

Provocative 30-foot sculpture debuts at PAMA Oct. 4

Experience a one-of-a-kind sculpture when Stephanie Rayner's Boat of Eternal Return debuts at the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) Oct. 4.

The stunning 30-foot boat is comprised of 20 unique elements, including moose ribs, mahogany, a mare pelvis and the score to Mozart's Requiem.

"Art, in all its forms, is the language of the soul," commented the Brampton-raised Rayner. "It speaks louder than death, and has always been humanity's lifeline."

The Boat of Eternal Return, 14 years in the making, has never been publically displayed before. Its unveiling represents the first exhibit curated by Tom Smart, an internationally celebrated arts leader and former CEO of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, in his new role as PAMA Art Gallery Curator.

"Part boat, part musical instrument, the Boat of Eternal Return is sculpture as you've never seen it before," Smart said. "Rayner's body of work offers a deeply spiritual metaphor. Through this piece, she reflects on the mysteries of birth, death and the cycle of perpetual regeneration."

The opening reception will be Oct. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. The Curator Talk will be at 2:30.

Win a private tour

Beginning Oct. 4, follow PAMA on Twitter @visitpama and share a few words about your life's journeys, trials and triumphs. The first 25 people to do so will receive an exquisite Boat of Eternal Return official exhibit catalogue signed by the artist. One grand prize winner will receive an exclusive tour of the exhibit by Smart. Check in @visitpama for details.

There is also an artist-led high-school education program. In this two-hour program, Rayner leads young artists through the creative process and provides a guided tour of the Boat of Eternal Return. For information on sessions, contact infopama@peelregion.ca. Operated by the Region of Peel, PAMA is at 9 Wellington St. E. in Brampton. Visit pama.peelregion.ca to learn more.