

MENNONITE HERITAGE CENTRE Gallery

CANVASSs

Volume X, No. 5 September October 2007
<http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/programs/gallery/>
hours: Mon. – Fri., 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM; Sat., noon – 5 PM
an institution of Mennonite Church Canada
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

Exhibition Openings

Saturday, September 22, 7:30PM
MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd.

Monday, September 24, noon
Booth College Library, 300 – 290 Vaughan St.

Worship Celebration

Sunday, September 23, 3:30PM
CMU Auditorium, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd.

Art Talk

Thursday, September 27, 7:30PM
CMU Chapel, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd.

2nd Annual Day of Prayer and Fasting for victims of human trafficking

Saturday, September 29, 6:30PM
North Kildonan Mennonite Brethren Church
1315 Gateway

Breaking the Fast BENEFIT CONCERT

Saturday, September 29, 8:00PM
North Kildonan Mennonite Brethren Church
1315 Gateway
Steve Bell, Carolyn Arends, Bob Bennett



UNVEILING THE MYSTERY

the invisible dignity exhibition

OPENING, 7:30PM, Saturday, September 22
September 22 – November 17

Yisa Akinbolaji/Jo Cooper/Ray Dirks/Gerald Folkerts/Steve Prince
special guests: Dr. Calvin Seerveld, Steve Bell

The Invisible Dignity Project grew from discussions initiated by Cornelius Buller and Gerald Folkerts on the link between human trafficking and the capacity of artistic expressions to invoke action. The Invisible Dignity Project is the heart-child of a diverse group of individuals from Winnipeg, Quebec and Virginia. It is more than just the exhibition that is taking place at the MHC Gallery. It is a series of events highlighting through art, music and dialogue the oppressed dignity of people who are often made invisible in our communities.

The exhibition takes place in two venues simultaneously – the larger portion at the MHC Gallery, opening on September 22, and a second portion, featuring the same artists and opening on September 24 at noon, at the Booth College Library in downtown Winnipeg.

The participating artists are all known for their work on issues relating to the focus of The Invisible Dignity Project. Yisa Akinbolaji is a Winnipegger originally from Nigeria. Jo Cooper is a Metis artist who resides in Quebec. Steve Prince is an African American artist from Virginia. Gerald Folkerts and Ray Dirks are Winnipeg artists, with roots in Christian Reformed and Mennonite communities. The exhibition promises to be diverse, challenging and rewarding. Attending related events will round out, fill in the experience and call people to action.

For more information and details on all related events, see the attached file or mailed insert (depending whether you are on our electronic or regular mail list) and visit www.invisibledignity.org.

Akinbolaji



Prince



Dirks



Folkerts



Cooper



annual juried exhibition

Opening, Friday, November 23

The Invisible Dignity Project juried group exhibition
The annual juried exhibition will be on the theme of human dignity. 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. For more information, contact Ray Dirks at rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca.

Canvas — a piece of strong cloth on which to paint a picture

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

examine carefully, discuss — **Canvas**



“getting to know each other”
Annual MHC Gallery fundraiser
 Thursday, October 4, 7:30PM



all attending MUST RSVP and come ready to consider making a donation

If interested in discovering more about the multifaceted work of the gallery, plan to attend our annual fundraiser. The evening will include no long speeches but will include inspiring endorsements by people from many different walks and communities, music from around the world, multimedia/multicultural presentations, artists at work, fine desserts and art.

The gallery exists on approximately \$60,000 per year. That is a tiny amount considering it pays for all regular programming, salaries, shipping, exhibition costs, etc... But, at the same time, it is a huge amount if people who agree with the goals of the gallery do not give. **The gallery receives no outside funding. It exists only so long as our audience gives.**

A few things have us very excited about this year’s fundraiser.

1. The diversity of those who will contribute to the evening.
2. The diversity of the music and those who will provide it. Gyaniji Onkar Singh will introduce us to Sikh music through a beautiful voice and dignified presence. For those acquainted with the world music scene in Winnipeg, you will have heard of Madrigia. Madrigia has changed and been reborn as Chic Gamine. There are now fewer members and Alexa Dirks (my daughter) has been asked to join them. This female a cappella and percussion group is described on American music festival websites as a “vocal super group.” In August and September they have and will perform in Los Angeles and Yosemite in California, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Their performance at the Strawberry Music Festival in Yosemite National Park led to a standing ovation from the overflow crowd. I pulled a few strings — a father can do that — and, now, people attending the gallery fundraiser can find out what the buzz is about.
3. Our renovated multipurpose presentation room/studio has us excited and will be unveiled — thanks to a grant from the Winnipeg Foundation. Artists Manju Lodha and Isam Aboud will be painting on site during the evening.

4. Our growing schools program has us excited. This significant part of what we do is not visible to regular visitors. It has no budget and is done mostly for free. It’s often suggested to me that we shouldn’t do so much for nothing. No interested school, seniors’ home, community group, etc... requesting a presentation is turned down. Why? Come, see and hear. We hope some are inspired to begin to financially support this work.

5. The fact no one will speak more than a few minutes. This will be an active, energetic evening, with something always going on.

Follow the links at the top of our webpage at <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/programs/gallery/> for more information or, for those on our electronic list, check the attachments.

If you wish to attend and wish to donate, RSVP to Connie Wiebe at cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca or 888 6781. Numbers are limited and RSVPs are a must.

We humbly thank God that the gallery has become a tiny institution with a growing light that flickers far beyond its walls and into many homes, schools and communities in an increasingly diverse Winnipeg and Manitoba, and beyond. Help that flame to continue and to grow.

Can’t make it to the fundraiser?

For those unable to attend the fundraiser but still wishing to give, cheques made out to the MHC Gallery can be sent to 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4. Wish to donate by credit card? Contact Connie Wiebe at (204) 888 6781 or cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca. All donations are tax deductible.

UPDATE

For anyone who has dropped by recently, there has been evidence of a lot going on behind closed doors upstairs. Renovations are nearly complete and we wish to thank the Winnipeg Foundation for making them possible. Winnipeg is truly fortunate to have such a wonderful and generous organization with a true heart for the entire community.



The MHC Gallery **CANVASs** is published by the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery, 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. Website: <http://mennonitechurch.ca/programs/gallery/>

Please, consider a donation for 2007!

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
 contact Connie Wiebe at (204) 888 6781 or cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca to donate by credit card
DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE