

# RAY CRONIN

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## PROFILE

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**Senior Arts Professional** with over 25 years' extensive experience in leadership roles within the culture sector, with experience in museums (Director and CEO, Senior Curator, Curator of Contemporary Art, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia); museum services (Vice-President, TOTAL Museum and Fine Arts Services, Inc.); publishing (Marketing Coordinator, Goose Lane Editions); and arts journalism (Columnist and arts reporter, *The Daily Gleaner*, Fredericton; columnist, *Here*, Saint John; contributor, *The Globe and Mail*, Toronto). Demonstrated knowledge and passion for modern and contemporary art, known nationally as a respected curator and active freelance writer, published in numerous magazines and for catalogues and books for art institutions across the country. Curator of dozens of exhibitions, several of which toured nationally and internationally. Graduate of the Getty Museum Leadership Institute. Author of the books *Alex Colville Life and Art* (ACI, Toronto) and *Mary Pratt: Still Light* (Gaspereau Press, Kentville). Series Editor of the *Gaspereau Field Guides to Canadian Art*. Founded and managed the internationally recognized Sobey Art Award on behalf of the Sobey Art Foundation, served as the Award's founding curator and sat on the Sobey Art Award Governance Committee.

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Curating
- Writing & Editing
- Visual Arts & Fine Arts
- Art History
- Art Criticism
- Arts Administration
- Leadership & Direction
- Employee Relations
- Fundraising
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Government Relations
- Strategic Planning
- Consulting
- Transportation, Storage, Logistics
- Public Speaking
- Facilitation & Teaching
- Facilities
- Publishing
- Dual Canadian/American Citizenship

## EXPERIENCE

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### Self-Employed

#### Freelance Writer and Curator

2016-present

Author of books, essays, reviews and other projects for galleries, magazines, and publishers. Recent and current clients include The Globe and Mail, Atlantic Books Today, Nimbus Publishing, the Arts Canada Institute, the Gaspereau Press and the Thames Art Gallery. Freelance curator for Canadian art galleries and museums. Arts blogger for Halifax Magazine, frequent contributor to *Border Crossings*, *Atlantic Books Today*, *Prefix Photo*, *Espace*, *Studio Magazine*, *Sculpture Magazine* and *Visual Arts News*, among others. Recent books include *Alex Colville: Art and Life* (Fall 2017, Arts Canada Institute), *Our Maud: The Art Life and Legacy of Maud Lewis* (Fall 2017, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia) and *Mary Pratt: Still Light* (Winter 2018, Gaspereau Press). *Gerald Ferguson: Thinking of Painting* and *Alex Colville: A Rebellious Mind* are forthcoming from Gaspereau Press.

#### TOTAL Transportation Solutions Inc., Toronto, ON/Halifax, NS

2015-2017

*One of the largest art shippers in Canada through its Fine Arts Division, over 2015-2016 the division was transformed into TOTAL Museum and Fine Arts Services Inc., with a complete re-branding and extensive outreach to the Canadian and US gallery and museum communities.*

#### Vice President, TOTAL Museum and Fine Arts Services Inc.

Responsible for steering the re-branding of the Fine Arts Division, including marketing and advertising, outreach activities, sponsorships and philanthropy. Provided leadership as a Halifax branch was established, including recruiting and training staff and working with the local arts community to establish client relationships. The Halifax office was closed in the autumn of 2016, while the national re-branding effort continued with the switch of the Fine Arts division to the TMFAS brand. Retained 2016 to 2017 by TOTAL Transportation Solutions Inc. as Vice-President, Museum and Fine Arts Services on a consulting contract to work on their brand recognition and to increase their art shipping and services business across Canada.

### *Selected Accomplishments*

- Led the re-branding effort of the company's art division, including new marketing and advertising materials and corporate identity.
- Assisted with the expansion of the company's offering from fine art transportation to include more services such as exhibition promotion, installation and de-installation, and other "back-of-house" services.
- Secured "preferred art shipper status" for the company from major Canadian artist service groups such as CARFAC, RAAV, the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, and Visual Arts Nova Scotia.
- Enhanced the profile of TOTAL as an art and artist centred service and logistics provider, leading to an expanded market share in the fine art transportation industry.

