

MENNONITE HERITAGE CENTRE Gallery

# CANVASS

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<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](mailto:cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca).

(204) 888 6781; Ray Dirks, curator, [rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca)

## INDESCRIBABLE IT IS ABOUT MURDER

Cliff Derksen, Odia Reimer, Kelsie  
Trudeau, Steve Penner, Angela Lillico

**OPENING:** Friday, January 27, 7:30PM  
January 27-March 10

**Artist Talk & Tour:** Thursday, February 23, 7:30PM

### from the gallery

Unfortunately, the story of Candace Derksen's murder is one of the most well known of Manitoba stories. It is unfortunate because the murder happened. We are all fortunate, however, for experiencing how the Derksen family dealt with the tragedy through more than two decades of darkness. Winnipeg Free Press reporter Mike McIntyre writes that Wilma and Cliff, Candace's parents, are two of the strongest, most courageous people he has ever met.

Many people have heard Wilma speak or have read her writings. INDESCRIBABLE is an opportunity to discover, through their art, how Cliff and Candace's sister, Odia, have and are dealing with a horror no family should experience.

In 2003 Morgan Trudeau was struck dead with the swing of a baseball bat. Randa Trudeau, Morgan's mother, addressing Morgan's killer, said, "You robbed my three kids of their older brother, someone they loved, admired and looked up to." Kelsie Trudeau, now a 15 year old student at Shaftesbury High School, is one of Randa's other children.

The exhibit with Cliff and Odia had been planned for some time when Deb Danelley introduced me to Kelsie and Randa. There's a wonderful story that led to that meeting — see Kelsie's statement. I asked Kelsie if she'd like to join Cliff and Odia's exhibition.

Cliff, Odia and Wilma were excited about including Kelsie. To those who know them, that would not come as a surprise. The Derksen's have maintained a remarkable and generous spirit throughout their ordeal.

Visit the exhibit and discover drawings Cliff made in the courtroom. See his sculptural works. Walk Candace's final journey with Odia. Share her tears in another installation. Come to the opening and honour two families which have wandered life's most unfortunate path. Ray Dirks

### Cliff Derksen artist statement

Throughout my growing up years it was evident that I had a gift for art. This was expressed in many ways -- drawing, illustrating and cartooning. It became my goal to become a "real" artist in my retirement years — I had believed as a painter. But something happened on my way to the ripe old age of 65. My daughter Odia introduced me to ceramics. I was hooked. At 65 I rented a studio, joining the Clifton Co-operative in June of 2010, and have not looked back.

I am still the owner and president of "First Impressions Janitorial Services" but have reorganized so I can spend as much time as possible in my studio creating ceramic sculptures.

My many faceted past is a great inspiration for my art in the present — my growing up on a small farm, my ministry in the church and in Christian Camping, plus the tragic loss of our daughter Candace, murdered in 1984 at 13 years of age. The years of waiting and finally the trial which was completed in February of 2010 have left a permanent impression on my artistic sensibilities.

Most of the artworks in this exhibition have been created during and following the completion of the trial. Moving into the studio in June of the same year facilitated my accelerated lunge into the creative mode.

Most of the art I have created is with my favorite medium, clay. The surface treatments are usually monochrome and are painted in acrylics or similar mediums. The colors are an attempt to communicate the emotions of the character of the piece. Another medium I enjoy is charcoal and graphite drawings or sketches. Sometimes there are situations such as the trial where the use of graphite



*Dancing David by Cliff Derksen*

### Proposals?

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

### Mailing list

To receive CANVASS, invitations to all exhibitions and other gallery updates contact Connie Wiebe, [cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto: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](mailto:rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca)

### Thanks

Bill and Margaret Fast, Herb and Erna Buller, Ted and Mary Paetkau, Frank and Agnes DeFehr, The Winnipeg Foundation, Friesens, Art and Leona DeFehr, Herb Peters and Donna Peters-Small, and all those who support in whatever fashion

examine carefully, discuss — Canvass

pencils become the best way to express oneself.

