

Wolf Tones A Many-Sided House

28 January – 13 May 2023

Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens

To learn more about the exhibition and related programs, visit oakvillegalleries.com or scan the QR code below.



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OAKVILLE

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Oakville galleries

OAKVILLE GALLERIES

Gairloch Gardens | 1306 Lakeshore Road East, Oakville ON L6J 1L6
Centennial Square | 120 Navy Street, Oakville ON L6J 2Z4

WINTER OPERATING HOURS

Tuesday – Saturday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Closed Sundays and statutory holidays

Monday (available by appointment)

Admission is always free.

905.844.4402 | info@oakvillegalleries.com

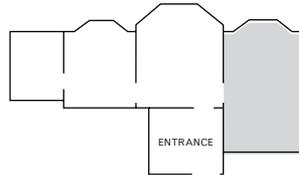
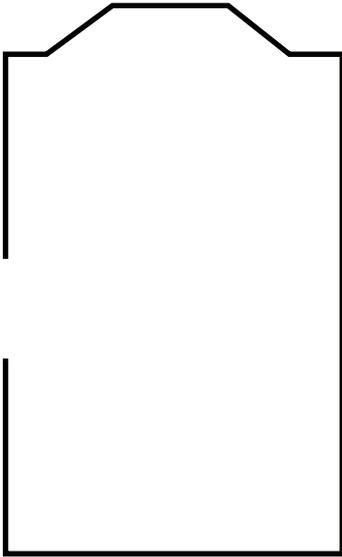
oakvillegalleries.com | [@oakvillegalleries](https://www.instagram.com/oakvillegalleries)

Oakville Galleries gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Ontario Arts Council, an agency of the Government of Ontario and the Corporation of the Town of Oakville, along with our many individual, corporate and foundation partners.

A Many-Sided House is the first exhibition in Canada of work by Wolf Tones (currently Nancy Shaver, Maximilian Goldfarb, Sterrett Smith, Pradeep Dalal, and David Levi Strauss), a collaborative group of US-based artists, convened in 2019 by Nancy Shaver, that has been creating densely constructed installations over the past four years. Working separately and together, these five artists gather, borrow, and exchange their works throughout the four adjacent rooms of Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens, a historic home on the shores of Lake Ontario. Responding to the unique context of this site, Wolf Tones presents overlapping meditations on varied themes, including the handmade, the anonymous, connection and exchange, difference and recurrence, material histories, the lake, flotsam, and the movement and circulation of images, objects, and materials.

The name Wolf Tones comes from a particular musical phenomenon that occurs with stringed instruments when certain notes resonate at the same frequency as the instrument itself. The dissonant “howl” that occurs as a result of this double vibration is known as a “wolf tone.” For these artists it serves as an analogy for the visual interplay of their ongoing collaboration. As the artists have written: “The difference is the howl, the difference in tone, the Wolf Tone.”

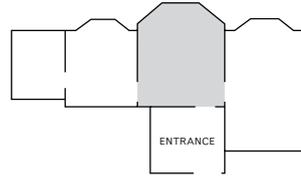
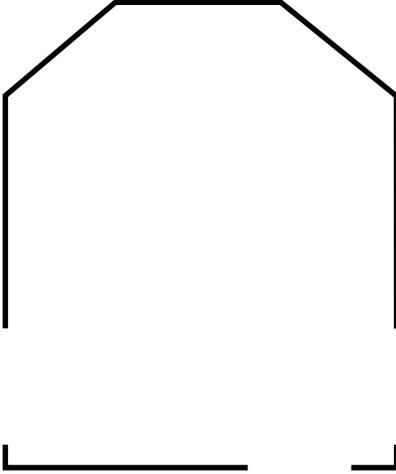
North Gallery and throughout



*List of works available
at reception.*

In the North Gallery, ship sculptures made by Maximilian Goldfarb mark the four cardinal directions, installed adjacent to an image of an engineering model of an early freight ship in the Thomson Collection of European Art at the Art Gallery of Ontario. This constellation, which also includes model shipping containers, navigational tools, and driftwood, guides our attention from the work inside the gallery to the lake views visible through the windows, drawing points of connection between the local and wider economies and patterns of circulation.

