

197 Main Street

June 29, 2019 June 26, 2020

A studio plays an important role in an artist's creative process. It is a space where artworks are created, but it is also an area for research, experimentation and contemplation. A studio can be an entire room, a single wall or even the corner of a kitchen table. Over time, the studio becomes a reflection of the artist and the place itself can influence the work produced within. During his career, F. H. Varley worked in over fifteen different studios. A few of these featured prominently in his life, including his last one at 197 Main Street Unionville, now called the McKay Art Centre.

In this exhibition, F. H. Varley's basement studio is revisited through artworks, tools and objects from the period 1957–1969 when the artist lived in Unionville. Inspired by photographs of the McKay Art Centre from that time, the gallery is divided into two separate areas. As you enter, furniture, original to 197 Main Street, suggests a domestic interior. Here, works by F.H. Varley are grouped according to the studios in which they were created. Behind this space, you will find a deconstructed studio with the artist's easel, paint palette and various works in progress on display. By evoking these settings, we can better understand F.H. Varley's works and the role of the studio in his creative production.

Curated by Anik Glaude, Charlotte Gagnier and John Abrams

About the Varley Art Gallery of Markham

The Varley Art Gallery of Markham is a municipal gallery with a vision to be a cultural hub in the City of Markham. We inspire local and national audiences to engage with art, both historical and contemporary, by presenting high quality and well-researched exhibitions as well as educational and artistic programs that are relevant to the communities we serve. We produce and circulate exhibitions that support the work of contemporary artists. Specifically, we support artists from York Region and seek to broaden access to the arts for diverse artists and communities.