

Outreach Education Intern

It has been said that if Tom Thomson (1877-1917) had not existed, Canada would have had to invent him. This is based not only on his paintings, which have been described as being the visual equivalent of our national anthem, but also because of the romance and mystery around his life and death. Our national identity is forged and fortified by our awareness and understanding of historical figures like Thomson whose work, life and legacy is of national significance to the artistic and historic heritage of Canada.

2017 represents a very important year for The TOM Thomson Art Gallery, packed with ambitious exhibitions and educational programming to mark the 50th anniversary of the Gallery, the 100th anniversary of Thomson's death and the 150th anniversary of Confederation. This is an auspicious time for a recent graduate, working towards a career as a museums education professional, to join The TOM for a six-month internship to gain valuable experience and contribute in a real way to the success of the Gallery.

The Education Outreach Intern will support the Tom Thomson Art Gallery's Audience Engagement Team to make new connections with regional schools and the local community and to provide off-site learning opportunities about our cultural and artistic heritage with a particular focus on Tom Thomson. This will include working with children, teens, adults, the elderly and those with special needs. S/he will develop new teaching and interactive learning materials and deliver these at schools and other off-site locations as well as on The TOM's Website.

We recognize that the "virtual" visitor and visitor experience to The TOM is as important and integral audience/participant for us as the in-house visitor. We are currently undertaking a new design of our website that will allow for us to build virtual exhibitions – either as independent exhibitions or as ones that will be complimentary to our in-house exhibits. This is a major part of our vision as we move forward.

In fact, we are in the process of re-imagining what an art gallery and museum can be and have been developing enhanced digital experiences – in-house and virtually – that will provide new experiences for our visitors, and that will draw inspiration from our collection and exhibitions. In doing so we see great opportunity for connecting with new audiences. These enhanced digital experiences will be placing a greater focus on visitor experience and participation and will give us an opportunity to reinvent the visitor experience. We are creating curated exhibitions that will profile and provide platforms for these new technologies and visitor experiences.

Digital platforms and virtual experiences are integral and expected parts of museum experience. Online access is transforming museums - who they are, how they communicate and engage with audiences, and what kind of reach they can have. Through the virtual experience, visitors can contribute to conversations about exhibitions and collections in ways that they wouldn't have been able to do not so long ago. We believe that a "second building" - a virtual exhibition/museum expands our relevancy and will allow us to develop relationships and engagement with audiences that we might not otherwise be able to reach.

We are also developing educational programmes that will be available virtually and we see these platforms as being strong mediums for us to further develop educational programmes including our website, apps and Augmented Reality components. Our current exhibition (and the first of its kind anywhere), "Betwixt & Between: An Untold Tom Thomson Story," has successfully integrated these technologies while presenting a story that could be considered 85% as a way of creating participatory experiences for viewers while questioning traditional notions of institutions being the bastions of authority on knowledge and culture. These programmes are designed to involve and inspire the community to take an interest in the life and work of Tom Thomson, and more generally, our cultural heritage and contemporary arts. The Education Outreach Intern will have a real role to play in further developing how we reach out to new audiences – particularly, the harder to reach younger demographic. S/he will receive supervision and training from professional Gallery staff and work closely with professional artists and other visiting teachers and speakers. S/he will gain excellent hands-on teaching experience by developing specific skills in teaching art, working with the public, marketing, inventory control, spreadsheets, project development and management.

Being in a rural location, bussing children from the schools throughout Grey and Bruce counties and from First Nations communities is too expensive for the schools. By bringing an outreach educator and leaning materials

to them, we can ensure that all students can equally benefit in learning about and understanding the importance of Tom Thomson, of the arts generally, and how these are integral aspects of understanding our Canadian heritage.

Our goal for the Education Outreach Intern position is to provide a university graduate with a relevant degree to gain practical experience in all aspects of developing and delivering new educational programming. S/he will:

