

MENNONITE HERITAGE CENTRE Gallery

CANVAsS

Volume IX, No. 7, November December 2006

<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

The MHC Gallery ends each year with a juried group exhibition. The past couple of years an incredible number of artists have submitted works for consideration. We are very pleased. However, this also requires that many artworks and artists need to be turned down. I always feel badly for the artists and for the jurors. While in some circles I am supposedly recognized as a fairly accomplished watercolourist, I have been turned down by every jury I have ever put my work in front of, if memory serves me correctly — whether that be for a juried group exhibition or by the Manitoba Arts Council or Canada Council. It is tough being turned down. Having been asked to be a juror on many occasions, I also know it is exceedingly difficult to be the one doing the turning down.

To those whose artworks were declined, thank you for submitting, try not to take it personally and I truly hope you try again. We are always eager to “hear” from you.

Congratulations to those artists whose work was selected for this year's exhibit. It should be an interesting mix that our audience enjoys. The art has roots in Sudan, Cuba, Deloraine, Kitchener, Camrose, Winnipeg, Altona, Sanford... — a mix worthy of this unique institution.* Come to the opening and celebrate with the artists!

Special thanks to Agatha Doerksen and Karen Cornelius for being this year's jury.

Ray Dirks

*Some may question the uniqueness of this institution. Last week its Mennonite curator, me, spent a delightful morning with a Hindu artist in Winnipeg and an equally wonderful afternoon at a Hutterite colony. In between I fielded a call from a Muslim artist and communicated with a Christian Cuban artist in Havana. What other institution would be the base for a day with the crossing of all those paths?

Gallery news

Curator Ray Dirks will be in Ghana from November 15 – December 10. Ruth Maendel will hang the next exhibition in his place. Thanks Ruth.

UP NEXT

A solo show and community event featuring artist Rhian Brynjolson and cohorts. Opening on Friday, January 19, 2007.

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/>

NOTE: The gallery will be closed on Saturday, November 11. The *Bound for Peace* and *An Ordinary Miracle* shows will close on November 10.

Why Art?3

annual juried group exhibition

November 17 – January 13, 2007

OPENING: 7:30PM, Friday, November 17

artists: *Isam Aboud* Linda Calder *Deb Danelley* Doreen Doherty *Gayle Drummond* Emily Enns *Rhonda Harder Epp* Frieda Loewen Epp *Clyde Finlay* Rick Finney *Gerald Folkerts* Bev Friesen *Willie Funk* Sandy Glass *Yosef Goba* Carol James *Anne Marie Laymar* Ingrid Lincoln *Peter Martens* Judy Morningstar *Ross Muir* Alison Norberg *Reymond Pagé* Pat Penner *Carlos Reyna* Norman Schmidt *Sandra Somerville* Jean Wiens

jury: Agatha Doerksen, Karen Cornelius



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.

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

Help keep a unique institution growing — **the gallery**

The gallery held its first annual (we hope) fundraising event on September 21. Thanks to Steve Bell, Margaret Fast and James Friesen for helping to make the evening a success. Thanks to Bergmanns on Lombard for fabulous desserts. Thanks to all of those who gave so generously.

To get a little more into the ether, I especially want to thank God that there are donors and an audience that accept the unusual mandate of this institution that includes being a place open to crossing cultures, to having dialogue with, especially, those who are newly arrived Canadians, to celebrate tolerance and opportunities to get to know each other through art and culture.

I also thank God for the relationships this gallery has prompted for me personally. Forgive me for getting a mite personal and sentimental for a moment. Every time I visit Isam, Heba and their beautiful son Elsir, I am honoured. You are a true and wonderful friend, Isam. Even though Elsir has never been in Sudan, when that little guy dances, Sudan springs from his waving arms. Every time I walk up Manju's driveway to plan for her exhibition here next year, I am honoured. I value our growing friendship. Ganpat, Manju's husband, a man of gentleness, humility and wisdom, is always ready to visit — I am honoured. Every time I make the drive to Fairholme Hutterite Colony, I look forward to having an enjoyable and stimulating visit, I am honoured. Thanks Anna. Thanks Kenny — who is from Baker Colony, not Fairholme, in case either Anna or Kenny read this and feel the necessity to correct me. When Parvin asked me to review her book for a newspaper in India, I was honoured. When Waris, Parvin's husband, compliments me, it's too much, a bit embarrassing, can't be entirely true, but, I am honoured — and, really, quite pleased.

Betty and Jean, your hugs are always welcome. Peter, I would be surprised if you did not want to tinker with every

piece of your art even after it has been dropped off. Your mind never stops. June, your spirit and tenacity, a real never say die spirit, finally got me to Trinidad. Thanks. We hope to be as good hosts to some Trinidadians next year. Carol and John, I hold you both in high esteem.

And on and on.

Being here almost every day, when I am in Winnipeg that is, I sense the uniqueness of this place time and time again. I hope that those who are in our audience sense that, too, in their visits to the gallery or to our website. This is a place for all artists and people of good faith and intentions to meet and to dialogue. It is happy to be a bridge between communities.

It is also an institution that does not forget its roots. We cherish opportunities to work with Christian artists who need a place to express themselves.

I have been here for over eight years. For more than eight years individual donors, not institutional funding, not grants, have kept this place open. We have needed your donations and you have come through. We need you again, or, perhaps, for the first time. Our \$60,000 a year budget — that includes salaries, equipment, mounting and shipping costs, etc... — is not yet covered this year. If you agree with what the gallery is doing, consider a tax deductible donation as 2006 draws to a close. We would like to raise another \$15,000 this year. Help us along the road to more relationships that make this place unique. Please, fill out and send in the enclosed coupon.

Ray Dirks

- a few future plans: more working with schools across the city and across the street (more relationships are in the works); a Canada-wide and, eventually, global Mennonite artist website; renovations to turn our upstairs room into a multipurpose, multimedia, state of the art studio and meeting room; a multicultural open studio...



_____ Yes, I would like to make a tax deductible donation to the MHC Gallery

\$ _____ is my donation, send the receipt to:

Name _____

Address _____

make cheques out to MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4

Rather donate by credit card? Contact Connie Wiebe at cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca or (204) 888 6781.

_____ I am not yet on your mailing list, please, include me _____ electronic list (preferred) _____ Canada Post

e-mail address _____

_____ Yes, I would like information, as it comes out, regarding the 2007 fundraising event