Special thanks to all who contributed to making this exhibition and catalogue a success.

| Invitation Design | Transportation Crew |
| Dorothy Chan | Bruce Brown | Nicholas Crombach |
| Melanie Chikofsky | Mary Ann Grainger | Janet Hunter |

| Installation Crew | Food Preparation |
| Bruce Brown | Melanie Chikofsky |
| Melanie Chikofsky | Doris Walter |
| Nicholas Crombach | Anne-Sophie Falconer |

| Cover & Invitation Photograph | Sculpture Photography |
| V. Tony Hauser | Peter Shepherd |
| Sid Golden | |

| Book Design & Editing |
| Melanie Chikofsky | Dorothy Chan |
TRIBUTE

an exhibition by the members of the

Al Green Sculpture Studio & School

honouring the life of

Al Green

enriching all of our lives through the creation of the studio and for his numerous contributions to the arts & culture of our city

opening reception May 5, 6-9pm
continues to June 1, 2016

The Canadian Sculpture Centre
500 Church Street

www.algreensculpture.com  416 963 9909

Artists

john SPROULE
penny FIKSEL

anne-sophie FALCONER
donna ZEKAS
jonathan GEMMELL
peter SHEPHERD

alan MUNN
dorothy CHAN
GOSIA
rosanne LUCKEYICH

allan PRITTIE
ellen BLANKSTEIN
Juni
sed ALEDAVOOD

arvar D. GHRAMIAN
gerard GODIN
lisa JOHNSON
sid GOLDEN

brian MEESON
gloria ROBINS
mary ann GRAINGER
stefania BARESIC

bruce BROWN
irene FROLIC
melanie CHIKOFSKY
thea CARVEL

crystal HAWK
jan QUINLAN
naomi CHORNEY
w.w. HUNG

deborah GRIEVE
janet HUNTER
nicholas CROMBACH
william STEINBERG

www.algreensculpture.com  416 963 9909
REMARKABLE SPIRITS, LONG-STANDING SUPPORTERS

REMEMBERING AL GREEN

It is with great sorrow that the AGO community mourns the loss of Abraham "Al" Green, who passed away January 22, 2016. An exemplary philanthropist, city builder and artist, Al gave generously of his time, expertise and resources to the building of schools, theatres and community centres across the Toronto region. He was committed to the establishment of treatment centres for people battling addictions and, together with his late wife Malka, was instrumental in creating the innovative Al & Malka Green Artists’ Health Centre at Toronto Western Hospital. In 2003, Al was appointed to the Order of Canada in recognition of his philanthropy and community service with the Governor General referring to him as the “Dream Maker”.

A long-standing friend and advocate of the Art Gallery of Ontario and an AGO Trustee for over fourteen years, Al’s many contributions here were inspiring and transformative. His support of several major exhibitions and his leadership gifts to Stage III and Transformation AGO created a fitting legacy in which Al took tremendous pride. He was an accomplished sculptor, collector and a lover of art, integrating public sculpture into his many building projects throughout the city. In 2000, Al established the Al Green Sculpture Studio & School in Toronto, providing an open, accessible, not-for-profit venue for artists to engage in their love of sculpting.

The memory of Al Green will forever live on here at the Gallery and in the hearts and minds of community members who benefitted so much from his remarkable spirit.
Al Green O.C.
1925-2016

The studio has suffered the loss of our founder and guiding light, Al Green. Without his vision and passion we would not exist. His beneficence lives on in every piece created within the studio and in the hearts of all who knew him. He shall be dearly missed.

Al Green Biography

For more than forty years, Al Green devoted himself to sculpture, a passion that coloured his life. Green’s initial work consisted of representations of the human form, including a series of female figures and life-sized busts.

These impressionistically textured works in wax and clay were cast in bronze and patinated in his favoured tones of brown and green. Influenced by such luminaries as Archipenko and Lipchitz, Green pursued a cubist, angular aesthetic, which ultimately became his artistic style.

Green went on to create works in categories that include Musicians and Dancers, Sports, Human Figures, Cactus, Religious Symbols, Totems, Awards and Towers. He favoured casting 12-18 inch bronzes but his creativity extended to large scale work, many of which are installed throughout Toronto. The presence and emotional power of Green’s work were recognized immediately by his peers including renowned artists Sorel Etrog and Maryon Kantaroff.

Green was a generous donor of his work to charity, has had several solo exhibitions and participated in many group exhibitions. His work can be found in public and private collections in Canada and around the world.

