

# RAY CRONIN

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## PROFILE

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**Arts writer** and **curator** with a publishing history dating to 1989. Author of ten books on Canadian art, with four others under contract or in production. Frequent contributor to numerous magazines and for catalogues and books for art institutions across the country. **Editor** of books and magazines. **Curator** of dozens of exhibitions, several of which toured nationally and internationally. **Consultant** on best practices, fundraising, exhibition development, collections management and other museum services topics. Master of Fine Arts from the University of Windsor, Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Graduate of the Getty Museum Leadership Institute. 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. Former curator and Director & CEO of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (2001-2015).

## EXPERIENCE

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### Self-Employed

#### Writer

1989-present

Sole author of ten books on Canadian artists and contributor to fifteen more. Have written numerous essays, reviews and other projects for galleries, museums, magazines, and newspapers. Arts blogger for Halifax Magazine, frequent contributor to *Border Crossings*, *Atlantic Books Today*, *Canadian Art*, *Prefix Photo*, *Espace*, *Studio Magazine*, *Sculpture* and *Visual Arts News*, among others. Recent books include *Mary Pratt: Life & Work* (2020, Arts Canada Institute), *Maud Lewis: Creating an Icon* (2020, Gaspereau Press), *John Greer: Hard Thought* (2019, Gaspereau Press), and *Gerald Ferguson: Thinking of Painting* (Fall 2018, Gaspereau Press). Current projects include an art history of Halifax, a book on Nova Scotia Folk art, a book about sculpture in Halifax, and a book on sculptor Colleen Wolstenholme.

#### Curator

1992-present

Freelance curator for Canadian art galleries and museums. Recent projects include *Creative Obsessions* for the Confederation Centre Art Gallery (with Sarah Maloney), *Windsor-Essex Triennial of Contemporary Art 2021* (with Lucas Cabral, Art Gallery of Windsor), and *Alex Colville: Centennial Coins* (Co-production between the Beaverbrook Art Gallery and the Arts Canada Institute).

#### Contract Editor

2016-present

Editor for institutions and individuals. Recent projects: *Gerald Ferguson: Close to the Edge / Collected Writings and Statements* (David Diviney, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, 2017); *Autism Arts* (Dale Sheppard, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, 2021).

#### Editor-in-Chief

2019-present

Editor of the on-line visual arts magazine *Billie: Visual · Culture · Atlantic*

#### On-line Art Book Editor

2019-present

Editor for on-line art books for the Art Canada Institute.

#### Consultant

2016-present

Occasional consultant for institutional and individual clients, including Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Total Transportation Solutions, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Art Canada Institute.

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

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<b>Vice President, Total Museum and Fine Arts Services Ltd,</b> Halifax and Toronto	2015-2017
<b>Director and CEO,</b> Art Gallery of Nova Scotia	2008-2015
<b>Acting Director and Chief Curator,</b> Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS	2007-2008
<b>Senior Curator and Curator of Contemporary Art,</b> Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS	2001-2007
<b>Guest Curator,</b> Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton, NB	2003
<b>Columnist,</b> <i>Visual Arts</i> (Bi-Weekly Column), <i>Here</i> , Saint John, NB	2000 - 2001
<b>Contributor,</b> <i>In the Arts</i> , NBNet Community Active Website	1999 - 2001
<b>Columnist,</b> <i>State of the Arts</i> (Weekly Column), <i>The Daily Gleaner</i> , Fredericton, NB	1998 – 2001
<b>Arts Reporter,</b> <i>The Daily Gleaner</i> , 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>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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<b>Certificate in Museum Leadership,</b> Getty Museum Leadership Institute, Claremont University, Claremont, CA	2014
<b>Master of Fine Arts,</b> University of Windsor, Windsor, ON	1989 - 1991
<b>Bachelor of Fine Arts,</b> 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  
 Writers Federation of Nova Scotia (Writers Circle), Juried  
 Writer's Union of Canada, Juried  
 ACCESS Copyright Collective

## PUBLICATIONS

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Complete publication list available upon request.

## TEACHING

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Instructor, Writing for the Arts, Pen and Inkling Festival, Charlottetown, PEI (Weekend workshop)	2011
Instructor, <i>Writing for the Arts</i> , Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON (Weekend workshop)	2008
Instructor, <i>Reading Sculpture</i> Seminar Course, NSCAD University, Halifax, NS	Fall 2007
Instructor, Critical Writing Workshop, Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON (Weekend workshop)	2007
Instructor, <i>Writing for the Arts</i> , Maritime Writers Workshop, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB	2004
Instructor, <i>3-D Design</i> , New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, Fredericton, NB	Fall 2001
Instructor, <i>3-D Design</i> , New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, Fredericton, NB	Fall 2000
Instructor, <i>3-D Fundamentals</i> , University of Windsor School of Fine Arts	Fall 1991

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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### FACILITATION, LECTURES & PUBLIC SPEAKING

Panelist, "How do you get your work written about?," Visual Arts Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS	2019
Panelist, "Authors Salon," Gaspereau Press Wayzgoose, Kentville, NS	2018
Public Reading, Gaspereau Field Guides to Canadian Artists, Kentville, NS	2018
Public Reading, Gaspereau Field Guides to Canadian Artists, Halifax, NS	2018
Panelist, Sorting the Studio, Visual Arts Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS	2018
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
Commencement Address, NSCAD University Graduation Ceremony, Halifax, NS	2010
Guest Lecturer, Arts and Letters Club, Toronto, ON	2008
Guest Lecture, <i>New Realism in Contemporary Canadian Sculpture</i> , Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX	2007
Delegate, British Council Visual Arts Showcase	2005
Keynote Speaker, Graduation, New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, Fredericton, NB	2003
Guest Lecture, <i>Beauty in Contemporary Art</i> , The Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton, NB	2002
Guest Lecture, <i>Realism in Contemporary Sculpture</i> , Nova Scotia College of Art and Design	2001
Member, Curriculum Committee, New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, Fredericton, NB	2000
Guest Lecture, <i>Putting the Boots to Art History</i> , The Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton, NB	1997
Member, University of Windsor Alumni Way Public Sculpture Committee	1992 - 1993

## JURIES

Canada Council for the Arts: Engage and Sustain Program	2020
Canada Council for the Arts: Engage and Sustain Program	2019
Juror, <i>Small Treasures</i> , Inverness County Centre for the Arts, Inverness, NS	2018
Canada Council for the Arts, Visual Arts Standing PAC for Major International Exhibition program	2015
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

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

Canada Council for the Arts Research and Creation Grant (Visual Arts: Independent Critic)	2020
Arts Nova Scotia Creation Grant (Literature)	2019
Arts Nova Scotia Creation Grant (Literature)	2017
British Council Travel Grant	2005
British Council Travel Grant	2004
Christina Sabat Award for Art Criticism	2001
Canada Council "Mid-career" Grant (Visual Arts)	1999
Ontario Arts Council (OAC) Exhibition Assistance Grant	1993
OAC Work-in-Progress Grant	1993
OAC Exhibition Assistance Grant	1992
Ontario Graduate Scholarship	1990-91
Exhibition Award, Nova Scotia Arts Council	1989