

MENNONITE HERITAGE CENTRE Gallery

CANVASSs

Volume XI, No. 1 January February 2008
<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 primarily through private, tax deductible donations. Please, help keep the gallery alive and growing. Make cheques payable to: MHC Gallery. Mail to: MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4. Credit card donations, contact Connie Wiebe at cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca.

(204) 888 6781; Ray Dirks, curator, rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca

the division's view

Enriching its connections with the community is a priority for the River East Transcona School Division. It was very exciting to have been a part of the *Invisible Dignity Project* in the month of September (*schools hosted artist workshops and school groups came to the gallery to tour the first Invisible Dignity exhibition*) and now our Middle and Senior Years students from River East Transcona have prepared our own human dignity student art exhibition.

The concept of art and human dignity are both threads in the tapestry of life. Through this student exhibition they are being woven together in meaningful ways by our students.

A very special thank you to the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery for partnering with the River East Transcona School Division to provide our students with this celebration of human dignity.

Judy Ruchkall, Music/Art Consultant, River East Transcona School Division

the gallery's view

The *Invisible Dignity Project* sprang out of a conversation between Dr. Cornelius Buller and Gerald Folkerts. After they approached me about joining, one of my first suggestions was to get schools involved. I approached Cheryl Zubrack, Art Consultant for Winnipeg One School Division, and Gerald talked to Judy Ruchkall, Art/Music Consultant for River East Transcona School Division. Both were eager to present the idea of working with the theme of human dignity to their teachers. As a result, many schools in Winnipeg have been focusing their art making around this theme. Artists Gerald Folkerts, Steve Prince, Yisa Akinbolaji and I have given workshops in many schools and other school groups have come to the gallery for workshops and multimedia presentations. Schools continue to book presentations into 2008. Teachers and, so importantly, students have reacted with great enthusiasm. A number of River East Transcona schools which participated in artist workshops and presenta-



Invisible Dignity Project student exhibition

art by middle and senior years students
from River East Transcona School Division

January 25 – March 1, 2008

OPENING: Friday, January 25, 7:30PM

special music

remarks by Dennis Pottage, River East Transcona Superintendent/CEO and Judy Ruchkall, River East Transcona Art/Music Consultant

tions in September agreed to bring together a school exhibition made up of artworks created on the theme of human dignity. This exhibition is the result.

Thanks to Cheryl and Judy for getting schools involved and to the teachers for their commitment to use art as a way to create a passionate, insightful and meaningful conversation among students on an important issue.

Ray Dirks

the teachers' view

The positive response from my students has been overwhelming. As the students are seeing their ideas come together of how to illustrate dignity in the community, they are surprising themselves and the other students.

Many of the students have turned to their family to discuss ideas. It nice to hear that the students value this project so much that they will take it home with them!

The environment in the classroom while working on this assignment has been exceptionally positive and enjoyable to be in. The students are sharing emotional stories with each other, helping each other with developing ideas and technique, and are discussing important social and world issues spontaneously. I am very proud of my students!

Deanna Cowan, John W. Gunn School

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, Friesens, Herb Peters and Donna Peters-Small, Ted and Mary Paetkau, other donors

Also showing: A Canadian Injustice by Margaret Tatlock

The gallery office and the upper multipurpose room will be home to a poster exhibit by Margaret Tatlock during the *Invisible Dignity student exhibition*. Margaret's work, part image, part text, fits in well with the theme of invisible dignity. She has extreme environmental sensitivity. For those of us without such afflictions, it is difficult to comprehend the restrictions and complications that fill her life. In her words:

"People with environmental sensitivity live in bodies that

simply cannot tolerate the toxins and chemicals that exist all around them, in food, in paints, perfumes, glues, plastics, chemicals, insecticides, molds and pollens. They react with muscle weakness, breathing difficulties, intolerance to food, seizures, and other severe symptoms. In many other countries government health agencies pay for antigen shots that relieve the suffering. Not so across Canada. How can a just society allow its health system to ignore a segment of the population that is sick and suffering?"

07 ends December 31, our year ends January 31

The gallery yearend is January 31. We thank all those who have given in 2007 to help the gallery continue its mission as a unique institution. Help us reach our yearend in the black. Please, consider a donation to the gallery. It exists because you give.

Cuba?

Prefer to give towards a specific project? In June 2008 an exhibition from Cuba will open at the gallery. We will be featuring the art of three Havana artists. One is the artistic director of a community arts organization that works with children in needy areas of Havana. One is one of Cuba's most exciting young artists who includes installations in his work. The Cubans will exhibit in the gallery and work together with Art City and the Andrews St. Family Centre on community projects with inner city children here in Winnipeg. Gallery curator Ray Dirks hopes to go to Cuba to document the work of the artists and daily life. Funds need to be raised for airfare and other costs in Cuba and Canada. If you'd like to support this project make a tax deductible donation to the gallery. Make your cheque out to the MHC Gallery or contact Connie Wiebe at cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca to donate by credit card.

Thanks

Special thanks at the end of the year to John Funk Jr., Ruth Maendel and James Friesen.

Next exhibit

Footsteps: A Global Response. Stella Meades organized this ambitious exhibition bringing attention to war affected children; <http://www.globalshooproject.page.tl>. Opening, Friday, March 7.

CANVAs



Participating in Invisible Dignity school programming.



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