My hope is that the pieces you see will be both emotional and thought provoking. That you will be personally encouraged in seeing that there is an amazing God who desires to walk with us, in love, no matter what the circumstances.

## Odia Reimer

### artist statement

My work is about repetition. Over and over we experience very personal and private events that are outside our control, of which within their very nature make it hard to express to the world outside ourselves.

Every time they happen we are reminded of disappointments, longings, hurts, and inadequacies that solidify the feeling that we often do not have what we long for most. Through form, texture, and scale I compulsively explore these moments.

In this exhibit my art is focused on the disappearance, murder and the recent trial of my sister Candace Derksen. I am showing three sculptural installation pieces that work through the different seasons we endured.

The purpose of this work is to have a physical representation that solidifies the magnitude of these events, with hopes that the accumulation will validate the emotions we endure.



*Ballerina by Kelsie Trudeau*

## Kelsie Trudeau

### artist statement

In April 2011 my art class went on a field trip to the MHC Gallery across the street from my school. Our teacher gave us worksheets to fill out, asking us questions about how we felt about certain art pieces and other questions related to the exhibition. As I was observing the art, I came across a question that asked, "Which piece of art did you have the most emotional

or personal connection to?" The word "guardian" caught my eye. I approached the art piece and stared at it. As I was drawing a thumbnail sketch of it, Debbie Danelley, the curator of the show, approached me wondering why I was spending so much time at this one picture. I told her my brother Morgan was murdered a few years ago, and when I saw the word guardian it reminded me of him - being a guardian angel. A couple of weeks later my art teacher informed me that Debbie was so touched by what I had told her, that she contacted the artist, Wendy Cooper-Parkinson, who created the guardian piece. The artist immediately told Debbie to simply "give it to her."

This whole experience has been amazing. I've met so many great people, and I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity. Many thanks to Ray Dirks and the Derksen's for welcoming me to participate in this exhibition. Debbie Danelley kindly offered to mentor me through the whole process from beginning to end with everything from advice on techniques used, to refining my decisions, or even on where to sign my name! I don't think I could have done it without her.

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## Randa Trudeau

### mother of Kelsie

I was hesitant when Ray mentioned my contributing to Kelsie's artist statement. As the preparations were being finalized, Debbie gave me one last opportunity to reconsider.

Even from the sidelines, if I had to put into words how this whole experience has affected me, it would be that after eight years of Morgan being gone, I actually feel closer to him again than I have in a long time...

### SPECIAL THANKS

to the artists; to the mothers, Wilma Derksen and Randa Trudeau; to Deb Danelley; to The Winnipeg Foundation - Candace Derksen Fund

## INDESCRIBABLE talk & tour

Thursday, February 23, 7:30PM

Join artists Cliff Derksen, Odia Reimer and Kelsie Trudeau for an intimate evening as they discuss their work and journeys. Hear Wilma Derksen. Discover Deb Danelley's mentoring relationship with Kelsie and Randa Trudeau. Music by Alexa Dirks and Ariel Posen.

### NEXT

Opening on March 17, two exhibitions by Catholic artists Connie Bart-Hamel and Anthony Chiarella.

### OUTSIDE THE GALLERY

Wednesday, February 1, 7:00PM

In the Spirit of Humanity BOOK LAUNCH and The Art of Compassion OPENING across the street in CMU's Great Hall, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. See art on compassion by Winnipeg students and Manju Lodha, Isam Aboud and Ray Dirks. Celebrate the launch of the MHC Gallery's In the Spirit of Humanity book/DVD. The book, along with the DVD, is available for \$21.00, tax included. The Art of Compassion runs from February 2-8, 10-4. Closed Sunday.

### YEAREND

The gallery year ends on January 31. If anyone is able to make a beginning of the calendar year donation, we'd most appreciate it. We still need a few donations for the year. Exhibits like INDESCRIBABLE can only happen so long as our supporters continue to give. Cheques made out to the MHC Gallery can be mailed to MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4. Call Alf Redekopp at 888 6781 to donate by credit card.

Many thanks to those who faithfully support the work of the gallery — in the gallery, church and wider community.

### Please, consider a donation

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

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