

ANDREA BLANAR

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EDUCATION

- 1964 Occupational Therapy, McGill University (Entrance Scholarship)
 - 1968 B.A. Psychology, Sir George Williams University
 - 1979 B.F.A. Concordia University, Magna Cum Laude
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COMMUNITY OUTREACH-AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT & ARTS EDUCATION

Canadian Hungarian Artists Collective (CHAC)-2001 to the Present 2017

Web site: www.CHACcanada.org

Founder and current President of Canadian Hungarian Artists Collective

Andrea Blanar has organized /coordinated the following CHAC exhibitions and events:

2002 March-April “*Estuaries on the Danube*”, Gallery on the Bay, Hamilton, Ontario, Outreach & audience development while creating networks for future collaborations.

2002 June-July “*Connecting*”, Trinity Galleries, City of Saint John, New Brunswick, Recruiting Members and forming alliances with NB artists & NB Cultural Sector

2003 October-November “*Magyart 2003*” Exhibition, at Espace Adagio, Delta Hotel, Montreal, Quebec. An Audience Development and Fund Raising opportunity for our subsequent Incorporation costs, and cultural programs. Community outreach was possible as this gallery is a corridor of art in a Hotel that is a passageway used daily by thousands of commuters. The event included an Exhibition curated by Gabor Szilasi and Doreen Lindsay, artists’ talks & demonstrations, and dance & musical performances.

2005 October-November “*Fenêtres/Ablakok*” Maison de la Culture, Notre Dame de Grace, Québec – Audience Development and art education, via guided tours, artists’ demonstrations & lectures.

2005 and 2007 Tantramar Art Symposiums:

Art Education Workshops, community outreach and audience development

Blonar organized and coordinated “Tantramar Art Symposiums” in August 2005 and August 2007, two all encompassing one week symposiums that linked the arts communities of Quebec, Ontario, and New Brunswick in the Tantramar areas around Sackville, New Brunswick. The focus was on creating artist collaborations with the Acadian artists and their community. The symposiums included: 4 exhibition sites, nine professional workshops, daily evening artists’ presentations, a film festival and site specific installations. A film was produced on the social-economic effects of the Confederation Bridge on the Cape Tormentine community. Over 125 artists and art supporters attended the 2007 Symposium. Audience attendance at our events tripled from 2005 to 2007.

All events and workshops were open to the public and held across multiple facilities and galleries. The venues were: In **Sackville**, at the Owens Art Gallery, at the Fog Forest Gallery, at the Struts Artist Run Center and the Faucett Media centre, at **Cape Jourimain** Eco Centre, in the **Pointe de Bute** Community Hall and at the Point de Bute Art Centre, in **Baie Verte** at Ghita Levin Studios, the Baie Verte Girl Guide Campsite, the Baie Verte Community Hall and in **Aulac** at Fort Beausejour and at **Cape Tormentine**.

The Tantramar Art Symposiums attracted national and international participants. It created both cultural and economic benefits to the local communities, stimulated interest in the arts and became a catalyst for subsequent events in the community. We are pleased that The Tantramar Symposiums are now run by local NB artists.

2006-2007 “Reflections Canada Hungary”

These Exhibitions commemorated the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and the arrival of over 37,000 refugees to Canada. Focusing on the benefits of multiculturalism, the panel discussions and artists’ talks were on hyphenated Identities. Curated by Joyce Millar, Director and Curator of the Stewart Hall Art Gallery.

- **2006** March-April, Stewart Hall Art Gallery, Pointe- Claire, Quebec
- **2007** October-November, Pier 21 Immigration Museum, Halifax, Nova Scotia, This was an emotional journey to the Pier that welcomed most of our compatriots to Canada. Receptions were organized by the local business and cultural community. We were as well able to link with Hungarian Immigrants from NS, NB and PEI.

2007 December CHAC Fundraiser Exhibition at **EM** Café, Montreal, Quebec.

2008 May-June “*CHAC-HUVAC Show*” Hungarian Cultural Center and Art Gallery, of **Hungarian descent** Toronto, Ontario, Linking Montreal and Toronto area artists.

2009-2014 “RE: INSITU” Canada- Hungary Exhibitions

A Multifaceted unprecedented project traveling the works of over 40 Canadian-Hungarian artists of all disciplines to Museums in Hungary and to public galleries across Canada reaching out to communities that have welcomed Immigrants.

This Exhibition thanks Canada for having created the conditions that would allow so many artists of Hungarian descent to play important roles in this country’s multicultural tapestry. The program includes a film Festival, video and performance art, new media, site specific installations, Fiber artists, clay- ceramics and 2 - 3dimensional art works.

Most venues hosted artists’ talks and events to link our artists with the communities hosting the exhibitions. Canada’s venues and included workshops, arts education via artist talks, guided tours and demonstrations by artists.