As co-founder of Greenwin Construction, Green helped develop and shape the urban landscape of Toronto. Early on he received the nickname “Dream Maker” because of his social involvement and generosity. He was a tireless philanthropist, recently honoured with the Order of Canada for his devotion to community service.

In 2000, he founded The Al Green Sculpture Studio and School which fulfilled his desire to provide a venue for sculptors to work and learn in an open, accessible environment. Green continued to enrich himself and others through his involvement in arts organizations including The Sculptors Society of Canada and The Art Gallery of Ontario.
Acknowledgements

I know no better way to pay tribute to Al Green other than a show of sculpture, dedicated to his memory.

His passion and vision paved the way for so many sculptors and beginners who have graced our studio for the last 16 years to learn, explore, and develop as artists.

Without Al none of this work would have been possible.

We are eternally grateful for all the opportunities he has afforded us.

We also owe our sincere gratitude to the Green family who continued to support Al’s vision through their on-going commitment to the future of the Al Green Sculpture Studio & School.

We would also like to thank Judi Young for all her hard work, and the Sculptor’s Society of Canada for the use of their wonderful gallery.

No show is accomplished without the contribution of the members and staff who have given of their time to make this show a success.

One more special thanks goes out to V. Tony Hauser for the use of his magnificent portrait of Al for our invitation.

I hope you all enjoy our efforts to pay homage to a truly unique individual who shall be dearly missed.

Al, we thank you.

Melanie Chikofsky
Director
Janet Hunter | Sisphus |

The Al Green Sculpture Studio & School (AGSSS) is unique, not because it is a school in the sense that all work is similar in style, but because it is a convivial, generous and giving community of individuals who love to make sculpture, whatever their age, ability or personal vision.
Lisa Johnson  |  One  |
This sculptural work deconstructs boundaries between figure and landscape. Although I am primarily a landscape painter, this year I began to search for ways that I could expand my practice and came upon Al Green’s Sculpture Studio & School. I was thrilled to find a studio that would not only provide a space to work, tools and materials, but also the guidance of experienced teachers. Although I never met Al Green, I am a witness to the joy he has brought to the lives of so many, in generously providing the opportunity for people to experience and practice the art of sculpture.
Jan Quinlan | Deconstructed Nude | Lady With Red Towel

The Studio is a wonderful space that provides me with the inspiration to fulfill my creative dreams. Without it, my art would not exist. The energy of working with other sculptors and sharing information and techniques is what makes it so appealing. It’s a community and a social outlet with a “family” of supportive fellow artists who have become a big part of my life. I’m very grateful to be a part of this community and hope that it always continues to thrive.
Sedi Aledavood

Metamorphosis No. 5

The Al Green Sculpture Studio & School is an intimate and energetic environment, which provides new experiences and opportunities in the field of sculpture. The Studio is an inclusive creative milieu which plays an important cultural role within the diverse context of Toronto’s art scene.
Peter J. Shepherd | Cityscape 1 | Mothers & Daughters

New to sculpture, I found this unique place and was accepted. Four years later, I am still finding new doorways to open with the support of staff and colleagues who are helpful, inspiring and inclusive. Thanks Al Green for creating this place.
Mary Ann Grainger  |  Truth & Reconciliation  |
AGSSS is a safe, encouraging environment where I can explore, experiment, fail and even possibly succeed. Through art, my life has been awakened to new meaning and purpose. This amazing community is filled with wonderful people who are my second family. AGSSS is home.
Bruce Brown

| Laugh Lines & Anger Lines |

The Al Green Sculpture Studio & School has become an important part of my life. As an artist it has given me an opportunity to be involved with an amazing community of artists. It is a space where I can explore, develop and share my creativity. The studio is also a place where I always feel welcome and inspired by all the members and staff. I am so thankful to Al for creating this studio, and to the Green family for all of the support they continue to give.
Thea Carvel

I joined the studio in 2004, wanting to make a special abstract sculpture for Professor Dr. Allan Gross' 65th birthday gala. I intended to leave after that but I stayed on. It was one of the best decisions I ever made. After my professional life and extensive travels, things seemed at loose ends. The studio gave me new direction and opened up an avenue for creativity, not the least was inspired by Al's work, humour and gentle encouragement. I admired and loved Al deeply, and I endeavour to honour his memory by trying to be the best I can be in the art of sculpture.
The Al Green Sculpture Studio & School is a unique gem for Toronto sculptors. A hub where hobbyists, professionals, the curious, the experienced and the inexperienced can enjoy a studio rich in the necessary "tools" needed for sculpting. I joined the Al Green team as an instructor, a little over a year ago and in that short time the studio has become an essential part of my own practice. It enriches my life daily through the friendships I've created there, both as an instructor and as a colleague. I feel very fortunate to be a part of Al's dream studio.
Allan Prittie  |  Seated Figure #3

