

CANVASSs

Volume X, No. 2 March April 2007

<http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/programs/gallery/>

hours: Mon. – Fri., 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM; Sat., noon – 5 PM

located on the campus of Canadian Mennonite University

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS: The MHC Gallery's budget is met almost exclusively through donations. The gallery receives no government, university or church conference funding for its operating budget. Please, help keep the gallery alive.

MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4
(204) 888 6781; Ray Dirks, curator, rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca



Artist's Statement

James Paterson

The Revised Common Lectionary is a commonly agreed upon series of scripture readings for each Sunday to be used during corporate worship throughout the liturgical year. The readings include an Old Testament passage, a Psalm; one from the Book of Acts, the Epistles or the Book of Revelation, and concludes with a passage from one of the Gospels. The readings run in a three-year cycle starting on the first Sunday of Advent and concluding on the Reign of Christ Sunday.

"The purpose of this artwork that accompanies each gospel reading is to invite people into a deeper experience of God's presence in their lives and the life of the world by shedding light on one aspect of the day's scripture reading." (From the Bulletin Series Art-Principles for Design, ELCIC).

I was commissioned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada to illustrate the Gospel reading for each week of the R.C.L. cycle B. These images were then used on the cover of their denominational church bulletins each week throughout the year.

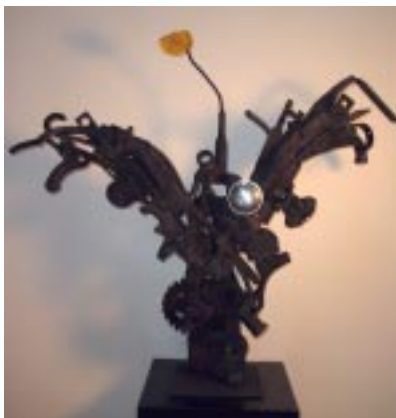
My hope in creating these paintings is that those who see them will experience the gospel stories and the life of Jesus in a fresh way and be able to bring Him into the context of their own lives.

**Paterson's exhibition artworks are prints of each of 54 pieces created for The Revised Common Lectionary Cycle B, commissioned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.*



James Paterson

Ken Loewen



Ken Loewen James Paterson

OPENING: Friday, March 9, 7:30PM

March 9 – April 21

Two artists, one I have been aware of since the first day I set foot in this gallery, the other only recently known. Both having solo shows here for the first time.

Altona artist Ken Loewen's sculptural work has been known in southern Manitoba for a long while. I was told of his work many years ago by his brother, and fellow artistic traveler, Gerald.

Ontario artist James Paterson's art was brought to my attention not all that long ago by Arlyn Friesen Epp. Arlyn suggested I take a look at <http://www.churchbulletins.ca/patersonphotogallery.html>. I was hooked.

Thanks to Gerald and Arlyn for sending me down a long and winding path towards eventually placing these two exhibitions together. *Ray Dirks*



Artist's Statement

Ken Loewen

I am a metal sculptor, transforming everyday scrap metal into abstract works of art. I believe that in everything there is beauty, function, and creative potential. My work says something about who I am and where I come from, and my roots and faith play an important role in creative expression. Being a collector, the challenges and possibilities of discovered objects always excite me. My work becomes thought-provoking, disturbing, political, social, enlightening, and humorous. I like to stimulate, cause laughter, and create awareness through my art. Out of a discarded past comes harmony and balance.

** Loewen's sculptures in the exhibition are chosen from his body of work stretching over a period of years.*

Proposals?

Artists, please, submit your proposals to us! The gallery hosts exhibits in approximate two month blocks throughout the year.

Mailing list

To receive **CANVASSs**, invitations to all exhibitions and other gallery updates contact Connie Wiebe, cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca.

Contact

Ray Dirks, MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB Canada R3P 0M4. Ph: (204) 888-6781. E-mail: rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca

Thanks

Bill and Margaret Fast, Herb and Erna Buller, Frank and Agnes DeFehr, The Winnipeg Foundation, Agatha and Al Doerksen, Friesens, Herb and Donna Peters, Ted and Mary Paetkau, other donors

An Evening in Ghana

7PM, Saturday, February 24, MHC Gallery

Experience two multimedia (still images, video, images to music) "tours" — one in the east, on foot in the fascinating village of Dzogadze; one along the central and southwest Atlantic coast, driving from Cape Coast, and its famous castle, to Elmina, Sekondi, Takoradi and Busua with many stops and adventures between. Catch the rhythm of a beautiful land and its people. Photos and video are from Ray Dirks' recent book research trip to Ghana.