- **2009** June-August Muveszet Malom, Szentendre, Hungary
- **2009** September- December Helikon Kastely Muzeum, Keszthely, Hungary
- **2010** March-April Maison de la Culture Notre- Dame -de -Grace, Montréal, Québec
- **2010 -2011** November- January, City of Saint John Art Center, New Brunswick
- **2012** June through August , Galerie Montcalm, Gatineau-Hull , Quebec
- **2014** September October November, 3 venues in Hamilton, ON: 1.Workers art and Heritage Museum, 2.You and me Gallery 3. Gallery on the Bay
- **2017** *Re:InSitu: Canada 150* at the International Pavillion, NCC, Ottawa , part of *Canada-Hungary 150*

2009-2010-2011 December Advent Fair/Bucsu Foyer Hongrois, Hungarian Catholic Montreal, Quebec. Open House, Fund raising and sharing our culture with citizens in Montreal North.

2011 March- April “***Kamera Hungarica***” Collaborating with Cinéma du Parc, Montreal

Curated by Tamas Wormser, this event had great audience attendance. It consisted in a week long Film Festival that offered a program of films by Canadian-Hungarian Artists and films by young avant garde filmmakers in Hungary. Together with the Festival we presented a month long Exhibition of Photography. Unusual was the possibility for emerging artists to show their work with Award winning photo artists. We wished to outreach to thousands of pedestrians who daily use this corridor to access the metro station. To promote

audience attendance, the event included traditional Hungarian food, folk dancers and music.

2012 “ID...ENTITY”, a Visual Journey of Our Cultural Self,
At the Viva Vida Art Gallery, Pointe- Claire, QC.

This event was collaboration between the President of the City of Pointe- Claire’s Cultural Committee, Nedia El Khouri and CHAC. The event was part of the City of Pointe Claire’s Annual Spring Festival.

As many of our activities occurred on the Main Street sidewalk at the Centre of town, we considered this an excellent opportunity for audience development.

The project consisted in numerous workshops open to the public: “Creating art out of paper Pulp”, “Introductory workshop on self-publishing of art books”, “In situ installations”, creative hat making for children, a weeklong film festival with artists’ talks. The event allowed us to demystify art and allowed the Hungarian community to interface with the public on the west island and with other cultural groups in that community. The grand Finale included: an art Benefit Auction, traditional Hungarian Music and Dance presentation, a street parade of wearable art and the hat sculptures that our artists had constructed. The events raised funds for CHAC’s upcoming Gatineau Hull Exhibition

Conseil de la Peinture du Québec (CPQ) (no longer exists -became a part of RAAV)

1979 to 1996 Treasurer and vice president, Board member, Resource person, workshop leader, until my 1996 move to Burlington, Ontario.

1982-1984 Québec’s Minister of Cultural Affairs, Resource person and jury member for – *“Intégration des arts à l’architecture et à l’environnement des édifices du Gouvernement du Québec”*, several terms.

1986-1987 Organizing Committee, *“Chroma Quebec”* Traveling Exhibitions of Quebec artists across Quebec’s regional Public galleries

1987-1989 1994-1995 Organizing Committee, *“Pluralité-Québec”* Traveling Exhibitions of Quebec artists in Public Galleries across Canada

Late 1980’s-early 1990’s Workshop coordinator, helping professional artists who suffer from substance abuse / from creative paralysis. Montréal

1990’s Cultural Advisor Ville de Montréal –« Les Arts en Ville »

Early 1990's Member of "Advisory Committee and Jury on Funding to Galleries"
Minister of Cultural Affairs, Quebec (multiple terms of office)

1994-1996 Organizer of arts mentor programs for emerging and immigrant artists in
Montreal with Federal Manpower Training

Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA) Ottawa(No longer existslack of funding 2012)

1992-1998 Quebec Delegate and Canada's Visual arts representative on the Board of
Governors of the Canadian Conference of the Art, 3 terms of office

1995 Member of Expert Advisory Committee appointed on the Future of the Canada
Council Art Bank

McGill University Women's Centennial 1984-85 Arts Committee

1984 Arts advisor to the Organizing Committee

1984 Panelist & moderator for the Conference on the "Status of Women Artists in
Canada"

1984-1885 Committee advisor for the art exhibition, "*Canvassing Women- 100 years of
women artists at McGill University*"

Graphia 3710 Inc Printmakers Collective Montreal

1978-1985 Member and acting coordinator in charge of grants and funding as well as
member of committee organizing yearly open houses featuring exhibitions, artists'
talks and demonstrations on printmaking techniques.

1983 Member of committee producing collaborative art book "*Hommage Dumouchel*" in
collaboration with Teleglobe and funding by Quebec Minister of Cultural Affairs

Art Exhibitions Fundraising for Housing for the Elderly

1989 President of the Fundraising committee "Foyer Hongrois" for construction
of Phase 3 for Assisted living for the Elderly
Multiple fundraising activities over a 2 year period including art exhibitions in RBC
Lobby of Place Ville Marie and art exhibitions at Foyer Hongrois.

