

Gallery Personnel Biographies

Principal & Sole Proprietor, Donald O’Born

In 1961, Donald O’Born and his brother opened a small graphic design and printing partnership. The business grew to become The Printing House, a national family-owned chain. Along the way, Donald collected photography, amassing a significant collection with seminal works by historical and modern masters. He also supported cultural initiatives in the city through active philanthropy as well as sitting on the boards of community and not-for-profit arts organizations. Upon his retirement from The Printing House in 2006 Donald began studying photography in earnest, developing his personal creative eye while continuing to collect work.

In 2007, Donald with the guidance of P. Elaine Sharpe and Carla Garnet began planning for a new business. After several proposed incarnations, the three resolved to open a photo-specific contemporary commercial art gallery at 710 Yonge Street, on the second floor. O’Born Contemporary opened its doors in June 2008 with an exhibition that reflected Donald’s personal artistic proclivity: Play/Quatre Jeux comprised four female artists’ portrait work. Subsequently, O’Born Contemporary moved to 131 Ossington and broadened its medium-specific mandate to include all mediums.

Donald is self-taught, as a gallerist and a business-owner.

Director, Natalie MacNamara

Natalie MacNamara is a gallerist, curator, collector and consultant working primarily in Toronto. As director of O’Born Contemporary, Natalie presents lens-based and ‘lens-linked’ works to collectors, art-lovers and audiences. This broadened approach to medium specific programming reflects Natalie’s view of content’s position over instrument in art-making. Photography as an implement for art-works remains Natalie’s first passion and informs her choices in both curation and collection.

Natalie has managed private collections; coordinated an international art exhibition and competition, Edmonton Print International (EPI 2008); curated alternative art spaces, including the presentation and performance of Mitchell Chan’s kinetic sculpture and a Nuit Blanche public installation, both at The Spoke Club; and administered innumerable exhibitions. Natalie has sat as reviewer for Scotiabank Contact’s portfolio reviews among internationally renowned curators, art dealers, directors, publishers and photo editors to review work by emerging and mid-career artists and photographers.

Natalie graduated from Ryerson University with a BFA in Image Arts.

Co- Director, Lili Huston- Herterich

Lili Huston-Herterich is an artist and curator currently working in Toronto. Her interest in conceptual and alternative approaches to art making has significantly informed her contributions to O'Born Contemporary's programming; moving forward, she will spearhead O'Born's new auxiliary programming, including artist forums, performances, and events for local artists, that will reinforce the gallery's commitment to Toronto's vivid community.

Lili also began and currently co- directs and curates Butcher Gallery, an alternative exhibition space founded in a living room in 2009 committed to the exhibition of installation and project-based work by young artists locally and internationally. Lili received her BFA from York University with a focus in new media arts in 2010.

Consultant, Ann Miller

Ann is an art advisor and collector who lives and works in Toronto.

As O'Born Contemporary's dedicated art consultant, Ann focuses on developing relationships with new and existing clients. As a seasoned sale professional, Ann's primary focus is placing art in commercial, public and private collections.

Experienced as a sales manager specializing in consumer goods marketing and operations, Ann move to New York City to pursue a new career in art. Once arriving in New York City, Ann joined the elite Marianne Boesky Gallery and Zach Feuer Gallery, representing artist such as Yoshitomo Nara, Rachel Feinstein and Sean Landers. In May 2011, she contributed to the acclaimed exhibition of the late Salvatore Scarpitta, granting her the opportunity to interact with the legendary Julian Schnabel, Jeff Koons and Nancy Rubins. Ann also served as assistant and protégé to the notorious art advisor Venetia Kapernekas.

Ann, a native to Seattle, graduated from the University of Washington in 2004, with a bachelor degree in Communication and Art History. She is a long time patron of the arts and has been affiliated with such institutions as the Seattle Art Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New Museum, Museum of Modern Art and the Art Gallery of Ontario.