Start thinking of the annual juried exhibition

This coming fall, and into winter, the entire gallery program will be devoted to the theme of "human dignity". The annual juried show will open in November. Consider the following paragraphs:

What gives dignity to human life? Where is it visible and how is it attained? Can dignity be found in those living in the margins? Do we see dignity in children, the elderly, the sick, those in prison, the poor, the unemployed and unemployable? What about hookers, pimps, johns and addicts? What of all who are victimized by abuse and terror: those enslaved in the sex trade or in mines or factories? Or those with different skin colour or people within traditions and cultures that vary sharply with the everyday of western culture? Are they honoured? Valued? Is their dignity recognized as on par with that of those in the mainstream? And what of our own dignity?

Jesus of Nazareth and Socrates of Athens — shock us — if we take time to see and hear them. Socrates portrayed love as ugly to look upon but most beautiful in action. Jesus, the crucified and appallingly deformed Christ, is grotesque to look on. Yet, precisely here, in the most cruel of deaths, is hidden the very dignity and glory of human life. This is the strange dignity of love; that it willingly dies in agony for the sake of the beloved.

Is dignity most visible in the invisible?

Whatever the above inspires you to create, or to consider from existing artworks, we hope to see it submitted. Deadline for submissions is October 20. Submissions can be original artworks, digital images, slides or prints. Please, submit high quality images, if not bringing in the original. Up to five pieces can be submitted for consideration.

Thanks to Gerald Folkerts for the Human Dignity statement quoted above.

FREE music

Gary Brancel, a friend living in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, invites whoever is interested to go to www.ABCD-laverite.com to download the latest in Congolese popular music. A CD's worth of free music is there, created by some of Africa's best musicians in support of the fight against HIV/AIDS in the DRC.

More music, live and not free (but worth it)

Sunday, March 25, 8PM, West End Cultural Centre

\$7.00 in advance, \$10.00 at the door

A triple bill featuring three up and coming Winnipeg bands, Les Voyous, Groovy Moustache, Little Boy Boom. Why is this being advertised in our newsletter, you may ask? My daughter, Alexa, is the lead singer for Little Boy Boom (recently referred to in Uptown magazine as one of the best in Winnipeg). Tickets can be purchased by contacting Ray Dirks at rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca or by contacting the band at littleboyboommusic@gmail.com.

Volunteers (on standby)

This summer we hope to host part II of a Trinidad-Winnipeg artist exchange. In 2006 Ruth Maendel, Karen Cornelius, Isam About and Ray Dirks traveled to Trinidad. Artists we interacted with there hope to come to Winnipeg this summer (summer will come, honest). They plan to be here for about 10 days. There could be four or five artists. With confirmation of their coming, we will need to secure volunteers for, possibly, hosting, driving, etc... We'd also like to get our visitors to a cottage on a lake for a couple of nights to experience the best of natural Manitoba. Someone coming forward to host that experience would be excellent, as well. Once confirmed, we'll line up studio and gallery visits around Winnipeg and out of the city. As of now, nothing, including dates, is confirmed. If you might be interested in helping out, contingent on your being available during the time they are here, let me know at rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca and I'll keep your name on file.

Next Up

Side by Side: spiritual & cultural coexistence by Manju Lodha. Opening April 27, featuring performers from Winnipeg's East Indian community.

Thank you

Thanks to all those who responded to our requests for funds to help us meet our 2006 budget the past two newsletters. Final numbers are not yet tallied but my gut feeling is we received right around what we needed. This institution, more than any other noncommercial gallery, relies on your gifts to continue its unique programming. Thanks very much.

the gallery survives as a result of your gifts...

Donations are tax deductible and should be made out to the MHC Gallery.

I'd like to support the MHC Gallery (PLEASE PRINT)

name _____

address _____

_____ postal code _____

phone number (____) _____ amount _____

Make your cheque payable to the MHC Gallery
 Mail to: MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4

The MHC Gallery **CANVASS** is published by the Mennonite Heritage Centre of the Mennonite Church Canada. Gallery curator: Ray Dirks. All correspondence and exhibition proposals should be sent to 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3P 0M4. Phone (204) 888-6781. E-mail: rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca. Contact us and join our mailing list. <http://mennonitechurch.ca/programs/gallery/>



Paterson
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