## **The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS), Halifax, NS**

**2001 - 2015**

*The largest art museum in Atlantic Canada with over 17,000 works that is responsible for acquiring, preserving and exhibiting works of art, and for providing education in the visual arts, home of the Sobey Art Award, Canada's premiere visual arts prize.*

### **Director and CEO**

**2008 - 2015**

Responsible for providing visionary leadership and direction, overseeing organizational operations, developing strategic action plans focused on increasing excellence and financial performance, establishing long-term growth and strengthening government relations. Identifying the artistic vision and creative direction for the gallery; building and encouraging a talented team of 42 employees, collaborating with an engaged Board of Directors, advancing the organizational mission and vision, and establishing a reputation of distinction. Collaborating and building partnerships with galleries to develop exhibitions, acting as an advocate and ambassador for the arts, the gallery and Nova Scotia, and nurturing relationships with funders, donors, local communities, partners, members, volunteers and other stakeholders.

### *Selected Accomplishments*

- Secured important acquisitions of contemporary and historical art, including several 18<sup>th</sup> century works depicting the history of Nova Scotia and the Annie Leibovitz Book Collection, the largest collection of Leibovitz photographs in the world
- Secured additional \$600,000 annual funding from the Government of Nova Scotia to cover building operation costs
- Managed financial and operational affairs to ensure operational and financial stability and an effective work environment
- Developed a comprehensive 5-year strategic plan to continue to strengthen and grow AGNS
- Increased the AGNS First Nations permanent collection exhibition space by 100% and expanded the First Nations collection
- Expanded the publication program, including monographs on artists such as Mary Pratt, John Greer, David Askevold, Alex Colville, and Jacques Hurtubise, as well as publications such as *The Last Art College* (with MIT Press).

### **Acting Director and Chief Curator**

**2007 - 2008**

Responsible for managing the administrative, financial and programming operations of the AGNS, under the supervision of the Board of Directors, while a search was undertaken to fill the vacant role of Director and CEO.

### **Senior Curator and Curator of Contemporary Art**

**2006 - 2008**

Responsible for managing and providing strategic leadership to the exhibition program, developing programming budgets, supervising a team of 38 in a variety of creative and administrative roles, and managing the art, development and marketing of the AGNS. Leading and supervising the Curatorial, Education, Registration, Preparation and Conservation areas of the organization; researching, organizing and directing temporary, travelling and permanent collection exhibitions, managing the annual Sobey Art Award and shaping the vision of the AGNS. Creating and producing grants and reports to secure and demonstrate essential funding, liaison with lending institutions and managing human resource procedures.

### *Selected Accomplishments*

- Founded and Managed the Sobey Art Award – an internationally recognized Canadian art prize for artists 40 and under
- Increased annual federal funding by 33%, demonstrating the AGNS's role in programming Contemporary Canadian art
- Enhanced the profile as a centre of excellence for research, exhibition and dissemination of contemporary Canadian art
- Managed an annual programming budget of over \$1,000,000, and supported funding through grant proposal development

## Additional Experience

<b>Acting Senior Curator</b> , The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS	2006
<b>Guest Curator</b> , Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton, NB	2003
<b>Acting Chief Curator</b> , The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS	2002 - 2005
<b>Curator of Contemporary Art</b> , The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS	2001 - 2006
<b>Author</b> , <i>Visual Arts (Bi-Weekly Column)</i> , Here, Saint John, NB	2000 - 2001
<b>Contributor</b> , <i>In the Arts</i> , NBNet Community Active Website	1999 - 2001
<b>Author</b> , <i>State of the Arts (Weekly Column)</i> , The Daily Gleaner, Fredericton, NB	1998 - 2001
<b>Member, Exhibition Committee</b> , The Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton, NB	1996 - 1998
<b>Adjunct Curator</b> , The Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum, Charlottetown, PEI	1998 - 2000
<b>Publicity and Promotions Manager</b> , Goose Lane Editions, Fredericton, NB	1994 - 1999
<b>Freelance Curator</b>	1992 - 2001
<b>Program Coordinator</b> , Artcite Inc., Windsor, ON	1991 - 1993
<b>Visual Artist</b> (exhibition and collections history available upon request)	1987 - 2001

## EDUCATION

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Certificate in Museum Leadership, Getty Museum Leadership Institute, Claremont University, Claremont, CA	2014
Masters of Fine Arts, University of Windsor, Windsor, ON	1989 - 1991
Bachelor of Fine Arts, The Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Halifax, NS	1985 - 1987
General Liberal Arts Courses, French Immersion, Saint Thomas University, Fredericton, NB	1982 - 1984

## MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

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International Association of Art Critics, Elected  
 Association of Art Museum Directors, Elected  
 Canadian Art Museums Directors' Organization, Elected  
 ACCESS Copyright Collective  
 Atlantic Provinces Art Galleries Association  
 Canadian Museums Association

## PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

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(Books) *Mary Pratt: Still Light* (Gaspereau Press, Kentville, NS, 2018), *Alex Colville: Art and Life* (Arts Canada Institute, Toronto, ON, 2017), *Our Maud: The Life Art and Legacy of Maud Lewis* (AGNS, Halifax, 2017, forthcoming), *Marion Wagschal* (Battat, Montreal, 2015); *John Greer* (AGNS, Halifax, 2015), *Mary Pratt* (Goose Lane Editions, Fredericton, 2014), *David Askevold* (Goose Lane Editions, Fredericton, 2013), *Marion Wagschal* (Battat, Montreal, 2010), *Garry Neill Kennedy: Superstar Shadow* (Museum London, London Ontario, 2006), *The AGNS Permanent Collection: Selected Works* (Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, 2001)

(Feature Articles) *Déjà vu All Over Again: Poetic Images and Waking Dream in Contemporary Art* (Espace Art Actual, #117, Autumn 2017); *Working the Devil Out: Mitch Mitchell* (Sculpture, November 2017); *The River Narrates Itself* (Prefix Photo, # 35, May 2017); *Under the Radar: Laura Jean Forrester* (Studio, Spring/Summer 2017); *An Overdue Look at Labrador Inuit Art* (Atlantic Books Today, Spring 2017); *Rambling Rose: Lisa Lipton's Road Show* (Canadian Art, Winter 2016);

(Catalogue Essays) *Ned Pratt: Between Sea and Sky* (The Rooms Provincial Art Gallery, 2018), *Paul Dignan: Raised Ranch* (Thames Art Gallery, 2017), *Nancy Edell, Thierry Delva, Desire, Pictured, Fabricate, Graeme Patterson: Woodrow and Heavy Metal*. (Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, 2001-2010), *Zeke Moores: Dispose* (Art Gallery of Windsor, 2013), *Win Win: Adrian Göllner* (Ottawa Art Gallery, 2007); *Jean-Pierre Gauthier* (Musée d'art contemporain, 2007); *Kelly Mark: Everyday People* (Third Space, 2007); *Patrick Thibert* (St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, 2006); *Rick Burns: Between Presence and Absence* (Beaverbrook Art Gallery, 2006)

Complete publication list available upon request.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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### FACILITATION, TEACHING, LECTURES & PUBLIC SPEAKING EXPERIENCE

Panelist, <i>What Makes Art Canadian</i> , Arts Canada Institute, University of Toronto, Toronto ON	2017
Guest Speaker, <i>The Creative Process</i> , Dalhousie University, Halifax NS	2017
Guest Speaker, 2016 Canadian Art Museums' Director's Organization Annual Meeting, Whistler, BC	2016
Guest Speaker, 2015 Atlantic Provinces Art Gallery Association AGM, Corner Brook, NF	2015
Instructor, Writing for the Arts, Pen and Inkling Festival, Charlottetown, PEI	2011
Commencement Address, NSCAD University Graduation Ceremony, Halifax, NS	2010
Guest Lecturer, Arts and Letters Club, Toronto, ON	2008
Instructor, Writing for the Arts, Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON	2008
Guest Lecture, New Realism in Contemporary Canadian Sculpture, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX	2007
Instructor, Critical Writing Workshop, Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON	2007
Instructor, Reading Sculpture, NSCAD University, Halifax, NS	2007
Delegate, British Council Visual Arts Showcase	2005
Instructor, Writing for the Arts, Maritime Writers Workshop, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB	2004
Keynote Speaker, Graduation, New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, Fredericton, NB	2003
Guest Lecture, Beauty in Contemporary Art, The Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton, NB	2002
Guest Lecture, Realism in Contemporary Sculpture, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design	2001
Instructor, New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, Fredericton, NB	2001
Instructor, New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, Fredericton, NB	2000
Member, Curriculum Committee, New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, Fredericton, NB	2000
Guest Lecture, Putting the Boots to Art History, The Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton, NB	1997
Member, University of Windsor Alumni Way Public Sculpture Committee	1992 - 1993

### JURIES

Canada Council for the Arts, Visual Arts Standing PAC for Major International Exhibition program	2015-present
Scotiabank Photography Prize	2014
Sobey Art Award Jury Chair	2004-2007
Centennial Prize, Royal Canadian Navy	2007
Canada Winter Games Exhibition	2007
Aliant New Media Prize	2006
Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage Grants	2006
Canada Council International Residencies Program	2006
Canada Council Art Bank	2005
Sheila Hugh MacKay Award	2004
Sobey Art Award Atlantic Juror	2001-2003
Great Canadian Printmaking Competition, Ernst and Young	2003
Canada Council for the Arts York Wilson Endowment Prize	2003
Canada Council for the Arts, Publication Assistance for Magazines and Journals	2001
Arts-by Invitation Competition, New Brunswick Arts Branch	1998

## REFERENCES

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References available upon request.