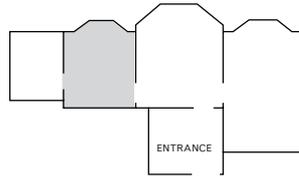
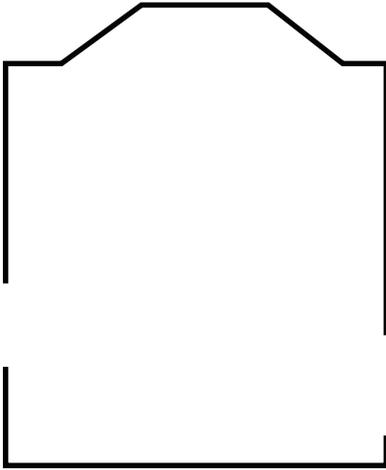
Central Gallery and throughout



*List of works available
at reception.*

Growing up in Appleton, on the other side of Lake Ontario, Nancy Shaver draws from her own personal story in the work presented here as an explorer returning to observe a place of origin. These works register a sense of history and the presence of home—meaning the place of childhood, of growing, and of leaving. A painting by an anonymous artist, for example, shows a view of a park in nearby Olcott where Shaver played as a child in the 1950s—the view is just like one you might see from the window of this room. The past resurfaces and comes into contact with the present through the shifting values of the objects seen here, and the ever-changing roles they play as they move through our lives. These works ask us to pay particular attention to things that are handmade, embodying as they do imagination, fantasy life, and desire.

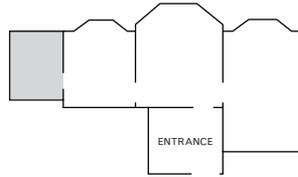
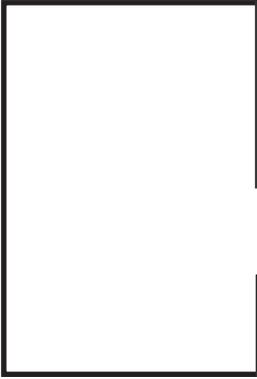
South Gallery and throughout



*List of works available
at reception.*

Sterrett Smith's work in the South Gallery stands in relation to Wolf Tones as a mutable element, as an imaginative bridge between what is seen and what is not recognized. Her work moves horizontally with flexible and supple power into shape, colour and figuration. Working with fabrics, ceramics, paint and Aqua resin, while incorporating found and salvaged materials—such as wood, cardboard, feathers, chicken wire, and Styrofoam—Sterrett Smith's works embrace the provisional and the propositional: a restless commitment to the act of making itself.

Salah Bachir Gallery and throughout



*List of works available
at reception.*

Mining the idea of textiles as territories, in the Salah Bachir Gallery, Pradeep Dalal photographs the rich patterning—foliate and geometrical—of edges, borders and folds of textiles produced by weavers and also those embroidered by his mother. He photographs, re-photographs, and repeats an image with variations (colour and black and white, inverted negative ones and those printed at different scales on transparent plastic and on fabric), to nudge our visual and sensual modes of perception. The bodies inhabiting these textiles are evoked via images of cityscapes, gathering crowds, and family photographs.

As a part of this exhibition's system of exchange and transfer, a collection of books travels throughout the four rooms of the house in the form of *Mobile Library Unit for A Many-Sided House*, a research-based contribution by writer David Levi Strauss that engages the poetics and politics of attentive looking. Each truck is accompanied by a booklet with a full bibliography and notes. Visitors are encouraged to browse the books and move the trucks.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Charles Curtis Performance

Wednesday, 15 March 2023, 7:00 PM

The Studio at Oakville Galleries

\$15.00 / person

For additional information and to purchase tickets, please visit our website.

Join us in The Studio at Gairloch Gardens for an evening performance by cellist Charles Curtis. This performance takes place alongside the exhibition *Wolf Tones: A Many-Sided House*.

For Oakville Galleries, Curtis will perform a series of compositions that engage the cello as a site of uncertainty, a physical and acoustical object to be explored in performance, without advance knowledge of what the exploration might yield. While clearly framed as performative tasks, the compositions are inherently incomplete, and permeable to the material and spatial conditions at hand.

Oakville Galleries is located on Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and the Haudenosaunee. The treaty lands are covered by the Upper Canada Treaties, namely the Head of the Lake, Treaty No. 14 (1806) and Treaty No. 22. At the same time, Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens and at Centennial Square is uniquely situated along the shoreline of Lake Ontario and Sixteen Mile Creek. These waterways are unceded territory and the Mississaugas have unextinguished aboriginal title to all water, beds of water, and floodplains contained therein. As an institution, Oakville Galleries recognizes the importance of establishing and maintaining meaningful and respectful relationships with the original inhabitants and keepers of the land, and we are grateful for the opportunity to operate on this territory.

Oakville Galleries would like to thank the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation for the open conversation around truth and reconciliation.

