

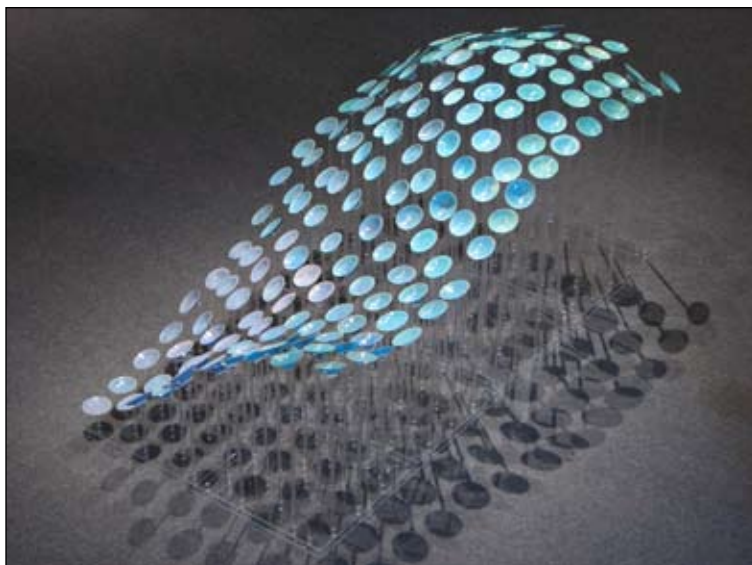
MENNONITE HERITAGE CENTRE Gallery

CANVASSs

Volume XII, No. 5, November December 2009
<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



Congregational Fantasies

by Ruth Maendel

November 20, 2009 – January 16, 2010

OPENING: Friday, November 20, 7:30PM

Congregational Fantasies

artist statement

For many years now I have been fascinated by multiples of things. I didn't always realize that was what drew me to certain images or ideas. I just knew I really liked the way mushrooms all clustered together or the way the eggs from a salmon looked so cozy and attractive. Whenever I made a project with one item I inevitably thought how much better it would be if there were many, many more. If one or three looked good, imagine how much better 300 would look! I think part of what draws me to layers or repetition in my work is purely aesthetic. They show a worked over richness and quantity of time spent that appeals to me. To me it gives a piece of art instant depth and complexity.

The other reason I believe I am drawn to using multiples of things in my work is the way they represent a community to me. I have always lived with the church and faith as a central part of my life. Sometimes I see the church at its best: a diverse group of people coming together and supporting each other and helping others while being led and strengthened by God's Spirit. I want to show people who haven't experienced that what it can be like. It is truly a wonderful gift to have that support and true honest friendship. That is how I always want to experience the church working but sometimes it can be more a fantasy than a reality. We are all imperfect, selfish people who fall short so many times. So, I admit that some of my pieces illustrate the reality I want to experience more than what I currently do. Every time I try to show what the experience is like or could be like I feel I fall a little short or that there is another dimension to the idea I have yet to explore. I am hoping the combined effect of the art will somehow give people a glimpse of the wondrous reality of being part of a united community as well as be an inspiration for what could be. *Ruth Maendel*

Ruth wishes to thank the Manitoba Arts Council and the Winnipeg Arts Council for their support.

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

from the gallery

The gallery featured an exhibition on one level by Ruth Maendel in January 2002. From that time on I hoped Ruth would bring together an exhibition filling both levels. It took a few years but that time has come.

Ruth's art is not bound by any particular medium. It might be something that can be hung on the wall. It might be freestanding. It might be a complicated installation that took an eternity to map out and as long to put together. It might be something sublimely simple. It may include fabric, paint, metal, wood, ceramics, beads or... Regardless, whatever it is she creates, each piece has the same values and faith at its core. *Ray Dirks*

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

examine carefully, discuss — **Canvas**



**Meet Cuban artist
Dalvis Tuya**

Tuesday, November 17, 7:30PM

Join Ray Dirks and Rose Plett as they host an evening of art and reflections by Cuban artist Dalvis Tuya. Tuya was one of the artists in last year's Cuban exhibition. He is visiting Winnipeg at the invitation of the Winnipeg Art Gallery, with the assistance of the MHC Gallery and Plett. The evening will feature visuals and a talk centred on Tuya's art and life. He is visiting Canada for the first time and is excited to talk to people about his life's experiences and how they are reflected in his art, including how his personal faith strengthens him as he works and raises his family.



As the yearend nears...

Remember the gallery. Remember the gallery is funded almost entirely through tax deductible donations. The annual fundraiser is past but this continues to be the season of fundraising. Approximately \$20,000 still needs to come in by the end of the year. Please, if you appreciate the work of the gallery, consider a generous donation.

And...

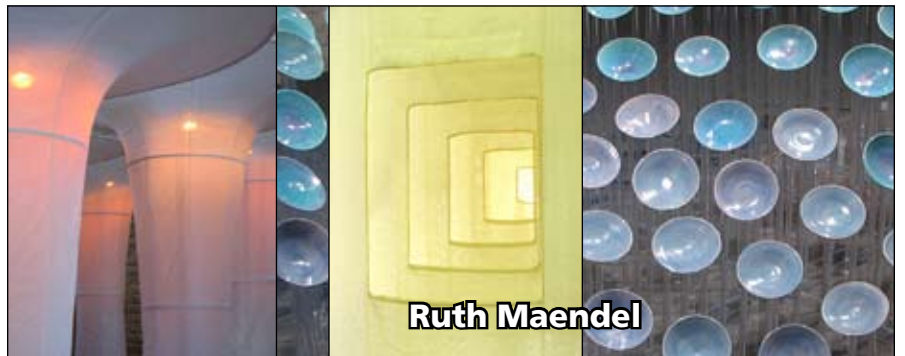
A few prints from Bob Haverluck's Berry Picking series remain for sale. Haverluck has kindly donated them to the gallery. Purchase them at the regular price of \$40 and the entire sum will go to the gallery. Give more than \$40 and whatever is donated over \$40 will be receipted.

For what...

Donations are required to cover salaries, shipping, exhibition costs, programming costs, printing, supplies, fees, all the "nuts and bolts" to keep the gallery functioning and staffed. This time of year much of the gallery work happens outside the gallery, in the community, in schools and churches. The audience for gallery programming is many multiples the size of the audience literally entering the exhibition space. There are opportunities to expand our programming. There are wonderful exhibitions lined up into 2011. Help keep this unique institution alive and thriving.

How?

Cash donations can be given to Connie Wiebe in the Mennonite Heritage Centre office. Cheques can be made out to the MHC Gallery and sent to MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4. Credit card donations can be made by calling Connie Wiebe at 888 6781, extension 194.



Ruth Maendel

Other news

The *In the Spirit of Humanity* project is in high gear. Artists Ray Dirks, Manju Lodha and Isam About are giving presentations in many schools throughout Winnipeg. They'd be happy to visit your church, community group, etc... to give multimedia presentations about their art, their faith and to connect with your group "in the spirit of humanity." Contact Ray Dirks at rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca for more information.

Next

Photography exhibitions by Pamela Leach and Sam Baardman. Opening on Friday, January 22.

CANVASS

Please, consider a donation

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

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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