To be working with fellow, dedicated, sculptors has been, and is, a very positive influence on my life. Working with others at the Studio is continuously both inspirational and instructive, in addition to a whole new set of friends. With Al Green's foresight and the continued support of his family, his legacy lives on.
Dona Saunders

What Kind of Bird are You? | Tailor

What the Studio means to me: coalescing dreams, community, joyful collaboration, fantastic voyage of images and imagination.
I found the Al Green Sculpture Studio & School during a long walk through Leslieville and immediately knew I had stumbled across something special. I am still in the beginning stages of exploring sculpture and all the possibilities, but I am light years ahead of where I would have been if I were doing this on my own. I couldn’t have asked for better guides in this process than Melanie, Gosia and Nicholas who have patiently shown me (often several times) the complexities of mold-making and sculpture. I am truly grateful for the generosity of Al Green and his family in creating the studio and ensuring its continued existence. Without them I’d still just be playing with plasticine! I hope to one day pay it forward to another community building project.
Irene Frolic | Elevate

It is with admiration and gratitude that I pay tribute to Al Green, a creative, talented and generous man who founded the Al Green Sculpture Studio & School. I find working at the Studio along side my peers to be inspiring. There is an atmosphere of professionalism and respect, and at every turn an opportunity for learning: from mold-making and learning to use new materials, to constructive criticism, lectures and life models. A wonderful place to work and to learn from devoted teachers. Thank you!
Donna Zekas | Elemental x 2 | Reflection |

The Al Green Sculpture Studio & School, my home away from home, is where time seems to stand still. It is truly a unique atelier; the environment is such that I can lose myself in my work and everything in the outside world disappears. Not only is it where I can create freely, but also where I have made close friendships. The combined impact of the creativity of my fellow sculptors has enriched my practice, allowing for new possibilities.
Penny Fiksel | Gifts from the Earth |

There has never been a place in my life that is exclusively personal and creative. I am inspired, supported and encouraged by the staff and other studio members, some of whom are outstanding artists in their own right. Al Green Sculpture Studio & School allows me to enjoy a unique experience and facilitates a process that I know I would not have had anywhere else in the world. I am blessed and grateful to be included with this group of people. Had it not been for Al Green, my life would be very much less enriched. The Studio is my second garden.
Dorothy Chan | Double Play |
| Ceci n'est pas une Pomme | Triple Entrente |

The AGSSS has and continues to be a special place for me – a refuge to learn and create, as well as a nurturing community for inspiration, renewal and revitalization. Thank you to Al, the director and team, as well as the members and Board for this wonderful place. May it continue to flourish!
Naomi Chorney

I knew the moment I walked into the Studio for the first time that I had found an inspiring and creative space in which to grow and manifest my art. I am truly grateful to Al Green for his vision and generosity.
John Sproule

I want to thank Al Green and the Green family for creating the Studio. The instructors, led by Melanie Chikofsky patiently helped me to migrate my painting and drawing skills into the world of sculpture. My entrance into the studio family came just after a very difficult period in my life. The supportive environment and kindness of the staff created a healing space and the opportunity for growth. I look around our busy Studio and at the sculptures being created, and the friendships that have been made and I realize that none of this would be here without Al Green and his family. Thank you Al Green and family. May many blessings return to you because of your numerous good works.
Anvar D. Gharvian

Lady with Dog

From the moment that I joined the Studio my life changed for the better. I was in a deep depression due to health issues. The Studio gave me a new perspective and purpose to my life. I now feel happy with a positive attitude, and I look forward to new opportunities and successes.
Ellen Blankstein | Graphite Robe | Silver Robe

After I retired from teaching, Al Green provided a special place for me to pursue my passion for sculpting. He was also a role model for me. He has inspired all of the members with his work ethic, talent and generosity, as well as the community at large. He is greatly missed.
Gloria Robins

| Sitting Pretty |

During many years of involvement in a variety of "the arts" I had never experienced the positive aspects of studio life. Every area of this wonderful space contributes to our artistic growth, with Melanie and Nicholas happy to step in to guide us when needed. The Al Green Sculpture Studio & School is truly an amazing gift to meet our collective desire to learn, create and grow artistically.
My association with the Al Green Sculpture Studio & School is replete with feelings of privilege and appreciation. My fellow colleagues have become my mentors, my critics, my inspiration and in many ways, my extended family. We will all be forever indebted to the vision and generosity of Al Green.
Sculpting is a solitary activity, and being an artist can be a lonely endeavour. Thank you, Al Green Sculpture Studio & School, for providing such a wonderful community for sculptors. I am grateful for all the inspiration, support, and friendships over the years.
JuNa | Gravity of Facts: My Dad Had to

