



The Fumihiko Maki-designed  
Aga Khan Museum



Art Gallery of Ontario



The Power Plant

# Art Galleries and Museums

Rich history, intriguing works and slick design **BY LAURA CLARKE**

## Royal Ontario Museum

The ROM's crystalline architecture may be debatable (see for yourself if you love or hate it), but Canada's largest museum knows how to keep the public engaged, with recent exhibits as diverse and compelling as Anishinaabeg art, the cultural history of tattoos and the conservation of the blue whale. 100 Queens Park, rom.on.ca

## The Power Plant

The Power Plant is hard to miss, considering the towering smoke-stack sporting its name—a holdover from the building's days as an actual power station. Today, this leading public gallery features a rotating lineup of contemporary art exhibitions. 231 Queens Quay W., thepowerplant.org

## Art Gallery of Ontario

This Frank Gehry-designed space is more than just home to a stellar

permanent collection and critically acclaimed touring exhibits ranging from Basquiat to Georgia O'Keeffe—it's a cultural and educational hub. Check out the First Thursday events for an interactive artistic exchange and all-around fun party. 317 Dundas St. W., ago.ca

## Aga Khan Museum

Venturing out of the downtown core is worth it to experience the epic scope of this museum, which brilliantly showcases the diversity of Muslim art and culture. Historical artifacts ranging from the Iberian Peninsula to China commingle with exhibits by contemporary Muslim artists, not to mention music, dance, theatre, lecture and film programming. 77 Wynford Dr., agakhanmuseum.org

## Mercer Union

Mercer Union, a non-profit venue founded by a group of



Gardiner Museum

12 ambitious artists in 1979, has managed to remain an epicentre for diverse and often experimental contemporary work. Its artist-founded and -focused approach guarantees experimental and innovative exhibitions that challenge the status quo. 1286 Bloor St. W., mercerunion.org

## Museum of Contemporary Art

This museum, formerly a cornerstone of the Queen West arts community, is relocating to the

iconic heritage Automotive Building come fall 2017. The highly anticipated move promises a space that is as unique and historically relevant as the international and Canadian contemporary art the gallery showcases. 158 Sterling Rd., museumofcontemporaryart.ca

## Design Exchange

Spend the day learning about the history of industrial design in Canada from 1945 to the present, and feast your eyes on the DX's

recently expanded international collection of design objects. Admission is always free, and there are guided tours on the last Friday of every month. 234 Bay St., dx.org

## Scrap Metal Gallery

If you prefer your galleries privately funded, accessible only through back alleys and housed in trendy industrial settings, consider all your boxes ticked. This forward-thinking space also features an in-house book shop that is constantly rearranged by visiting artists and curators. 11 Dublin St. E., scrapmetalgallery.com

## Stephen Bulger Gallery

Soak up a large selection of international contemporary and historical photography at this 20-year-old Toronto institution. The Queen West mainstay focuses primarily on the documentary tradition, with an extensive



Royal Ontario Museum

collection of historical Canadian photographs. 1026 Queen St. W., bulgergallery.com

## Clint Roenisch

Clint Roenisch—another gallery to ditch its Queen West roots and relocate to the burgeoning art village surrounding St. Helens Avenue—

has showcased the Canadian solo debuts of a range of international contemporary artists. 190 St. Helens Ave., clintroenisch.com

## Olga Korper Gallery

There's plenty of space in this former mattress factory for Olga Korper's ambitious programming

of installations, video, photography, paintings and sculpture. The building also houses a smaller but equally worthy gallery—Christopher Cutts Gallery—for twice the art-hopping experience. 17 Morrow Ave., olgakorpergallery.com

## Gardiner Museum

This ceramics museum was founded in 1984 by George and Helen Gardiner to showcase their private art collection, and remains one of the only museums in the world to focus on ceramics, an oft-overlooked decorative art tradition. Today, the Gardiner showcases approximately 4,000 ancient and contemporary objects from across the globe. 111 Queens Park, gardinermuseum.on.ca

## Katharine Mulherin Contemporary Art Projects

Works in multiple mediums can be found in this arts programming mecca, which encompasses not only the Mulherin main space, centrally located in the heart of Queen West, but also a sister space, No Foundation, just down the street. 1086 Queen St. W., katharinemulherin.com

## Corkin Gallery

Corkin is housed in a 10,000-foot converted tank house in the Distillery District, which makes for an ambitious and interactive exhibition space. The gallery favours artists whose practices engage with issues of environment, identity and consumerism, as well as vintage photography and contemporary concrete abstract painters. 7 Tank House Ln., corkingallery.com

## Coldstream Fine Art

Coldstream, located in the bustling Entertainment District, shows love for local contemporary artists at all stages of their careers, while also consistently introducing interesting American and European artists to the Toronto art market. 80 Spadina Ave., coldstreamfineart.com