1. Work with the Audience Engagement Team in developing, delivering and promoting the Gallery's off-site outreach educational programs;
2. Develop lesson plans and teacher education kits;
3. Foster visual literacy by communicating complex conceptual ideas in ways that are accessible to various audiences by engaging them in discussions about the conceptual, philosophical and design elements/principles of contemporary and historic artworks and their relevance to historic and heritage concerns;
4. Lead participants through hands-on art activities promoting technical skill development, physical dexterity and creativity;
5. Monitor the progress of participants, providing assistance and encouragement, and pace workshops to meet their needs;
6. Develop and animate a new virtual TEENS@TheTOM educational program;
7. interactive educational content for the Website for our in-house exhibitions being disseminated on-line (four exhibitions during the internship)
8. Promote the Gallery's education programs and studio workshops to the general public on the Gallery's Website and Facebook pages;
9. Be trained to work as a docent and tour guide for exhibitions;
10. Provide occasional relief to front desk staff. All staff take turns at this, allowing us to engage more with gallery visitors and receive feedback;
11. Write articles and share conducted research to other institutions either virtually or in person;
12. Identify funding and sponsorship opportunities in order to be able to maintain the program.
13. Publish two 800-word articles in The Sun Times.
14. Be exposed to some of the basic principles of Indigenous Methodology in order to provide learning opportunities that are both respectful and appropriate to First Nations communities. The TOM has a Knowledge-Keeper from the Saugeen Ojibway Nation comes to The TOM monthly to lead Circle and all staff attend them.

The Candidate will have:

- Bachelor's Degree in Museums Studies, Education, Visual Arts or related field
- Related teaching experience (volunteer or paid);
- Confidence in the teaching of "hands-on" processes as well as distilling complex concepts into easily understood terms which are appropriate to audiences served;
- Excellent research skills;
- Excellent communication skills in written and oral forms;
- Strong interest in contemporary Canadian art;
- Good knowledge of Canadian history;
- Ability to work independently and to be self-directed;
- Strong interpersonal skills – for communication with students, teachers, other community members, Gallery visitors, staff and artists;
- Ability to work with a team and/or with diverse groups of people;
- The ability to be organized yet adaptable;
- Flexibility to work evenings and weekends as needed;
- A keen attention to detail juggling multiple projects simultaneously;
- Microsoft Office, Website publishing, and social media;
- Bilingualism in both official languages is an asset.
- Will have a car with a valid driver's licence (the Gallery will pay mileage).

Ideally, the Education Outreach Intern will have either an art history and studio arts training, a museum studies or an arts education background. Education in art history will provide context in the understanding of contemporary and historical art. This is helpful for giving historical contexts for artworks to educational

program participants. In addition to this experience and aptitude, a background in studio art means that s/he comes with experience (or at least prior knowledge) in working with a variety of arts and crafts materials.

The candidate should have experience with Microsoft Office, WordPress, and social media. They should have an interest in historical and contemporary Canadian art and an aptitude for research. Preference will be given to candidates who have a Master's Degree in Fine Arts, Arts Education, Education, Museum Studies or Art History. However, all candidates with the above skills are strongly encouraged to apply.

After the deadline, all candidate resumes will be reviewed and short-listed and either a phone or in person will be conducted to find the most suited candidate. Applicants will need to be part of the YCW job bank prior to hiring.

The TOM Thomson Art Gallery (The TOM) is a national cultural attraction, dedicated to the innovation and spirit of iconic artist Tom Thomson (1877 – 1917), strongly identified with the Group of Seven whose images are virtually synonymous with the very idea of 'Canada.' With over 50,000 visitors each year, and another 70,000 visitors to our off-site programming (both of which are expected to double this year), The TOM is the region's main disseminator of contemporary art and provides a unique experience for its audiences. Although a regional gallery, we have a national mandate and have earned the reputation of "punching above our weight" by colleague institutions and our operational funders.

The TOM celebrates excellence in the visual arts locally, nationally and internationally, through exhibitions of historical and contemporary art, education programs and the enrichment and interpretation of its significant permanent collection. The TOM supports Thomson's legacy through programs such as "Canadian Spirit" involving galleries, organizations and businesses across the country. The Gallery acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories of the Chippewas of Nawash and Saugeen First Nation and works closely with First Nations artists and communities to develop and exhibit contemporary Aboriginal artists and to ensure that First Nations are part of the artistic and social dialogue of all of our programming wherever possible.

The successful candidate will be paid \$14 per hour and will work 35 hours per week from October 23 and ending on March 30, 2018.

Applicants must be registered with the Young Canada Works program: <https://young-canada-works.canada.ca/Account/Register>

Applications including a resume, cover letter and previous relevant work sample(s) must be received in writing by October 6, 2017 to:

Please apply with a letter of interest and resume to:

Kim Skene
Audience Engagement Manager
Tom Thomson Art Gallery
kskene@tomthomson.org
No phone calls please

The Gallery champions diversity and is an equal opportunity employer committed to providing accommodation in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the Ontario Human Rights Code.