Overcome Many Challenges

Self Discover. Since I was a child I wanted to sculpt and never had an opportunity to do so. Finally at the age of 39, I discovered the Al Green Sculpture Studio & School. It was the perfect excuse to try something I knew I had inside of me and couldn’t express before. I feel truer to my nature now and can call myself today something I never thought I would: an artist…a real one.
Melanie Chikofsky

| Heavy Metal |

My world changed forever the day Al came into my life. Like a beacon of light he entered my life, and illuminated my future. This job has come to define me, I have grown as an artist, teacher, manager and as a person. Through his example of, "just do it" I worked hard to improve my skills and my attitude towards life. Al was truly unique; trying to keep up with him was exhausting. I never saw anyone do so much and with such zeal. I endeavour to make the studio represent his ideals of inclusion, and encourage all who have an interest in sculpture. I continue to love this Studio, and all it's members, who have truly enriched my life. For all this and more I shall be eternally grateful to him.
As someone new to Toronto, I have found the studio welcoming, knowledgeable and encouraging. I'm excited for its future.
Nicholas Crombach

| Swallows | Budgies |

The Studio has provided me with a wealth of teaching experience while also providing a well-equipped and creatively stimulating space for the development of my professional art practice. I cannot imagine any possible way to truly express my thanks for being a part of the Al Green Sculpture Studio & School and what I have to look forward to at work each day.
The Al Green Sculpture Studio & School has been a place of camaraderie and belonging where I found the space, tools, materials and expertise to pursue a deeply seated creative imperative. Its founder, Al Green, facilitated the congregation of artists who shared his passion for sculpture in order that they might freely explore and express their vision. For many of the Studio's members, his patronage enabled the birth of artworks which might not have existed otherwise and which, at their best, have the power to enrich lives, to inspire and even to effect change.
Gerard Godin

My world revolves around the Studio. It brings a focus and drive to my work and instills a great sense of purpose in my life. It is truly an honour to be a part of this great movement in art. I am eternally grateful to Al Green and his family for all their generosity and support.
My professional work is often stressful. For the past 14 years, the Studio has been a refuge for me, a place to explore new avenues of creativity and creation. It's also a place to be with an amazing group of creative people, always helpful to an eager neophyte like me.
Deborah Grieve

The Al Green Sculpture Studio & School welcomed me warmly with technical and creative assistance and advice. Thanks to Melanie, Nicholas and Gosia! I am grateful as well to the special micro-community of creative, inspirational and supportive fellow artists at the studio, and to Al Green as the moving force in creating this environment that we are privileged to enjoy.
Unfortunately, I did not have the pleasure to make Al's acquaintance. I would have told Al how grateful I am to belong to this Studio, how much it is helping me grow as an artist, and how much of a haven it feels in our modern world. Thank you, Mr. Green, for your altruism, a rare and precious gift. Farewell.
Brian Meeson
Resurgance

There are turning points in life; meeting Al Green and the Studio was crucial, and booted aspects of creativity that otherwise would have stayed dormant. Thanks to the nurturing help of Melanie and fellow artists, I have enjoyed more than a decade of shaping and reshaping.
Alan Munn | Standing Man | Striding Woman

The Al Green Sculpture Studio & School has not only provided an excellent, fully equipped space in which to work, it has also enabled me to be a part of a community of talented artists who share ideas, techniques and attitudes. I have been able to seek constructive criticism and suggestions from other members and the staff, providing a fertile environment in which to work.
As a relatively new member of the Studio, I didn’t have the privilege to meet Al Green when he was still active with his sculpting. I did get a sense of his strong presence, gentleness and light spirit in the few occasions when I had the chance to meet him during Studio events. Hearing anecdotes from people who knew him well, I was impressed by a man who was not afraid to breathe in the fullness of life, to fill his own cup and let it naturally overflow to benefit others. This Studio is one of the many examples of his generosity. It has been a precious gift for me, with such a diverse community of kind, creative, inspiring artists where I found friendship and the joy of being able to create art and express my essence. I would like to dedicate to Al’s memory this excerpt from Kahil Gibran.

“And there are those who give and know not pain in giving, nor do they seek joy, nor give with mindfulness of virtue. They give, as in yonder valley the myrtle breathes its fragrance into space. Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and from behind their eyes He smiles upon the earth.” - Kahil Gibran
Al Green | Working the day he received his Order of Canada Medal: 2002