



Michael wore a Hugo Boss suit from KORRY'S CLOTHIERS FOR GENTLEMEN, a bow tie, suspenders, and shoes from HUGO BOSS, and heirloom cufflinks.

photography by

PURPLE TREE PHOTOGRAPHY

# REBECCA and MICHAEL

ORGANIC AND NATURAL ELEMENTS JUXTAPOSED WITH  
THE INCREDIBLY MODERN AND CHIC ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO



REBECCA LEESE AND MICHAEL HERBERMAN MET IN 2006 AT WESTERN UNIVERSITY, WHEN A COLLEGE HOUSE PARTY THROWN BY REBECCA'S NEW ROOMMATE BROUGHT THE TWO TOGETHER. A SWEET FIRST DATE SHARING MILKSHAKES AT A LOCAL diner had them both smitten from the first sip. Michael proposed nine years later during an intimate, impromptu picnic at Edward Gardens in Toronto. As timing would have it, Rebecca's sister was flying in from London, England that day and after the proposal, all of their loved ones convened at Michael's family home to celebrate.

The couple wed on October 25, 2015, at the ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO (AGO) in a celebration that juxtaposed modern and organic elements, but above all else paid respect to love and the joining of families. Melissa Baum of MELISSA BAUM EVENTS provided full-service planning and design assistance.

The bride wore a structured Peter Langner gown from KLEINFELD HUDSON'S BAY paired with diamond stud earrings from FINE JEWELLERY BY COLETTE. Chris Wood of MEDULLA & CO. provided hair styling and Olena of OLENA MAKEUP ART provided makeup services.

Lisa Collins of SWEET WOODRUFF created all of the floral for the event and designed Rebecca's loosely arranged bouquet. "It was wild, flowing, and draped with the most beautiful flowers I had ever seen. I couldn't stop smelling them the whole night!" shares Rebecca.

The couple's modern invitations were from THE WRITE INVITE.



Rebecca had told her bridesmaids to select any dress that made them feel great—in any shape, length, or colour. They all ended up choosing floor-length black gowns—a complete coincidence!



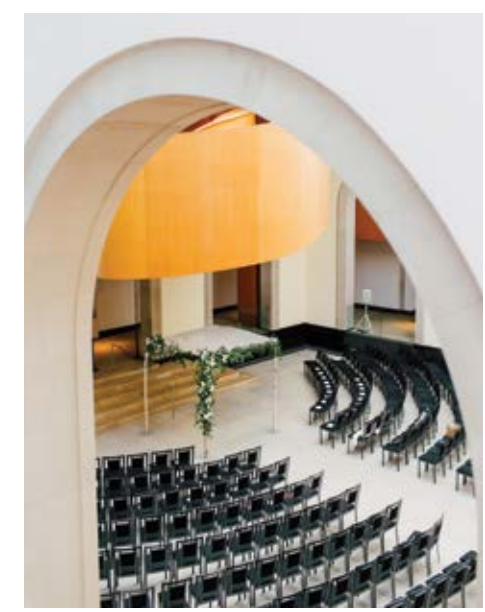
Rebecca accessorized with a feather vest from CLUB MONACO.



### GRAND-SCALE GREENERY

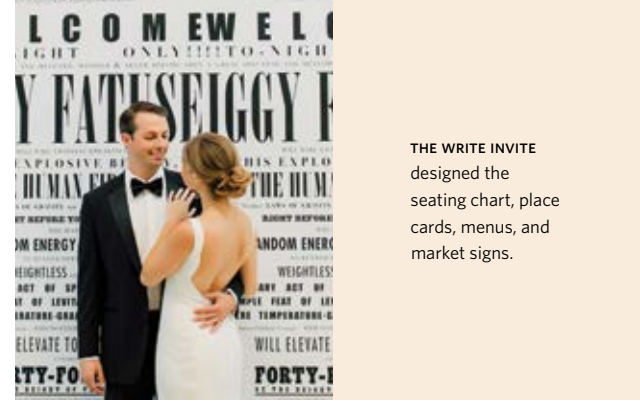
The newlyweds' reception was held in the AGO's Baillie Court. Upon entering the room, guests were immediately met with a spectacular 56-ft long canopy of leaves suspended over the dance floor, designed by SWEET WOODRUFF. A combination of long and round wooden dining tables provided by MARVELLE EVENTS featured both high and low greenery-filled centrepieces, accented with white blooms for

an organic and unstructured design. Crisp, pinstriped linens from AROUND THE TABLE and Ghost chairs from DETAILZ COUTURE EVENT RENTALS added a touch of modernity. Live event support services including rigging, audio and lighting were provided by FIREDOG CREATIVE.