1989 Founded Magor Foundation - President of the Board creating Cultural Projects while Raising Funds for the Ageing Immigrant Population.

Montreal Hungarian Historical Society (MHHS)

2006 Founded MHHS on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising to research the cultural contributions of Hungarian Immigrants in the Montreal area.

2006 October-November At the invitation of Mayor Gerald Tremblay organized & coordinated the exhibition "*Un Héritage Partagé*", at Montreal City Hall, focusing on the history of Hungarians in Montreal and their cultural and scientific contributions.

Educating Children

1979-1980 Created arts program at College Marie de France for grades 1 to 3

1994 Collaborative art exchanges and exhibition with Eel River Reserve Children in Restigouche at the National Exhibition Center in Campbellton, New Brunswick

Early 1990's Drop in Literacy Program- poetry- arts for neighboring children near the Point de Bute Art Centre, New Brunswick.

Point de Bute Arts Centre NB (Artist-in-Residence Programs)

1988 and ongoing Founder and owner of the Point de Bute Art Centre in New Brunswick in the Historic Point de Bute United Wesley Church. The Studio/gallery welcomes visitors and hosts an artists-in-residence program. Among the past artists in residence have been artists from: New Mexico, Chicago, Israel, Montreal, Hamilton Shediac and Moncton.

This program is specifically for women who wish to complete a project and have not had the isolation required to complete the task. e.g: a children's book author was able to complete her book, an Israeli artist was able to prepare an upcoming exhibition, a medieval historian was able to finish her PHD thesis at U de M, an elderly artist had the opportunity to prepare a solo exhibition in collaboration with her young nephew. Acadien artists held workshops and exhibited their work; a Hamilton sculptor was able to research works using objects from flea markets. Local Musicians performed concerts.

Professional and Educational Work as an Art Therapist

Since 1964 Andrea Blonar, an art therapist and registered occupational therapist in psychiatry, has specialized in the use of cognitive rehabilitation principles in creative back to work programs for artists-creators with chronic debilitating mental disorders.

1964-2014 Designed individual and group art therapy programs in Montreal at the Allan Memorial Institute, Royal Victoria Hospital; at the Albert Prévost Institute (Community Psychiatry and Geriatrics); at Hamilton Psychiatric, at Hamilton's St. Joseph Hospital; and currently at the Jewish General Hospital's Out Patient Program.

1965-2014 Gave workshops on Cognitive Rehabilitation using art for the chronically disabled psychiatric patients: In Montreal: at the Allan Memorial Institute, RVH, at the Jewish General Hospital's Occupational Therapy Department, to the staff at Grand Rounds of the Institute of Community and Family Psychiatry of the Jewish General Hospital, at the City of Saint John Art Centre in NB.

1964-1969 1987-1996 2000-2014 Supervisor Interns in Occupational Therapy, on art therapy practices. Currently offering internships in art therapy to Occupational Therapists in the Masters and PhD Programs at McGill and U de M

1996-2000 Set up art programs and gave workshops and seminars on art and art therapy practices at Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital, St Joseph Hospital in Hamilton Ontario

1960's and 1970's Lecturer, Université de Montreal and McGill University on art therapy in psychiatry.

1970-1972 Lecturer at Kyose School of Rehabilitation, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Japan, on the use of art in the treatment of creative activities for patients suffering from mental illnesses

1970-1972 Representative of the WFOT in Japan

1970-1972 Mentor – art therapist at the International Social Service of Japan, (Tokyo ISS) using art therapy for young substance abusers.

1968 Organized Symposium of WFOT (World Federation of Occupational Therapists), Montreal – and gave workshops on the use of creative techniques in the treatment of the mentally ill (Held at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel and at Allan Memorial Hospital – Royal Victoria Hospital.)

Awards and Grants

2010 Received the “**Pro Cultura Hungarica**” award from István Hiller, Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Hungary for her continuous and dedicated work to preserve, promote and enrich Canada-Hungary cultural exchanges

- 2006** Award for Cultural Contributions and Achievements by the Mayor of Montreal, Gerald Tremblay, at City Hall for outstanding cultural contribution
- 2000** Grant Ontario Arts Council for solo exhibition "*Painted Places*" at the Burlington Arts Centre,
- 2000** Grant Hamilton Region Arts Council for solo exhibit "*Windows*" at the Gallery on the Bay
- 1994** Grant Quebec- New Brunswick Cultural and Economic Cooperation for travelling exhibition "Homage to the Sea", Solo traveling Exhibitions QC, ON &NB.
- 1983** Grant- Ministère des Affaires Culturelles du Québec, For work in cooperation with Graphia 3710 for "Hommage Dumouchel"
- 1966** **Honorary Canadian Citizenship Award**, Minister of immigration
- 1955** Awarded Canadian Citizenship