as strengthening the various complementary practices that engage visitors in an immersive experience. The MacKenzie recognizes and embraces the idea that visual art and culture constitute an immense breadth of perspectives, modes of communication, and experiences. Museums play a vital role in preserving, creating, translating, interpreting and disseminating culture—and when these equally important practices are in conversation, they can exponentially add meaning to our lives.

Hampton is currently the Executive Director of the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba (AGSM) and Adjunct Curator at the Art Museum at the University of Toronto. He was born in Boston, MA of Chickasaw and mixed-European ancestry, and raised in Regina, SK where he was the Curator at Neutral Ground Contemporary Art Forum from 2010-2013. Hampton holds a Master of Visual Studies–Curatorial Studies (2014) from the University of Toronto, and a BA in Visual Arts (2009) from the University of Regina. His research interests include Indigenous epistemologies, critical race theory, object-oriented ontologies, virtuality, gender and sexuality, cultural impact, aesthetics of attention, and critical ethics. He is an executive member of the board for the Aboriginal Curatorial Collective, and is a former board member at Mercer Union, Queer City Cinema, and Holophon Audio Arts.

As the Artistic Director of Trinity Square Video from 2013–2016, he helped the centre's team create the country's first Artist-Run VR Lab; triple the membership; double their annual revenue; and lead a major organizational overhaul and capital development plan that led to the creation of a new gallery and production facilities on the first floor of the 401 Richmond building in Toronto, ON

"I'm truly excited to be returning to Regina to join the incredible team at the MacKenzie Art Gallery." John Hampton, the newly appointed Director said, "The MAG has one of the strongest histories of working with Indigenous artists, curators, and communities out of any non-Indigenous public gallery in the world. I'm excited to contribute to that legacy and think through how our institutions need to evolve and change in dialogue with the people they are meant to serve. This land has an incredibly rich and deep art history and I'm excited to animate that history in relation to the many communities and cultures that call this place home, including the vibrant and diverse South Asian, Black, Euro-Canadian, and queer communities." Hampton continued, "I look forward to working with partners from across the city and beyond to help

shape the future cultural reality that we want to see in this region, and I thank the MacKenzie for giving me the opportunity to go on this journey with them.”

Hampton is the recipient of the 2016 Hnatyshyn Foundation—TD Bank Group award in contemporary visual art, two Exhibition of the Year awards from the Ontario Association of Art Galleries in 2016 and 2014, as well as an OAAG Curatorial Writing award in 2016. As a practice-based researcher/educator, he is a member of OCAD University’s Aboriginal Education Council, former 3D animation instructor at First Nations University, former sessional lecturer at Brandon University, and has produced programming for the University of Toronto, the Jackman Humanities Institute, the University of Silesia in Poland, and the Freie Kunstakademie in Fellbach Germany. As an artist, Hampton is a former member of the artist-collective Turner Prize, and still experiments with video, sound, and digital media, and is a novice long-bow maker.

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### About the MacKenzie Art Gallery

The MacKenzie Art Gallery is Saskatchewan’s original public art gallery: an immersive centre for engaging people through transformative experiences of the world through art, with an ongoing focus on Indigenous culture and diversity. The MacKenzie is located in Regina’s Wascana Park, Canada’s largest urban park and home to the Provincial Capital Commission. It is located within Treaty Four territory, the traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Assiniboine and Metis; a home to the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota people. The permanent collection, which includes the University of Regina’s extensive collection, contains over 4,500 works of art by such internationally renowned artists as Mary Kelly, Agnes Martin, Anthony McCall, Pablo Picasso, Auguste Rodin, and Frank Stella, as well as an impressive Canadian collection with pieces by Shuvinai Ashoona, Bob Boyer, Victor Cicansky, Greg Curnoe, Joe Fafard, the Group of Seven, Edward Poitras, the Regina Five, Joyce Wieland, and many others.



Photo by Kevin Bertram

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