### AN INTIMATE CEREMONY

Underneath the grand Frank Gehry staircase in Walker Court at the AGO, Rebecca and Michael exchanged vows, with their synagogue's rabbi and cantor on hand to officiate the intimate ceremony. "Rumour has it Frank Gehry built the staircase so that the warmth and intimacy of it became a place where people would fall in love," notes Rebecca. Two floral arrangements marked the beginning of the aisle, which led to the refined chuppah. This focal feature created a uniquely earthy, romantic aesthetic that was beautifully juxtaposed with the modern design of the venue. "Michael and I were both smiling the entire ceremony, and I started cheering a couple seconds too early before the end because I could hardly contain my excitement!" shares Rebecca.



THE WRITE INVITE designed the seating chart, place cards, menus, and market signs.

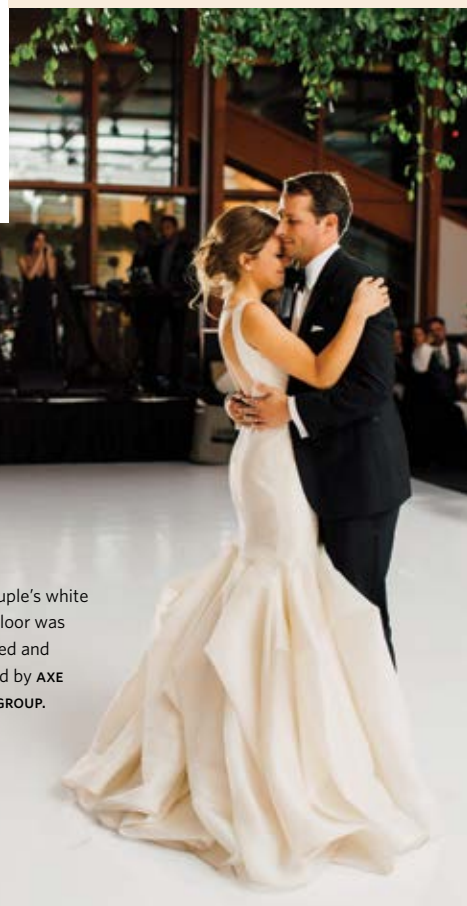




“It was a dream getting married in the building that houses some of my favourite paintings in the world. The Warhols, Rothkos, and Segals hanging behind us on the walls made for the perfect photo op!” – REBECCA



The **AGO** catered the newlyweds' dinner menu, which featured braised short rib and black cod. "The food was incredible. Our guests are still talking about it," remembers Rebecca fondly.



The couple's white dance floor was produced and installed by **AXE MEDIA GROUP**.



## A SWEET, AUTHENTIC ENDING

**THE WEDDING CAKE SHOPPE** designed the couple's white buttercream cake, which was delicately detailed with fresh flowers, reflecting the decor of the space. However, the dessert decadence did not end there. As a fun nod to Rebecca's favourite summer market (held outside of **CLUB MONACO's** Bloor Street flagship store in Toronto), **THE BAKE SHOPPE** recreated an exact replica of their retro baked goods display. Guests were able to approach the glass case and request their choice of desserts, just like at a real market! On hand were toasted s'mores bars, mini pop tarts, brown butter Nutella cookies, and miniature pies, which guests took home with them in custom bags stamped with the couple's wedding hashtag.

Once the lights dimmed, glimmering candles created a romantic environment perfect for dancing the night away. **SOLE POWER PRODUCTIONS** provided entertainment and "they kept the party going all night long," says Rebecca. **BIG TICKET PRODUCTIONS** captured the day on video for the couple.

After the celebration, the newlyweds embarked on an adventure-filled honeymoon to Santiago and Valparaiso in Chile before ending their trip in Patagonia and Buenos Aires, where they hiked on glaciers and rode horseback.



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